



# MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JANET WALLING - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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October 11, 2023

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

I am writing to you this evening to take a moment to recognize the current situation in the Middle East, which has been a topic of concern and conversation for many over the past few days. While our primary focus remains on the education and well-being of our students, it is also important to acknowledge the world events that impact our school community.

These recent events have brought devastation and uncertainty to countless families, and we understand that members of our school community may be directly or indirectly affected by this situation. If you or your children are in need of support, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's principal or school counselor. They are available to assist by providing guidance and connecting you with appropriate resources if necessary.

As a community, we have learned that our strength lies in our unity and our commitment to supporting each other. As a school district, we embrace and emphasize the importance of respecting and accepting one another regardless of religion, ethnicity, background, or any other distinguishing characteristic. Together, we can navigate through difficult times and continue to provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing educational environment for all of our students.

We recognize that our students, at all ages, may be aware of these events and have questions, concerns, or worries about what they are seeing online or hearing in the news. Please take a moment to review the resources linked below. You may find these helpful to assist with any conversations that you may wish to have with your children:

- [How Do I Talk to My Kids About Violence in the News?](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War?](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Frightening News](#)
- [PBS.org -- Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News](#)

I thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your children and helping us to create a welcoming and inclusive school community.

Regards,

Janet Walling