



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
Daegu High School (DHS)
Unit 15623
APO AP 96218**

18 December 2012

Dear Parents and Sponsors,

By now you are aware of the tragic school shooting that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. last Friday. No doubt, extensive media coverage of this heartbreaking and senseless act will prompt questions from your children in the days and weeks ahead.

I want to assure you that the safety and wellbeing of your child remains a top priority and that our school has a comprehensive crisis management plan in place to help maximize safety in the unlikely event of an emergency at our school. The plan includes a crisis action team composed of teachers, administrators, a counselor, nurse and other professionals who are trained and prepared to assist in an emergency situation. Our security is further enhanced by the school evacuation and lockdown drills we conduct each school year in partnership with our military first responders. Many more measures—some obvious and others less so—are in place to provide layered protection to our campus.

Children will often ask questions at school and look for guidance from teachers, peers and other caring adults to help provide context, perspective and reassurance. In accordance with the recommendations of child psychology experts and based on student reactions at school, our educators may need to help students thoughtfully discuss the issues and events surrounding this incident in a respectful and age-appropriate manner.

We also want to share with you some tips from the National Association of School Psychologists and the New York University Child Study Center for helping your children process this difficult news:

Parent Tips for Talking With Teenagers

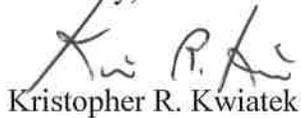
- Engage in open communication by inviting your child to ask questions and express their feelings about the event. Avoid assumptions, listen thoughtfully and validate their emotions.
- Don't be discouraged if your teenager is reluctant to discuss their feelings with you, what they really want to know is that you are aware, you care and you are always available to them if and when they need to talk.
- Engage in a problem solving discussion and encourage your child to express ideas about how to help themselves and their peers feel safer at school.

- Encourage your children to give back through a community service project. Doing so restores their sense of control and purpose.
- More tips are available here:
http://www.aboutourkids.org/articles/school_shootings_helping_teens_cope_guide_parents

We take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety of your child each and every day but we can't do it alone. The safety and security of our school is a shared responsibility and we need your help in identifying concerns as early as possible. **As always, we invite you and your children to alert us or local law enforcement of any threat to our school or community.**

While the events at Sandy Hook Elementary School are tragic beyond words, please know that such events are extremely rare and that we have a safety and security program in place to safeguard our school. Thank you for your continued support and trust in educating and caring for your child. If you have any concerns about your child's reaction to this news, please contact Dr. Sharon Prystalski at 764-4809 or Mr. Tim Cochran at 764-4938.

Sincerely,



Kristopher R. Kwiatek
Principal, Daegu High School