

Roxanne Maher

From: William Jamieson Jr <williamjamiesonjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 9:13 PM
To: Jay Hartling
Cc: Mark Westkott; Blakely Elizabeth Jamieson; Nicole Engel; Rosanne Ciccio; Caitlin McCarthy; Town Council Group
Subject: Re: Peer incident

Jay,
Your statement, "I will follow up with you tomorrow" that you made yesterday during our phone conversation is what led me to believe you would be calling me today. As for the continued bullying, injuries and incidents on the playground, I would like to discuss that with you and Mark at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,
William Jamieson

On Fri, Oct 11, 2024, 8:18 PM Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net> wrote:

Mr. Jamieson,

First, I'm sorry to hear Clare was hurt and you're experiencing a stressful night at the ER.

Sorry for any confusion, I did not feel there was going to be a call between us today. What I thought was that I had two action pieces to follow up with Mr. Westkott to gain clarity on next steps.

As noted in my email earlier this afternoon Mr. Westkott will be communicating directly with you.

Jason S. Hartling

Superintendent

Ledyard Public Schools

"Believing in the unlimited potential of every student"



My working hours may vary from your working hours. Unless it is an identified emergency, please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your work schedule.

On Fri, Oct 11, 2024 at 7:07 PM William Jamieson Jr <williamjamiesonjr@gmail.com> wrote:

Mark, Jay and Staff,

Thank you for the email. Very disappointed Jay Hartling did not follow up with the phone call as promised to me today.. Doesn't exactly send a message he is concerned about our child's safety or school experience.

We will respond more appropriately this weekend to this email reply and lack of communication today that was promised.

But in the meantime, I wanted to share yet another issue coming from the school playground. While at our campground tonight, Clare was playing on the monkey bars and attempted to leap and skip 3 bars and unfortunately missed and landed on her back, resulting in a concussion. We are still currently at ER awaiting further tests/scans. When asked by us and again by ER staff what happened, she stated that she really wanted to be able to do it because all the girls at recess do it every day. She named names of students who can skip 2, 3, or 4 bars at a time on the monkey bars and that she just wants to be able to do the same so they like her.. Wow.

She's also talked to us, since getting picked up today, about how much fun she didn't have at recess yet again today because no one wants to play with her and that several of the aforementioned girls are deciding if they might want to be her friend eventually. She said basically Noone likes me in my class.

So seems today wasn't much improved, and now has landed us in the emergency room from things she has learned at school on the clearly UNSUPERVISED And/or Controlled playground environment.

A phone call would be nice to discuss how we can start to promote a safe environment for her and all the students on Your playground and a welcoming and nurturing environment for her at school as a whole.

This has to STOP.

Respectfully,
William Jamieson
860-383-9008

On Fri, Oct 11, 2024, 4:22 PM Mark Westkott <mwestkott@ledyard.net> wrote:

Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson,

Today, Mrs. Garon and I spoke with Clare about Wednesday's incident. Claire was great. We asked her to recount the events from Wednesday. Claire stated that when she returned from the bathroom during Lunch and headed back to her table, she overheard the other student tell a third student, "I thought she got expelled, and that is why she is out of school." She stated that the other student laughed at her. Claire, understandably, said she was very upset about this.

Claire said that she is not interested in being friends with this other student because she knows that down the road, the other student will be unkind, which doesn't "make a good friend." We reaffirmed that this was a very mature mindset for her sake. We told Claire we would follow up with the other student and asked her what she wanted as an outcome or a fix to the problem. Claire said she wanted the other student to stay away. Claire also mentioned that she could say, "If you leave me alone, I will leave you alone." This is an example of positive language that establishes boundaries. And continued,

"If you don't stop, I will tell a caring adult." We wrote these on paper because Claire wanted to keep them on or on her desk.

We asked about when Miss Engel checked in with her after Lunch and Recess. Claire said that it was busy and a lot was going at that time. So we took time to explain and practice with Claire that when Miss Engel or someone in Room 5, Mrs. Power or Miss Berendt, checks in, it is the perfect time to let someone at school know if there is something we can address or help her with. We practiced this and identified vital people and times in the day.

I looped Mrs. Ciccio in our debrief with Claire so she could support her. Knowing that we are focusing our efforts on unstructured times, Mrs. Ciccio plans to observe in these settings.

We are grateful to have Claire back in school today.

Very respectfully,

Mark

On Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 8:33 AM Blakely Elizabeth Jamieson <blakelyelizabethjamieson@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

Clare just informed me at bedtime last night of a bullying incident that took place yesterday at lunch time. Shay, a student in Ms. Watfords class, went out of her way to go up to Clare and say "oh, you're here? I thought you finally got expelled and sent to a different school." and laughed at her. This was due to clares absences following the recess incidents. I am to a point where if this doesn't get under control there will a formal complaint made with the district.

Furthermore, the list of names we hear constantly having issues with Clare at recess are:

Shay, Gina, Eva, Siobhan, Alexis, and Garetia.

I'd really appreciate if the entire 3rd grade team, along with support staff and admins, could come together to address the bullying that is taking place at your school. This is certainly not a "only the girls" issue and should be addressed with everyone.

Clare is coming to school very sad about the walk-a-thon because neither of us are able to take additional time off to attend. Please be aware she may need extra support.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

--

Mark Westkott

Principal

Gales Ferry School/Juliet W. Long School

Ledyard Public Schools