



WALTER B. HOWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1478 Route 20
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November 24, 2015

Dear Families,

A very sad thing has happened in our school community. Mrs. Michelle Schrader, our art teacher, has passed away. Her death was confirmed yesterday evening. We are all profoundly saddened by her death.

We have shared this information with your children today and had discussions with all the students in their classrooms. Crisis counselors, teachers, and other support staff have been and will continue to be available to students, teachers, and parents. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. If you need or are interested in contacting the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team you may contact them directly at (518) 943-5555 (12 p.m. – 8 p.m. – 7 days a week including holidays.)

As a parent or care giver, you may want to talk with your children about death, because it impacts each person in different ways. How children react will depend on the relationship they had with the person who died, their age, and their prior experience with death. Your child may:

- Appear unaffected
- Ask questions about the death repeatedly
- Be angry or aggressive
- Be withdrawn or moody
- Be sad or depressed
- Become afraid
- Have difficulty sleeping or eating

Our best advice is to listen to your children. If they want to talk, answer their questions simply, honestly, and be prepared to answer the same questions repeatedly. Our doors will be open to the community and counselors will be available from the hours between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., tomorrow, November 25, 2015.

Our thoughts are with Mrs. Schrader's family and friends.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kourt
WBH Principal