



**SOUTH MILWAUKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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**Principal**  
Jim Hendrickson  
**Associate Principal**  
Eric Wightman

September 18, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with deep regret that we inform you about a recent loss to our school community. On September 15th, one of our students passed away unexpectedly. At this time, the police and medical examiner have ruled this death accidental. This loss is sure to raise many emotions, concerns, and questions for our entire school, especially our students.

Rumors of bullying and suicide have been circulating. These untrue stories have been disruptive as the family and school community go through the grieving process. Across the nation, children are experimenting with various choking games and other risky behaviors. Please talk with your child about these unsafe practices. The following link can provide more information about the choking game and ways to help protect your children: <http://tinyurl.com/sdsm prevention>

South Milwaukee Middle School has a Crisis Intervention Team made up of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and school personnel at a difficult time such as this. At our school, we have counselors available for any student who may need or want help or any type of assistance surrounding this loss. We encourage you, as parents, to also feel free to use our resources.

The back side of this letter contains information that may be useful to you in helping your child at home. If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Molly Gallegos, our school district Social Worker, at 414-766-5816.

We are saddened by the loss to our school community and will make every effort to help you and your child as you need.

Sincerely,

Jim Hendrickson  
Principal