

Cassidy School
Policy on providing students with
news of catastrophic events

Our ability to effectively teach our students is largely dependent upon the trust we build with them everyday. That trust is earned when the faculty and staff deal with students in a consistently fair and honest manner. However, from time to time events may occur that are potentially upsetting to children and professional judgments must be made regarding what information to share with children and how this information will be shared.

We recognize that one of the difficulties will be that teachers may not have accurate information to share, at least not initially. In addition, children vary naturally in terms of their abilities to understand and maturely handle such information. Since there is no good way for any policy to predetermine which individual children might be able to understand information, the council provides the following guidelines to the faculty:

- At the principal's discretion the staff will be informed of catastrophic events by email. An announcement will be made advising the staff to check their email immediately.
- At the principal's discretion students may be gathered for a discussion presented by the principal.
- Television viewing and internet access will not be permitted by any students upon notification of catastrophic events.
- Teachers will not present any information to the children during the onset of the situation. Regular school schedules should be maintained to the extent possible. Individual questions or concerns that may arise will be dealt with on an individual basis and students will be reassured of their safety.
- Events may be addressed as they are raised in class after students are aware of the situation. Teachers should give factual information of the events and reassure students of their safety.
- If time permits, parents will be reminded of how the school handled any particular events by a letter from the principal.

Adopted 8 January 2002