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Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are all very much saddened by the news of the tragic primary school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Connecticut families impacted by this tragedy. Our thoughts are also with our Bayonne families, as well, as you consider how you might want to talk with your own children in the wake of this tragic event.

A number of organizations, including the National Association of School Psychologists and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology have developed resources to assist you in having age appropriate conversations. Please review the following resources:

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/talkingviolence.pdf

<http://www.aacap.org/galleries/default-file/TipsforTalkingtoChildrenabouttheSchoolShooting.pdf>

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/aftermath.aspx>


<http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news/talking.html>

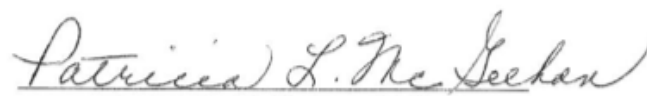
<http://ubhc.umdj.edu/brti/tlc/guidelines/HelpingChildrenSchoolViolence.htm>


Experts in the field consistently recommend allowing children to express their concerns, but limit the exposure to the media. As parents, the most important thing you can do is to maintain a sense of normalcy and keep your daily routines the same. It is important to reassure children that the adults in their lives are doing everything they can to keep their school and home safe.

As parents, you need reassurance as well. You should be aware that all Bayonne schools employ rigorous safety and security procedures. The district continues to be vigilant in school safety and security measures. We are committed to ensuring the safety of our students and staff by implementing, and consistently reviewing and updating, our school security plans.

If you observe any symptoms of stress in your child as a result of yesterday's tragic events, please do not hesitate to contact your school guidance counselor. We are here to help. Together, we can support one another, comfort one another, and move forward in the wake of this tragedy. Please join us in keeping the families and staff of Newtown, CT in your thoughts and prayers.


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