

January 2, 2013

Dear Geneva Parents:

I wanted to take a few minutes of your time to share some early reactions that Geneva Day School is taking as a result of the tragic school shooting in Connecticut recently. This was terrible, horrific event, but it has implications for educational facilities and businesses everywhere.

The School and church staff will be meeting during our first weeks back to discuss what else Geneva can do to refine security practices already in place. Local police officials will also be meeting with us this week to make other recommendations, as well.

Geneva staff will continue to be observant of unusual activities and people and keep doors to the outside locked. In addition, the School will immediately modify how the School Lobby and the Learning Cottage may be entered.

The School Lobby and Learning Cottage doors will be locked at all times, with the exception of arrival (from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. and 12:10-12:30 p.m.) and dismissal (from 11:25-11:45 a.m. and 2:40 to 3:00 p.m.). Staff members will be present in the Lobby and the Cottage during appropriate times to greet parents and be aware of traffic in and out of the buildings. Doors will be locked before and after these periods. Access to either building is by staff members using a key or outside persons ringing the doorbell for admission.

Geneva encourages families to use the carpool line, especially in view of recent events. It is staffed sufficiently to allow for fairly rapid movement through the line.

You may have ideas for consideration as well. Please feel free to share them with the School, either directly with [me](#) or [Amanda White](#), in the Suggestion Box located in the Lobby, or at the GPA meeting scheduled for next Tuesday evening, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. We want to be prudent, of course, and be sure that we are as safe as we reasonably can be.

We have linked two articles for your information about how to talk with young children about tragic events, one from [Montgomery County](#) and one from [PEP](#). While it is important to respond to questions honestly about any subject, it is not necessary for them to be told about the shooting incident directly, particularly because they are so young. Should they hear something or have questions, understand their concerns and assure them that they are safe at home and school.

We hope that everyone had a relaxing and fun holiday break with families and friends, and that your children are now glad to be back at school. We missed them, and are happy to visit with them to learn about their fun winter break events. We wish everyone a Happy New Year of 2013! May it be a healthy, happy, safe, and prosperous year for you!

Thank you for your continued support of Geneva Day School.

Very truly yours,

*Suzanne Funk*

Director