



Long Branch Public Schools

"Where Children Matter Most"

August 5, 2013

To the Long Branch Public School Family:

The administration, faculty and board of education of the Long Branch Public Schools regret to inform you that on Sunday, August 4, 2013, a tragic event occurred off campus resulting in the death of one of our high school students. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family.

Many children have been affected by this news. We encourage you to be especially sensitive and prepared to offer support to your child during this time.

Over the next few days, encourage your child to express his/her own feelings. And listen attentively. You may see behavior changes, loss of concentration, physical complaints, or regression.

It will be helpful to recognize the various steps we all go through in the grieving process: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Some of the common reactions that children experience when reacting to a traumatic event are:

- Restlessness, nervous behavior
- Trouble concentrating
- Difficulty sleeping, nightmares
- "Clingy" behavior, fear of being alone
- Asking questions over and over again
- Remembering previous losses and events

If you have any concerns regarding your child's reactions to this loss, feel free to contact your child's principal.

Thank you for your concern at this difficult time.

My deepest sympathy,

Michael Salvatore
Superintendent