



# DEER PARK SCHOOLS

*Celebrating 75 Years of  
Preparing Today's Students  
for Tomorrow's Challenges*

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Arnold Adair, *Superintendent*

February 13, 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with a very heavy heart that I write to you today about the passing of Varsity Basketball Coach Billy Carlisle on Friday night. Toward the end of the game, Coach Carlisle told his co-workers that he felt ill. When the game ended, he shook hands with the North Shore High School players and coaches, and then went to his office. His condition became much more serious, and he was transported to a local hospital, but emergency medical technicians were unable to revive him. He leaves behind three beautiful boys, a devoted wife, many family members and countless friends.

Often, when a person dies suddenly, there is a temptation to make that person sound like a better version of who he was. There is no such temptation in this case, because anyone who knew Coach Carlisle knows that he was a better man than we could possibly express in words. He was a fierce competitor with a passion for basketball who called his players "scholar-athletes" with an emphasis on "scholar." He was a teacher who worked hard to make his subject matter exciting for his students. And he was so much more. He truly was a modern icon in our schools.

Coach Carlisle frequently told his players and students to "Do the right thing," and we are working hard to follow his motto by paying tribute to his memory. A memorial service will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, February 14, at 4 p.m. in the DPHS Performing Arts Center.

Everyone deals with grief in his or her own way. Obviously, the students and employees who knew Coach Carlisle will have emotional needs this week. But it is also likely that his passing could cause a strong emotional response for students who did not know Coach Carlisle but have also endured the death of a loved one. Thus, counselors will be available at South Campus this week to assist any students or employees who have emotional needs.

I encourage everyone to attend the La Porte basketball game on Friday night at South Campus. It is our last game of the regular season and an opportunity to show our support for our coaching staff, our players, and Coach Carlisle. Please keep the Carlisle family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arnold Adair'.

Arnold Adair  
*Superintendent of Schools*