



Lexington High School

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April 1, 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

I am writing for two reasons: one is to follow up a public address announcement I made at the High School on April 1st, regarding a graffiti incident; and the second is to give you some information about the annual observance, by some of our students and faculty, of a “Day of Silence” late this month.

With regard to the first, I am sorry to report that very early on the morning of April 1st, our custodians discovered some vulgar graffiti written on several campus buildings. The graffiti included swastikas, personal insults directed at me and another administrator, references to two students who were named, a depiction of a skull and crossbones with the date May 7th, a homophobic remark, and, also in the mix, some unflattering remarks about the Red Sox and the Patriots. We refer any graffiti that may be threatening to the police department and to the regional STARS (School Threat Assessment Response Team) police network, which is a specially trained unit that evaluates and investigates threats to school safety. We have relied on STARS a couple of times over the past several years and have found them to be highly effective and extremely helpful.

There will an ongoing investigation to identify suspects in this case. Meanwhile, I want to express the outrage that the school community feels about this violation of our values and of the law. Our community is founded upon the ideas of safety and respect, and incidents such as this will be treated seriously and vigorously. I have asked anyone who has information about this incident to talk to one of the deans or other staff members in the school. Their confidentiality will be observed. I have also urged students who need support to see any of our counselors, deans, social workers, nurses, or other staff members who may be of help.

If I have to contact you with any further information, I will do so; meanwhile, I assure you that the proper steps are being taken to investigate this matter and to ensure a safe campus environment.

The second piece of information I have is to let you know that the annual observance of the Day of Silence by some of our students and faculty will take place on Wednesday, April 30th. The Day of Silence originated some twelve years ago at the University of Virginia among a group of people who wanted to promote a national awareness of the “silencing” that, in their view, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people experience

