



Paxton-Buckley-Loda Unit #10 Schools

P.O. Box 50
Paxton, Illinois 60957-0050
(217) 379-3314

December 3, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Natalie Johnson, a sixth grade student at PBL Junior High, which occurred on Tuesday, December 1, 2009. It is not known at this time what caused Natalie's death, but a bacterial infection is suspected. Please be assured the district has a very specific, effective containment plan in place and has had since the beginning of the school year. In addition, we will continue with our close working relationship with Ford-Iroquois Public Health to advise us in our efforts to provide a safe, healthy environment for all of our students.

The visitation for Natalie Johnson will be held on Friday, December 4, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Baier Family Funeral Services. The funeral will be held at Evangelical Covenant Church in Paxton on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. If your child plans to attend the visitation and/or funeral services, I encourage a parent, guardian, or adult to accompany them.

Students will have varied reactions to the death of a fellow student. Grief can take many forms, which could include crying, withdrawal, anger, lack of appetite, and an inability to sleep. I encourage you to openly discuss with your child(ren) their reactions and feelings regarding this tragedy.

Counseling services have been available to students at PBL Junior High since Wednesday, December 2, 2009 and will continue to be available throughout the week. Staff was also available at the other three school buildings as needed. If you think your child needs additional counseling support, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Johnson family during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cliff McClure".

Cliff McClure,
PBL Superintendent of Schools

CM/at