



Supporting One Another

February 26, 2025

Good evening, POB School Community.

It is with great sadness that I share the heartbreaking news of the unexpected passing of Jaclyn Xue, a cherished member of our senior class who had been missing since Sunday evening. Our hearts are with Jaclyn's family, friends, and all who are mourning this tragic loss.

Today, POB Schools came together in an extraordinary way to support our students and staff. A comprehensive team of counselors, social workers, psychologists, and administrators from across the District, along with professionals from neighboring districts, were present at JFKHS to provide comfort and guidance. We are deeply grateful to the Syosset, Jericho, Hicksville, Massapequa, and Farmingdale School Districts who immediately sent additional professionals this morning to JFKHS, ensuring that every student and staff member had the support they needed. Also, a sincere thanks to the JCC for their offer to assist and to the American Red Cross for their continued presence in the coming days. We will be offering after-school counseling tomorrow and Friday from 2 PM-4 PM and additional support this Saturday from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at JFKHS, including therapy dogs to bring comfort to families who need it.

In times of tragedy, social media can become a source of speculation and misinformation that does more harm than good. We ask for your partnership in speaking with your children about the importance of sharing information responsibly and being mindful of the impact their words and posts can have on others.

The death of a child brings a wave of emotions, and each of us will process this loss in our own way. Please watch for signs of distress in your children and know that we are here to support you in any way we can. Our priority now is to surround Jaclyn's family, friends, and the faculty and students of JFKHS with love and care, ensuring that those who need us most are not alone.

We want to give special thanks to the administrative and pupil personnel team at JFKHS, who worked tirelessly through last night to ensure that everything was in place for today's opening. Their dedication reflects the strength of this community, which never hesitates to come together in times of need.

A GoFundMe page has been created to assist Jaclyn's family with funeral expenses. If you would like to contribute, you can [find the link here](#).

Thank you for the role you play in making this community one of compassion and support. Please do not hesitate to reach out if your child or family needs assistance in the days ahead.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary O'Meara
Superintendent of Schools