



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Livingston Public Schools Community:

As we come to the close of our first week of school in 2021, we look back on a week when we witnessed an event in Washington, DC that was alarming, disturbing, and unprecedented in our country's history. The violence that occurred at the Capitol Building was unconscionable, and difficult for many adults to understand. For children, seeing and hearing news about circumstances like this, can be even more challenging to process. Additionally, today we learned that the Capitol Police Officer who was killed on Wednesday was from New Jersey, which "hits home" and adds to the emotion surrounding what occurred on Wednesday.

Over the past two days, our amazing team of LPS Educators has worked to support our students by speaking to them in age-appropriate ways about current events, and have gathered resources to guide them in doing so objectively and effectively. We know that children process emotions around the violence and anger they see on the news in various ways and at different speeds. Even students who may not understand the details of the situation can be upset and anxious.

As we go into the weekend, I wanted to provide our families with some resources that might be helpful as they communicate about this week's events with their children at home. I hope that you find them valuable. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's School Counselor or Principal if you feel further assistance is needed.

Wishing everyone a relaxing and peaceful weekend.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Superintendent of Schools

- National Geographic: [How to talk with your kids about the chaos at the Capitol](#)
- National Association of School Psychologists: [How to talk with kids about violence](#)
- ABC News: [After Capitol breach, 5 tips to talk to kids](#)
- ADL Education: [Discussing political violence and extremism with young people](#)
- Library of Congress: [Creating the United States - Peaceful Transfer of Power](#)
- Bill of Rights Institute: [Contentious Elections and the Peaceful Transition of Power](#) (with lesson plan and activities)
- UVA Miller Center: [The Miller Center - The Peaceful Transfer of Power](#)