



LORD TWEEDSMUIR SECONDARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 36 SURREY

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April 28, 2025

Dear Families,

Over the weekend, thousands of people from the Filipino community - from across Metro Vancouver - gathered in Vancouver to celebrate the Lapu-Lapu Day Festival. Late Saturday night, Vancouver Police confirmed the tragic and heartbreaking news that eleven people were killed and dozens more injured at the event.

Surrey Schools is proud to be the home to many Filipino-Canadian staff, students and families. Many people in our school community may have attended the event or had family and friends at the event. We are still in the process of understanding the full impact of Saturday's tragic incident on our school community.

Today, you can expect our staff will be working hard to support students and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings and ask their questions. The district has arranged additional support through district resource counselors and Safe Schools staff for our school community. Please feel free to read this fact sheet for families on [supporting children through loss](#).

Our children process grief in different ways and over the next many days, weeks and months, we will see them express a range of emotions. Some may appear angry, sad, withdrawn, or confused, and others may express their feelings through questions or conversation. These responses are natural and may take time to work through. During this difficult time, your child will need patience, care, and reassurance at school and at home.

We value the compassion, care and respect for our school community shows for each other in difficult times. We are navigating a devastating loss and your understanding and patience is much appreciated at this time.

Please check in on your friends, colleagues and members of your community. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need to talk or have any questions.

Should your child need further support, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Ken Hignell,
Principal

"Create a future you believe in"