



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA  
**THOMAS ALVA EDISON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**JOHN C. FAREIRA SKILLS CENTER**  
151 WEST LUZERNE STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19140-2795

TELEPHONE: (215) 324-9599  
FAX: (215) 329-5824

Awilda Ortíz  
Principal

Date: June 2, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of a member of our school community, Kevin Maldonado, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, who died from an accident on June 1, 2016.

A sudden loss like this can have an affect on students. For that reason, we encourage you to listen to your son or daughter as well as discuss with them their feelings and reactions to this tragedy. Sudden death is always painful to understand, and your child may experience signs of stress. These include:

- Inability to concentrate
- Irritability or increased aggression
- Isolation and withdrawal from normal activities and friends
- Guilt
- Fearfulness and worries
- Changes in sleep or appetite

Today, The School District of Philadelphia's Emergency/Crisis Response Team was onsite to counsel and support students throughout the school day. A team of professional counselors was also available to speak with children individually and meet with others in groups as needed.

Should you note any unusual change in your child's behavior or mood, please contact us at 215-324-9599 for further assistance.

On behalf of Edison HS, I have extended our sincere condolences to Kevin's family on this sad occasion. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions or information that you would like to share. Additional support resources are provided on the reverse side of this letter.

Sincerely,

Principal Ortiz

# **Resources for Families- Grief Support**

## **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

- “Evenstar Bereavement Program” is an on-going support group for parents and siblings. The program also offers workshops throughout the year. Please call 215-590-3273 for more information.

## **The Center for Grieving Children, Teens, and Families**

- A safe and caring place where young people, ages 6-18, and their families who are grieving a death can find help to grow through the healing process. Peer grief support groups are available for elementary, middle school and teenage students. A group for adults is held while the children meet in their groups. Please call 215-744-4025 for more information.

## **Services of the Anti-Violence Partnership**

- For information on free counseling services for families, individuals, and children that have been traumatized by violence, please call 215-567-6776. In West Philadelphia, please call 215-748-7780.

## **Services of the Department of Health**

- The Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health's Grief Assistance Program provides counseling and supportive services to families who have lost an infant or child. For information call, 215-685-7448.

## **The Compassionate Friends Network**

- The mission of the Compassionate Friends Network is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive. Please call, 1-877-969-0010 or email [nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org) for more information.