



Date: February 12, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the death of a student at Warburg School. Emma Gillis a 17-year-old young woman in grade 12 was killed in a vehicle accident last night. She was a caring and compassionate individual who loved to dance and was a loyal friend to her classmates and those around her.

Every effort is being made to handle this tragic situation with honesty, compassion and understanding. Our Crisis Response Team, along with members of our school division and support staff from our community affiliates, have made themselves available to our school to assist students, staff and family to provide support and to encourage emotional health and well-being.

Many factors influence our reaction to death; who the deceased was, how or why it happened, the support system available, age, personality and especially previous loss experience. Your own child may become quite distraught over this tragedy as no doubt he/she knew of the deceased or perhaps was a close friend. For your information, we have included an article titled, [When Grief/Loss Hits Close to Home: Tips for Caregivers](#), so that you may support your own child in their time of grief. Suggestions on what to say and do are also included.

If you have any concerns regarding your child or if you are able to assist us in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced. Should the funeral be on a school day and your son/daughter wishes to attend the funeral, we would encourage him/her to attend with a parent or guardian.

We thank you for your compassion and understanding with our students, staff and school community as we grieve this tragic loss.

Sincerely,

Principal/Assistant Principal
Wendy Maltais
Vicki Fritz

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