



**HOLLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Office of the Superintendent  
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*Bradford L. Jackson*  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Holliston Parents and Guardians:

The unspeakable tragedies that have shaken several school communities in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; Cazenovia, Wisconsin; Bailey, Colorado; and Montreal, Quebec, are a stark reminder of the times in which we live and the challenges that these times place on all of us. As you watch the scenes from these incidents unfold on television, we're sure that your first thoughts turn to your children and your schools here in Holliston. The purpose of this letter is to assure you that the safety of your students while in school and while in the community is our number one priority and to inform you of some of the proactive steps that we have taken to focus our efforts on student safety.

Last year, the Holliston School Committee convened a School Safety Committee to review our practices with an eye to improving school safety. Members of this Committee included representatives from the Schools, Police and Fire Departments as well as staff members and parent representatives. As a result of this Committee's recommendations, a number of improved procedures have been implemented in each of our schools to increase the security of each of our buildings. This Committee has been recalled to service this fall to review our current procedures and recommend any necessary modifications based on our current understanding of school security issues.

In addition, we will be expanding our emergency preparedness as a community by adding a new set of emergency drills. While most of these drills will be conducted outside of the school day by staff alone, this fall each school will conduct a lockdown drill to practice the procedures for staff and students to follow in case a situation requiring lockdown presents itself. These drills will be done in an age-appropriate manner with careful consideration given to the age of the students and their ability to comprehend their environment.

Finally, and most importantly, we focus on keeping our schools and community safe by sharing information and communicating with one another about issues of concern or importance. While this approach is the most obvious, our experience tells us that many communities do not share our commitment to joint problem solving and our reliance on each other to keep our children safe. We are confident that by working together and keeping school safety our number one priority, we are able to assure parents that every effort is being made to keep Holliston's schools a safe place for children and staff.

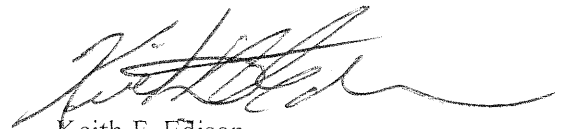
Sincerely,



Bradford L. Jackson  
Superintendent of Schools



Michael R. Cassidy  
Fire Chief



Keith F. Edison  
Acting Police Chief