



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST-KING EDWARD SCHOOL
223 St. James Street, Saint John, NB E2L 1W3
Telephone: (506) 658-5357 Fax: (506) 643-2818

Principal
Mrs. Christine Roy

Vice-Principal
Mrs. Hamilton -Brown

December 18th, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we approach the Christmas Season, I am sure many children still have questions and concerns in regards to the tragedy in Connecticut. It is hard to console and explain to children why such a horrific act occurred in the one place where all children should feel safe – school.

Keeping our school safe

- To ensure the safety of your children in our school, it is imperative that **ALL VISITORS** that enter our building sign in at the office. No one is permitted to wander our building or go up to classrooms without signing into the office area.
- The front door is locked. If you want to enter the building, please ring the buzzer and wait for a response. We ask that parents waiting inside **do not** let other people in until they have ringed the buzzer and received a response from the office.
- As a school, we will continue to practice safety with our students through lockdowns and fire drills.
- If you have someone in you know that poses a safety risk to your child and/or family, please inform the school so we are aware.
- There will be **zero tolerance** for adults who enter our building and threaten the feeling of safety and security of our school staff and/or students by swearing, verbal threats, assault, or disorderly conduct.

It is important we work together to ensure the safety and positive learning environment for your children.

Here are some suggestions that come from the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response:

- Listen and create an environment that acknowledges all feelings. When children ask questions use age appropriate language and a calm and reassuring tone of voice. Choose what information is to be shared based on the child's age and an assessment of your child's need to know.
- Limit media exposure for younger children and for older children let them know that the media may be too upsetting for them to watch.
- With older children discuss how the media may desensitize us all to violence. As a family talk about how to best respond to sensationalized media coverage.
- Spend extra time with your children to help them feel safe and secure again. Determine which children will be most affected. For example children who have recently lost a loved one, are depressed and anxious, traumatized children and children who have been the victim of violence.
- Contact your family doctor or school administration if you are worried about your child and would like professional support to assist with your child's reaction.
- Parents should be aware that being overly protective of their children is a normal response. Emotions may include: sense of helplessness, fear, anger and a heightened sense of vulnerability. As much as possible don't allow adult emotions to negatively affect a child's sense of security.
- Reassure children that with time their feelings of vulnerability will subside but if the feelings don't subside to let you know and you will get them help.

Thank-you

Christine Roy

Principal