



Scattergood

FRIENDS SCHOOL

October 12, 2009

For any of you who may be unaware of the events of this past weekend here at Scattergood, it is my sad duty to tell you that we are all grieving over the death of one of our Freshmen female students, Lili. She was discovered, unresponsive in her bed, around noon on Saturday. Help was immediately summoned but even with the presence of two fine medical doctors at that time and the quick response of the emergency medical people, it was not possible to revive her.

We have attempted to reach all of the parents, family members, guardians, staff and students who were not on campus and people identified as those who need to know because of their close relationship with the students. Most were reached by phone, some we have only been able to establish communications with through the use of e-mail.

The students and staff were called together as a community in order for them to be supportive of one another in their immediate grief when the news was given. Within two hours Crisis Intervention Councilors were on the scene working with the students and staff. Today they are again on campus available for students in one-on-one conversations as needed. They will return on Thursday for another group session and will be available as we need them. Staff will be working with a different crisis intervention group on Thursday learning how to continue to be supportive as the days and weeks go by, including the need to maintain their own healthy grieving in order to give the support to the students.

Counselors who already have a Scattergood student as a client are being contacted about the events of the weekend. Any students or staff needing addition counseling will be guided to specialists and if necessary we will work to find funding as needed.

Because of her age, the death being completely unexpected and the fact that there was no witness, state law requires an autopsy. The first report from the Coroner's office is that nothing indicating any unnatural cause was found. They cannot officially rule on the cause of death until all of the final test results are in.

Born with a congenital birth disorder, Lili demonstrated great courage with her disability and was passionate about human rights. She was a Marin County (CA) Commissioner on the Youth Leader Institute as an advocate for kids with disabilities. During the recent presidential campaign, Lili had the opportunity to speak to Hilary Clinton directly regarding children with disabilities.

The family is planning a private burial in California with a public memorial service.

Peace,

Ginny Winsor
Interim Head of School