

Monday, December 17, 2012

Dear Glenwood Families:

I am writing you to respond to the elementary school shooting which took place in Newtown, Connecticut on Friday morning. Our hearts go out to those students, teachers and principals who did not return home from school Friday and those families and friends related to the Newtown community. No words can fully capture the emotions so many of us are feeling right now.

Today, parents everywhere sent their students to school. Teachers and principals around the world returned to school with the aim of "business as usual" to provide consistency for our children in a time of great tragedy. I anticipate much discussion occurred over the weekend in the homes of our Glenwood families, but today was also likely to bring further questions and a need for dialogue. In the interests of home-school transparency, the following were plans for Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at Glenwood Elementary School, which I originally sent in a letter to parents via email on Sunday.

We held a staff meeting to offer dialogue amongst our teaching staff and review K-6 developmentally appropriate conversation structures for our children. We also reviewed our school safety protocol in place. As a staff, we are fully invested in being comprehensive and thorough in our daily approach, and are always looking for new ways to be a better and safer elementary school for all.

During the school day, classrooms had the ability to hold "as needed" team meetings to allow students to talk about their feelings in a developmentally appropriate way. Our guidance counselor, Ms. Emigh, and I offered guidance appointments throughout the day to talk with students if needed. If your child was seen by Ms. Emigh or me, we would have personally called you (parents/guardians) to review our conversation. *\*Please be advised the details of the events in Newtown were not discussed with any students K-6 at any time. Details of what students are aware of are solely at the discretion of each individual family.*

**In an effort to provide our Glenwood families with as much information as possible on all the ways students and staff stay safe at Glenwood, as well as to gather further ideas on safety from our parent community, on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. I will offer a parents/guardians-only discussion forum in our library. Additionally, in honor of the victims of the Newton tragedy, we will wear green and white on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and during weekly Project ACHIEVE lesson time, classrooms will be making cards to send to Sandy Hook Elementary.**

So I can plan for space, if you will join me at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, please RSVP to 419.666.8130 or to [pgibbs@rossfordschools.org](mailto:pgibbs@rossfordschools.org). As a community and as a nation, we come together around these tragedies and emerge better, stronger and more united for having endured them. Hold your children tighter, but please know that we are doing all we can to keep them safe at Glenwood.

Paul M. Gibbs  
Principal, Glenwood Elementary School