



Ecole secondaire
BURNSVIEW
Secondary School

Principal: *Mr.D.Younger*
Vice-Principal: *Mr.I.Close*

May 27, 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Yesterday afternoon, we received the tragic news from police that Mitchell Slater, a Grade 10 student at Burnsview, died suddenly and unexpectedly.

The news of such a premature death is always extremely difficult to accept. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mitchell's family and friends at this time.

We are writing you this morning to make you aware, as the timing of the news did not allow us an opportunity to speak to students. Knowing how quickly such news is shared on social media, we wanted all parents to have the information as soon as possible.

In addition to our grief over the loss of Mitchell, we are sensitive to the fact that such an event can have a significant impact on other students and staff members, as well as the entire school community. We know that you will be sensitive to the feelings your son or daughter may have during this time. We expect that students may feel sad, angry, confused, numb or depressed. These feelings are normal and will take time to work through. Your son or daughter may need our patience and support.

In response, the school has implemented a plan that allows students the opportunity to talk about their thoughts and feelings with their teachers and with a counsellor as needed. For today, we plan to open up the school library from **12:00 pm to 2:00 pm** for any students who wish to come and talk about their feelings with counsellors.

In addition to opening the school today, we have accessed the support of the START Team (Short Term Assessment Response Team) and they have made counselling services available all weekend for any student or family wishing to access this service. They are open from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm both Saturday and Sunday: Phone **1-844-782-7811**. The Youth Crisis Line is another helpful resource and can be accessed at **310-6789** (do not add 604 – this is a direct line).

Our current plan is to share the news with students first block on Monday morning. At this time we will let students know what supports are available to them. We have planned to have additional counsellors and other resource staff available for students to access as needed. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's school counsellor with any concerns.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

Don Younger
Principal