PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence.

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Over the past few years, Parkland School District has taken many measures to increase school security and student safety. In partnership with South Whitehall Township, Upper Macungie Township and Pennsylvania State Police (Bethlehem Barracks), we are pleased to continue our "Parkland Police Pals" program.

Parkland School District administrators have explored various means to integrate police officers into the elementary setting in a way that is both non-threatening and allows officers to form long-lasting bonds with our students. In order to enhance both professional and community relationships, Parkland School District has followed the paths of other school districts by utilizing a program to both increase police presence in our schools and enhance positive relationships between police officers and the district's students, staff and parents.

"Parkland Police Pals" began in September 2013. There is an open invitation with the police departments that serve our specific elementary buildings. Police officers are welcome to visit our schools, have breakfast and/or lunch with the students or stop in for a bagged lunch to eat on the go. The officers are also provided a workspace with access to a phone and a computer. It is important to note that the officers will not use the school facility to conduct interviews and will not bring witnesses, victims or suspects into any school.

The goal of this program is to create a daily police presence in all of our schools. It's a great opportunity for police officers to be more visible in the schools and for the students, teachers, staff and parents to recognize the police officers who are integral in protecting our community on a daily basis.

In addition, you can expect to see marked police vehicles at front entrances to our schools and in our parking lots at various times throughout the day. This initiative is part of the ongoing effort on behalf of the South Whitehall Township, Upper Macungie Township and Pennsylvania State Police Departments and the Parkland School District to ensure the safety and security of our children.

Sincerely,

Rodney R. Troutman, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent