



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

**South River High School**

201 Central Avenue, East | Edgewater, MD 21037 | 410-956-5600



June 1, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you may know from reading media reports over the weekend, a 14-year-old boy died in Crofton Saturday night after an incident in which he was apparently assaulted by several people. That boy, Chris Jones, was a ninth-grade student at our school.

Chris had been at South River for just about a month, but fit in well with his classmates. Because many of our students come from Crofton, Chris had many friends here.

Our school had grief counselors on hand today to help students and staff members cope with their grief. We will continue to make counselors available to anyone who feels the need to discuss the situation.

I encourage you to talk openly with your children about this situation, and help them understand that it's OK not to have answers to every question. Children learn how to deal with grief by watching adults deal with grief. Please do not be afraid to express your emotions in front of your children. Healthy outlets of emotions can be a valuable lesson for them.

Plans for services for Chris are incomplete at this time. When those arrangements are made, we will have them available in the school office.

I know that you will keep Chris's family in your thoughts and prayers in the days and weeks ahead. If you have questions or concerns, please call the school at 410-956-5600.

Sincerely,

William T. Myers  
Principal

WTM/bm