

The Falcon family has a very heavy heart. We have been stricken with some devastating news as of late. This letter is to keep you informed as well as make an appeal for your support.

Last week, we learned of the death of Billy Therriault, a 7th grader at Roger Ludlowe Middle School. Billy's sisters, Alex and Ella, both attend FLHS, and this tragic news comes after losing their father unexpectedly in 2014.

On Saturday, FLHS senior Nagee Crowder died in a drowning accident while harmlessly playing with some friends. Nagee's sister, Kelis Richardson, attends FLHS and another sister and brother attend Fairfield Woods Middle School. Nagee's mother and siblings could really use our support right now.

As you can imagine, both families are reeling from the loss of their children. As fellow parents, we know that there is no greater fear than losing a child, and our hearts ache for them. Our hope in asking for your support is to bring some small measure of comfort to these families by taking some of the management of daily necessities off their plates.

We are asking for donations of gift cards to grocery stores, restaurants, department stores, or clothing stores. If cash is an easier option, we will accept that as well. 100 percent of the donations will go directly to the families. I have been told that establishments on Black Rock Turnpike would be best: ShopRite, Kohls, TJ Maxx, Old Navy, CVS, and other various restaurants or food sources in that part of town.

We will have staff and students at the various drop off locations with collection boxes for the morning arrival on Wednesday and Friday: at the back of the school under the clock, the Webster driveway, and the front stairs for students on buses. Student can also drop off donations in the main office.

In addition, a GoFundMe page was started to support the Nagee's family. You can find it at <https://www.gofundme.com/richardson-family-fund>.

We are also offering counseling services to all students who feeling the effects of the losses. Sometimes students may not even know the individual or family member but they feel badly because it reminds them of another loss they may have had in the past. Students can stop by our counseling center or just let a teacher know they need to talk to someone. Attached you will also find a guide for caregivers and families in coping with loss.

Falcon Nation has always been a compassionate and loving community. We thank you for your consideration of this request. We hope you can join us in keeping these families and all those facing adversity in our thoughts and prayers.

Greg Hatzis