



WILSON

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wilson Elementary School
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Jocelyn Sulsberger, Principal
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Dear Wilson Families,

I am writing to inform you that a first grade student at Wilson Elementary School has been diagnosed with leukemia, a very serious form of cancer. We have collaborated with the student's parents, and are sharing this sad news with our school community in order to build awareness around this difficult subject matter. The family has shared that the student began receiving chemotherapy this past weekend and will continue to undergo treatment. At this time, we are not aware at what point the student in question will be able to return to class.

If you believe your student(s) may need additional support due to a personal connection to this topic, please contact our main office. You will then be connected with Wilson's school social worker or school psychologist. We have also provided informational resources on the back of this letter to help support conversations you may have at home.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with the student and their family as they approach the treatment process for this very difficult condition. Our hope is for a quick and successful recovery, but we know that the student and their family face a challenging road ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Sulsberger
Principal

Information Resources

Websites:

- Leukemia Society of America - www.leukemia.org
- <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/leukemiainchildren/>

Articles:

- www.boston.com/lifestyle/health/mdmama/2013/09/how_to_help_your_child_if_a_classmate_has_cancer.html
- <http://kidshealthline.com/2011/09/22/talking-about-cancer/>

Books for children:

Why Charlie Brown, Why? , By Charles S. Shultz

Part of the classic Charlie Brown series, this is a heart-warming story about a child diagnosed with leukemia. It describes how the child's family, friends and school-mates cope with her illness, in a charming and compassionate way.

Can I Catch Cancer, By Cristine Thomas (2007)

The characters capture the imagination of the child enabling them to visualize what cancer is. This book is not filled with large words and huge definitions that make a child lost; it is to the point and covers the basics

Chemo to the Rescue: A Children's Book About Leukemia

By Mary Brent and Caitlin Knutsson

This book is written by mother and daughter, Mary Brent and Caitlan Knutssen, during Caitlan's experience with leukemia. It helps explain the complexities of the disease to children, as well as ways to cope with the illness. Chemo to the Rescue can also be viewed for free online. A detailed view of the medical process, may be best for older children.

Jacob Has Cancer: His Friends Want To Help

A special coloring book for the friends and classmates of children with cancer. As you color, you'll learn what cancer is, what your friend is going through, how you can help, and how much your help means to your friend