October 20, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with deep sympathy that I must inform you of the recent passing of Hailey Parker, a 5th grade student here at the Culbertson Elementary School. Hailey will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and bubbly personality and she will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. It is not easy for us to accept the loss of life but it is especially difficult to reconcile the loss of a child and our thoughts and our prayers go out to Hailey’s family.

We are working with our students to ensure that they have the support and resources they will need to get through this difficult time. Our counselors are available to those students and adults who may request or show us that they need support. If you do not wish for your child to receive additional support, please send in a note with your child tomorrow morning. As a reminder, while at home with your student(s), monitor any signs of grief or behavioral changes in your child/children, as this loss may affect children in unexpected ways.

Remember to keep the lines of communication open with your child as it is important to be honest with them and to allow them to express their feelings of grief, anger or even disbelief. Reassure your child that there is always a caring adult close at hand with whom he or she can talk and that the emotion they might be feeling is normal.

Please contact me at 610 359 4340, if you have any concerns or if you feel we can help you or your child in any way. The Culbertson family, our staff and the Marple Newtown School District community are here for you and your family.

At this time the Parker family appreciates everyone’s compassion during this difficult time. Please accept the family’s wishes for privacy at this time.

Sincerely,

James M. Wigo, Jr.

The Marple Newtown School District provides state of the art educational opportunities for all students in a safe and effective learning environment through a collaborative commitment involving students, families, staff, and community.