



Bernie Custis Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

1055 King Street East
Hamilton, Ontario L8M 1E2
Phone: 905.296.2504
Fax: 905.545.0418

EMAIL: berniecustis@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/berniecustis

September 27, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Students and staff at Bernie Custis Secondary School are saddened to learn of the death of 18-year-old student, Kaw Kaw. We all share in the grief and sadness of having lost a student in our Hamilton community.

Our condolences are extended to the student's family and friends. The flag will be lowered at our school to half-mast.

Social workers will be available to support students. Parents, guardians, and caregivers can access [Tips for adults supporting children and youth after distressing events](https://hwdsb.info/distressing), (<https://hwdsb.info/distressing>), to support your child when talking about the death of a fellow student.

Students can also access support using [HWDSB Helps](#): Text to 905-963-0066 (Standard rates apply), use the HWDSB Helps app for iOS and Android, or the web chat. In case of emergency, call 911. Additional support includes:

- COAST Hamilton, 905-972-8338, for crisis outreach and support for all ages
- Kids Help Phone, 1-800-668-6868, for counselling and information service for young people

The death of this student was the result of a tragic incident that occurred in our community on Friday, September 24. Learn more at [Hamilton Police Service](#). Anyone with information is asked to anonymously call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit anonymous tips online at <http://www.crimestoppershamilton.com>.

Our school remains a safe place for our students and staff. We will continue to support the school community and reach out to our community partners. The additional support provided will assist students and staff in their ability to show care and compassion in this situation.

Sincerely,

Sonya Sykes
Principal