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Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence in Education

Superintendent of Schools
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Principal
Tony Giancola

February 23, 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I need to tell you about an incident that occurred at our school yesterday Thursday, February 22, 2007. Our principal, Mr. Giancola, was arrested at school and charged with a serious crime. The incident has received a great deal of news coverage, and I will not get into the details of the arrest. The case is still under investigation, and we are doing everything we can to assist Tampa Police.

It is important that you know that no students were involved in this incident in any way. Nevertheless, we are all affected by Mr. Giancola's arrest.

I will be acting as principal for the time being. The area director and the superintendent have offered Van Buren Middle School all the assistance that we need. The goal is to create as normal an environment as possible for our students. We are counting on our faculty, staff, and students to continue their jobs of teaching and learning.

Here at school, our feelings of shock and disappointment have turned to sadness and concern. If the charges are true, Mr. Giancola has a serious problem that he needs to address. If your child has questions about Mr. Giancola, please tell them that it appears he made a terrible choice and is suffering the consequences, but this does not diminish all the wonderful things he has done for our school and for the children he has taught throughout his career.

I want to commend our teachers, students and parents for the way you have handled this situation. You have had questions and concerns. But everyone has been patient and supportive. I am counting on our students to be ready for FCAT Monday morning. We had a great year last year, and we need to maintain our focus on learning.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Allison Edgecomb
Assistant Principal

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