



## Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts

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October 10, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As most of you are aware, there was a violent incident off school property over the weekend that involved one of our own. It is with deep regret and sadness that I am writing to inform you of the death of Isaiah Witt, a 15-year-old grade 10 student who was tragically killed on Saturday following a senseless act of violence.

As you can imagine, this is a very difficult time for all of us at Wexford. Today has been a sombre day for all of us as we mourn this tragic loss of life. Isaiah was very well-liked and will be sorely missed by our students and staff. He had a passion for fitness training and enjoyed playing the guitar. His peers describe him as outgoing, kind, caring and adorable. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

The students most closely associated with Isaiah have been encouraged to meet directly with specially trained support staff who will remain at school for as long as they are needed. No doubt, it will be very difficult for some of the students to come to terms with his death. We will endeavour to deal with the feelings and questions of the students as sensitively as possible. I know that you will also want to help your children in every way possible as they attempt to understand and process this tragedy. We encourage families to talk about what happened in whatever way is appropriate for each family.

To help students and staff cope with this loss, we have done the following:

- A staff meeting was held prior to the beginning of the school day to inform them of the preparations and supports we have put in place;
- At the start of the school day, a statement was made on the Public Address system. Students were told that TDSB social workers as well as our guidance staff and our administration were available should they need to speak to someone about their feelings or dealing with their grief;
- A book of condolences is available for students to sign.

The Wexford community will come together to show our respect and support for the family based on the family's wishes. The funeral arrangements will be posted in the main office.

Isaiah will be remembered fondly by his friends and teachers. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family members. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me or a vice-principal at 416-396-6874.

Sincerely,

Tom Lazarou,  
Principal

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts, an outstanding school designated to deliver visual arts and performing arts at a professional level, provides a strong academic, athletic and technological program for all its students. Its safe and caring environment inspires life-long learning and a desire for personal excellence.