



Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear families,

This letter is to inform you that Sir Winston Churchill experienced a tragedy today.

As you may know, this afternoon police placed five HWDSB schools in Hold and Secure, including Sir Winston Churchill Secondary and Parkdale, Rosedale, Viscount Montgomery and W.H. Ballard Elementary schools and related daycares. Hold and Secure requires the building to be secured and all persons to remain in the school due to an ongoing situation outside school property.

Police responded to a serious assault near our school. The victim was transported to hospital. Later this afternoon, Hamilton Police Service confirmed that a 14-year-old student has died from injuries sustained during an assault outside the school. Police are working closely with HWDSB and continue to investigate.

Our hearts are broken. Flags will be lowered at the school for three days to show our respect.

Police are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed, saw the incident, or recorded video to contact 905-546-4123 or drop it off at the Command Van located at Ivon Avenue and Dunsmure Road. To provide information anonymously call 1-800-222-8477 or submit tips online at <http://crimestoppershamilton.com>.

If your child is struggling and would like to speak with someone, please help them reach out to their teacher or school principal. HWDSB has other support personnel available including social workers from our Critical Incident Response Team. Supporting children at this time will greatly assist them in their ability to deal with this situation. Police will be on site for additional support.

You may find helpful our resource document, *Tips for adults supporting children and youth after distressing events* which is online at <https://bit.ly/2LTQBcn>

We thank our students and staff for their co-operation during this tragic event. You can learn more about HWDSB's approach to secure schools at <http://bit.ly/2Hw8s98>

We all share in the grief and sadness of having lost a respected and loved student.

Sincerely,

Marco Barzetti
Principal