

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you know, <school name here> has implemented a comprehensive bullying prevention program. We are committed to taking serious, proactive steps to curb a problem that is found in schools everywhere. Our efforts this year have focused on raising awareness about bullying and cyberbullying with students and parents.

We have recruited Mr. John Halligan, an international speaker and author to conduct a presentation on <date here> for the students. He will relay his own tragic experience as a Dad whose 13-year-old son took his own life in 2003, after bullying by peers since the 5th grade, both in school and online. Mr. Halligan further shares that Ryan wrestled with underlying mental health issues and depression and that these factors contributed to Ryan's vulnerability and ultimate suicide. His story is riveting and compelling and reminds students that there is a face, a person, a heart, on the other end of the screen.

His presentation will begin with a short video collection of home movie clips and still pictures of Ryan. John will then tell the story of Ryan life and the factors that led up to his son's suicide. The students will gain a perspective from inside the family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyberbullying. In the wrap-up session, they will receive life-changing lessons about forgiveness, suicide prevention, the role of bystanders and a challenge to apologize to someone. We encourage you to visit a website named for his son: [www.RyansStory.org](http://www.RyansStory.org) for more information.

Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, we wanted to inform you about it in advance. We encourage you to ask your child about the presentation and discuss it together. If for any reason, you would prefer that your child not attend this presentation, please send a written note to <school contact here> before <date here>.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us at <telephone number here> and/or <e-mail address>.