



Westdale Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Dear Westdale students and families,

Back to school generally comes with mixed emotions. At the start of this school year, however, the Westdale Secondary School community returns saddened by some recent news.

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the tragic death of Nicole Avsec, a Westdale graduate of June 2019. Nicole is described by her teachers as sarcastic, witty and a bit of a joker. However, her jokes were always kind and her sarcasm was frequently self-deprecating. She was a friend to many students throughout the school community and throughout all grades and she moved easily within all school groups. Nicole was a conscientious student who always put forth her best and hoped to work in journalism or law. She was to attend Western University in September. Nicole was also a strong athlete who competed in triathlons. Nicole was a Warrior.

Please know that our staff will be there to support our students as they transition back to school while coping with this tragic loss. In addition to our classroom teachers, we will have social workers, guidance counsellors and administrators available. Death affects everyone differently. We will let our students know it is quite all right and very acceptable to let their sadness show. We will also encourage our students to respect each other as everyone grieves differently. Please contact our student services department if you have specific concerns about your student.

For further resources, please see our Board website www.hwdsb.on.ca/wehelp In addition, there are community supports for our students and their families. The Kitching, Steepe & Ludwig Funeral Home (905-689-4852) where Nicole is resting has a grief counsellor available; other supports include, if applicable, your employee assistance program, your family doctor; your religious institutions; and community workshops such as those offered by Bereaved Families of Ontario – South Central Region.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Visca
Principal