

October 10, 2023

Subject: Follow up regarding the terrorist attacks in Israel

Dear ECFS community,

I continue to look with horror at the death and destruction from the terrorist attacks by Hamas, including graphic and disturbing hostage videos. ECFS remains steadfast in its mission and unequivocal in its position denouncing terrorism and antisemitism. Understanding the many connections between Israel and our community, we want to assure you that we will be paying close attention to our students and trying to help them process their emotions about these traumatic events. We know many of our students are impacted and we will be attentive and supportive to their needs.

We have also reviewed our physical safety measures, as we typically do in the wake of any possible concerns, and our Campus Safety team will be vigilant for any suspicious activity and will increase security on our campuses. Please contact our Campus Safety Command Center at 718-329-7321 to report any concerns.

Below my signature, you will find a summary of how we plan to support students when they return tomorrow, Wednesday 10/11. As educators, we are keenly aware of the emotional impact that current events have on students. A portion of our professional development time today focused on how we compassionately support and facilitate dialogue around events like this. I also encourage all members of our community to be mindful of the impact that their words may have on others, especially when engaging in such dialogue or posting to social media.

I hope that everyone in our community is able to tend to their own thoughts and emotions while we also care for the children who rely on us. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can offer any additional support.

Sincerely,

Joe Algrant
Head of School