



FLEMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

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CherylAnn Samuel-Graham, Principal Stephen Scott, Vice-Principal

April 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Many of you already know that our Flemington family suffered a tragic loss of one of our own last month. Today, it is with a heavy heart that we write to inform you of another tragedy that has resulted in the death of a beloved staff member. Ms. Dianne Chin, a grade 3 teacher, passed away on Friday, April 10th after being diagnosed with COVID-19. Dianne leaves behind her daughter, son-in-law and 8 siblings. I know you join with all of us in expressing our deepest condolences to her grieving family and friends.

Dianne started her teaching career at Flemington in 2000. In her 20-year career, she touched the lives of many students, staff and community members that had the pleasure of working with her. She was a kind and caring member of Flemington and will be remembered as a pillar of the community and a positive role model. Her work ethic and dedication to students was an inspiration to us all. Dianne will be dearly missed. Our school will plan a memorial in her honour when the regular school routine resumes.

Be assured that we will do all that we can to help students who are upset and require support. If needed, our school social workers are available to reach out and offer counselling to students. Death is a difficult issue to share with children. Some of our children knew Ms. Chin better than others and their reactions may be different depending upon their previous experience with loss. Below are some suggestions to assist you when talking to your child:

- Allow children to express as much concern and grief as they wish.
- Listen carefully to what your child is saying and respond appropriately.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, simply admit – "I don't know".
- Be empathetic! Remember your child's 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.

While respecting the family's privacy, we can share that Ms. Chin was diagnosed on March 29th after contracting the illness from a personal contact and not prior to our school closing on March 13th.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to email me directly at Cherylann.Samuel-Graham@tdsb.on.ca if more support is needed for your child.

Sincerely,

Cherylann Samuel-Graham
Principal