

September 13, 2001

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As all Americans are struggling to understand what happened on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, I would like to inform you of the precautions that were taken in the Elementary School. On that day, we first became aware of the incident shortly after 9:00 a.m. We immediately turned on the radio in the office seeking information about the incident. We only then became aware that the United States was under a terrorist attack. We immediately informed staff of the incident, however, no students were informed of the incident. We feel that developmentally, students are not able to understand this type of incident. The students were never made aware of either the fear or desperation that adults were feeling. We implemented an indoor playground on both September 11 and September 12. The Building Crisis Center was set up in the Main Office. Main Office staff fielded phone calls from parents and other school officials. Decisions were made in a calm and orderly manner. Each staff member reacted in a calm and assuring manner in order to protect students from the realities of the events happening in New York City, Washington, D.C., and southern Pennsylvania. At this time, we are implementing outdoor playground. The counseling staff continues to monitor the reactions of the students and provide comfort care where needed.

**On Friday, September 14, 2001, we are asking that staff and students wear red, white, and blue clothing to school as a show of solidarity and pride for our country. In addition, we understand that churches around the country have been asked to ring their bells at 12:00 p.m. We will respond with a building-wide moment of silence at that time.**

Rest assured that the staff continues to act responsibly and with the utmost care for your children at all times while seeking their own understanding of the developments occurring in our Country.

Very truly yours,

Anne P. Ressler  
Elementary School Principal

APR/jg