

March 27, 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to share with you sad news from our school community. Yesterday two of our students, Elsa and Vanessa Rodriguez, and their younger sister and brother died tragically at their home. We learned about it late Monday afternoon, just as school was dismissing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rodriguez family at this very difficult time.

Today, school psychologists, guidance counselors and Community Agency School Services workers came to school to talk with Elsa's and Vanessa's third grade and pre-kindergarten classmates and other friends who were aware of the incident and were upset. They will continue to be available for students and staff as long as needed.

If your child questions you about this situation, you can provide support by being open and willing to listen. Situations such as this may create a variety of reactions ranging from no response, to concern, to many questions. Here are some suggestions for dealing with concerns your child may have:

- **Listen to your child's story-** You may not have all the answers to his/her questions, but your child will benefit from your attention.
- **Provide structure** to assist your child in returning to as much of a normal routines as possible.
- **Talk to your child** about your personal value system regarding death or loss.

Please feel free to call the school, 240-236-3200, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Grason W. Jackson

Principal