



Harwin Elementary School

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

1193 Harper St., Prince George, B.C. V2M 2X1

Tel: (250) 562-1773 Fax: (250) 562-0524

January 11, 2019

I regret to inform you, there was a death of a parent in our school community. You may or may not have become aware of this event by people talking, or through social media.

We all need to recognize that some individuals may be affected by this tragedy and supports are available through counselling services. If you or your children need support, please advise Linda McGraw (School Principal) and support can be made through counselling services and or the district CERT (Critical Event Response Team).

Over the next few weeks, if you notice your child is having difficulties, or there is a change in behavior or mood, I encourage you to connect with administration. There are people at the school and in the school district that can help. There are also many agencies in the community.

Out of respect for the families, please refrain from commenting on social media regarding the details of this event. Details on social media are not always accurate and may act to re-traumatize those impacted. As you are aware there are many ways for people to grieve.

Parents are encouraged to speak to their children about grief and loss. The Harwin website has resources you can access to assist with these conversations. This may be your child’s first experience dealing with the grief and loss. Please speak to them about being sensitive and supportive to their classmates. Equally important is recognition that this event may trigger past experiences for yourself and/or your child. Take care of yourselves and each other.

If your child is experiencing difficulties, please provide support and ensure them that they are safe.

At all times be respectful of the grief and privacy of the family.

Please feel free to contact the school at any time with any questions.

Information has also been included below of a few of the several support agencies in the community.

Counsellors – Harwin	250-562-1773
Administration – Harwin	250-562-1773
Mental Health Services	250-565-2668
24 Hr Crisis Centre/Line	250-563-1214 / 1-888-562-1214
Prince George Native Friendship	250-564-3568
Intersect	250-562-6639
Foundry	236-423-1571

If you have any imminent concerns about your child's safety, please contact your family physician or go to the University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC) emergency room.

The Harwin community is here to support you through this difficult time.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school for support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda McGraw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial "L".

Mrs Linda McGraw, Principal
Harwin Elementary School