



**Rose Avenue Junior Public School**  
675 Ontario Street, Toronto, ON, M4X 1N4  
Principal: Scott Woolford      Vice-Principal: Monicke Hanson  
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May 15, 2023

Dear Rose Ave JPS Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

As you may be aware, there was a tragic incident that occurred in the community early this morning. As a result, there was an active crime scene and increased police presence in our community today.

While this incident is unrelated to our school, we recognize that there may have been students witnessed the crime scene and wanted to share resources in the event your child wishes to talk with you about their feelings and thoughts. Be assured that we will do all that we can to support students.

When a serious incident happens so close to home, many children may experience feelings of fear, uncertainty, anxiety, or even anger. Although this incident was not initiated as a formal discussion by teachers in classes, teachers monitored how students were handling the news and will follow up as needed.

I know that you will also want to help your children in every way possible as they attempt to understand and process this tragedy. We encourage families to talk about what happened in whatever way is appropriate for each family. The following are some guidelines that might assist you in your conversation:

- Allow children to express as much concern and grief as they wish;
- Listen carefully to what your child is saying and respond appropriately;
- Use straightforward language when dealing with death;
- If you don't know the answer to a question, simply admit – "I don't know";
- Be empathetic! Remember your child's grief responses and concerns may be different to those of an adult;
- Remember that the grief process and fear continue beyond the first day;
- It is not uncommon for grief reactions to last several days and/or weeks.

The well-being of our students continues to be a top priority. Thank you for your ongoing support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the school. As always, we will work together to support our students and school community.

Regards,

Scott Woolford  
Principal

Monicke Hanson  
Vice Principal