

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
Stephen Decatur School
3500 Academy Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154
Phone: (215) 281-2606 Fax: (215) 281-5803

September 11, 2014

Dear Parents,

This letter is to provide you with information regarding a serious incident that occurred yesterday. Two of our students, a sister and brother in Grades 6 and 2 were struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Academy and Byberry Roads yesterday shortly after dismissal. Both students were transported to the hospital from the scene. Our thoughts and prayers remain with these children and their families as we wish for them to recover as soon as possible and come back to us at Decatur. We have been in contact with the family and although the road ahead may be long and hard, the students are expected to recover. We ask you to join us in keeping the family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Today, we received support from the district and our counselors were on hand to support any students who were upset about yesterday's incident. Counselors met with the classes of the students and/or grade and made themselves available for any students in need of help. This morning at admission, I reassured the children that as long as we send positive, good thoughts, that our students would be returning to us. We want to reassure our children to alleviate any stress from them since they, too, are affected when a tragedy occurs.

I spoke to every seventh and eighth grade class today regarding the postings on social media regarding this tragic event. I have asked them to please delete any and all postings regarding this accident. The information on social media is upsetting to the family who are already dealing with so much. We care about all of our families and when one of them is hurting, we all are hurting. I am asking you, parents, to also check your children's social media as well and make sure that they do delete any postings down out of respect for this family and their feelings. We also called the local high schools requesting them to ask their students to do the same.

It is at times like these that we are tested but as a Decatur School Community, we must remain united and keep the focus on our children and their well being. Last year, Decatur School had a walk ability audit and there were two meetings, an informational one and a presentation of the findings meeting. We need to revisit those findings to see if there is any information or reference to an agency that can support us to prevent another accident like this to occur.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Endy-O'Kane
Principal