



PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Kimberly Diorio
Principal

November 4, 2014

Dear Paly Parents and Students,

I wanted to reach out to our school community as a follow-up to the letter our Superintendent, Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, sent home to all families in our district earlier this morning.

On behalf of Palo Alto High School, our thoughts and sympathies are with the student's family, friends and the entire Gunn community. As you heard, the cause of death was suicide. We want to take this opportunity to remind our community that suicide is a very complicated act. It is usually caused by a mental disorder such as depression, which can prevent a person from thinking clearly about his or her problems and how to solve them. Sometimes these disorders are not identified or noticed; other times, a person with a disorder will show obvious symptoms or signs.

We want our entire school community to know that resources are available to support our students. Members of our Crisis Response Team are available to meet with students individually and in groups today as well as over the coming days and weeks. Please contact the Guidance office at (650) 329-3712 if you feel your child is in need of additional assistance; we have a list of school and community mental health resources.

At the **PTSA General Meeting on Thursday, November 6th, 2014 at 8:30 am in the Library**, myself, along with our School Climate TOSA and members of our Crisis Response Team will be present to provide information about common reactions following a suicide and how adults can help youths cope. They will also provide information about suicide and mental illness in adolescents, including risk factors and warning signs of suicide, and will address attendees' questions and concerns.

Students please know we love you and that we are here for you. This is an important time for everyone in our school community to support and look out for one another. If you are concerned about a friend, please be sure to tell a trusted adult. You matter.

Again, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Take care and know that we are here for you. Paly teachers love Paly students and our Paly Parents.

Hugs,

Kim Diorio
Principal