

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Mill Hill Families:

Mr. Piccolo's arrest has been publicized in print, online, and on television news. Most experts in the field of child development and psychology agree that adults should take the lead of children in situations such as this and respond in kind.

The following thoughts and talking points have been provided to all staff. I believe that you will find them equally beneficial. At this point, there has not been a need to share information to all students or a certain grade level, but we will continue to monitor student needs. We have been responding individually or in small groups as needs arise. We are focusing on returning to the quality educational environment that we are known for.

Mrs. Griffeth, our school psychologist, Mrs. Sabrowski, our school social worker, and I came up with the following thoughts.

- Follow the child's lead on what information they know, and try not to provide any additional information.
- Stick to the facts that are known. All that is known is what has been provided in the news articles and my letter. Mr. Piccolo was arrested for drug possession. (This is probably only appropriate for older students.)
- Framing the situation in terms of the fact that Mr. Piccolo made some bad choices, but this doesn't necessarily mean he is a bad person. Because of those choices, he will not be returning to Mill Hill school. At no point did he ever put any children in harms way, and all children continue to be safe.
- If you notice that your child is having a difficult time, please refer them to Mrs. Griffeth or Mrs. Sabrowski.
- Encourage your children to be respectful of Mr. Piccolo's privacy, and ask adults any questions rather than peers, and refrain from using social media to share information (ex: texting, Instagram, Facebook, etc.) so as to minimize any rumors.

Principal Kevin Chase

