

December 14, 2010

Dear BISD families,

Since Birdville ISD is such a close family, we are saddened to share with you the news of the death of Colin Parks, Richland High School senior, in an auto accident this morning on the corner of Davis and Mid Cities. In addition, a Birdville High School student was seriously injured in the accident and was transported by CareFlight. There were no other serious injuries. The families of the students involved have been notified and are with their children. Words cannot adequately express my personal sorrow over the death of Colin. I hope you will join me in thoughts and prayers for his family so they can successfully cope with this very tough time in their lives.

The physical and emotional well being of our students is important to us all. Yet, as parents and educators we are sometimes faced with tragic situations such as this. BISD will provide crisis counselors to talk with both students and staff on our campus as long as they feel the need to be present for our school.

Our counselor provides the following information dealing with grief. These suggestions are provided to assist you in discussing this tragedy.

- Talk about the loss openly
- Address concerns of how this disrupts their life
- Provide structure, predictability
- Be prepared to deal with anger, encourage physical activity
- Expect learning to be interrupted
- Respect the individual's time-table

I want to encourage your family to discuss the events as appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your campus.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. Waddell, Ed.D.
Superintendent