

From: [Fred Rundle](#) on behalf of [Fred Rundle <fred.rundle@mercerislandschools.org>](#)
To: [Peter BangKnudsen](#)
Cc: [Aramaki, Kelly Y](#)
Subject: Re: Statement on Terrorist Attack in Israel
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 8:56:21 AM

Peter and Kelly,

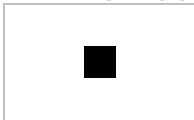
Our community struggles and reactions are similar. I am not surprised by the struggle because of the magnitude of the atrocities and impact on humanity. I am surprised by the reactions. We each tried to convey a message to our communities that accounted for all of our students, though in slightly different ways. The reactions we are getting seem to suggest there may not be a way to speak to our communities as leaders in a way that will unite and not divide. Kelly, you may be onto something. Perhaps in person conversations and not words will be required.

I feel fortunate to have connected with the two of you during this time. This is a lonely job, but people like you remind me it does not have to be quite as much.

On a bright note, our seven students studying abroad in Israel made it to Rome yesterday and will be in Boston by around 10:30 tonight.

In partnership,
Fred

Fred Rundle
Superintendent
Mercer Island School District
206-236-3300



On Thu, Oct 12, 2023 at 8:01 AM Peter BangKnudsen <pbangknudsen@bisd303.org> wrote:

Good morning,

I am getting very mixed feedback on my letter. Deep appreciation by some. Deep anger by others. These are difficult waters to navigate.

Fred, if you like, I can chat on the phone later today about lessons learned.

Thanks,

Peter

On Wed, Oct 11, 2023, 5:38 PM Aramaki, Kelly Y <aramakik@bsd405.org> wrote:

Hey guys. Glad we're in this together and supporting each other. Our community is really struggling. In addition to a significant Jewish community, we have a large Muslim/Arabic population. The messaging I sent out was really triggering to them...so I'm having to work on healing some of that. Right now I'm not planning to send another letter; however, I do think I need to figure out how to engage the community more personally especially as images of suffering and warfare increase over the next weeks.

Kelly

From: Fred Rundle <fred.rundle@mercerislandschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Peter BangKnudsen <pbangknudsen@bisd303.org>
Cc: Aramaki, Kelly Y <aramakik@bsd405.org>
Subject: Re: Statement on Terrorist Attack in Israel

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Thank you for sharing your message, Peter. I am trying to send another message on Friday as an addition to my Monday letter. The way you and Kelly framed things is helping me think about ways I can perhaps calm some of the anger people have toward my first message.

Respectfully,

Fred

Fred Rundle

Superintendent

Mercer Island School District

206-236-3300



On Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 4:15 PM Peter BangKnudsen <pbangknudsen@bisd303.org> wrote:

Hello Fred and Kelly,

Fred, thanks for talking to me this afternoon. Kelly, I appreciated your post yesterday. I wanted to share the post I just sent out.

Thanks,

Peter

Peter Bang-Knudsen, Ed.D.

(he/him)

Superintendent

Bainbridge Island School District

8489 Madison Avenue NE

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

(206) 780-1050

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

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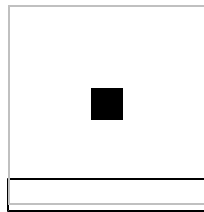
From: BISD Superintendent's Office via ParentSquare

[<donotreply@parentsquare.com>](mailto:donotreply@parentsquare.com)

Date: Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 4:13 PM

Subject: Statement on Terrorist Attack in Israel

To: [<pbangknudsen@bisd303.org>](mailto:pbangknudsen@bisd303.org)



BISD #303

BISD Superintendent's Office posted in BISD #303

Statement on Terrorist Attack in Israel

Dear BISD Community,

Our school district is committed to being a welcoming and inclusive community — one where staff, students, and families genuinely care for each other. An essential part of a caring community is shouldering grief when our members are hurting and comforting one another in times of sorrow.

While Israel is thousands of miles away from Bainbridge Island, the cruel and inhumane terrorist attack carried out this past weekend by Hamas has caused deep sadness and heartbreak over the lives lost in the attack on Israel. I recognize that there are students, families and staff members that

are suffering as a result of these recent events. As I observed the news today, it appears that the conflict is deepening and that there will likely be more death and trauma in the near future.

To our BISD families who are connected to loved ones in Israel, BISD is here for you and stands in solidarity with you. You are not grieving alone. If your student needs extra support or attention to process what is happening in Israel, please share your concerns with your student's teacher, counselor or principal. The more we know about how these events impact our students, the better we can partner with our families to provide support and care. I also want to remind families of the importance of monitoring what your students view online via social media and other websites. Many of the images being displayed can be trauma-inducing and not appropriate for children.

I encourage our community to contact neighbors, friends and loved ones impacted by this violence and let them know you care. I also ask you to be extra diligent in standing against any [antisemitism](#) or [Islamophobia](#) that may arise due to the recent events. You can report school-based concerns via [this portal](#).

Finally, if you are looking for ways to support the Jewish community, there will be a candlelight vigil on Thursday, October 12th, at 5:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park on Bainbridge Island. **You are invited to attend with a peace-filled and caring heart.**

Thank you for your continued support for one another and our community.

Sincerely,

Peter Bang-Knudsen
Superintendent

RESOURCES:

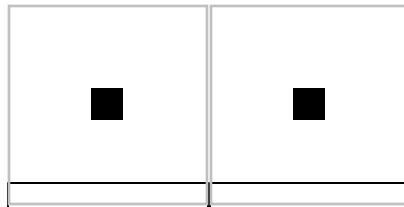
- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War](#): Common Sense Media gathers tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the toughest topics.

- [Handle with Care: Supporting Young People During Crises](#): Learning for Justice offers recommendations and resources to help guide conversations with young people and to manage potential subsequent actions and reactions.
- [How to Talk to Your Children About Conflict and War](#): UNICEF's guide offers eight tips to support and comfort your children.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of elementary school children](#): This article from the American Psychological Association can help adults guide their young children beyond fear and to resilience.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of middle school children](#): The American Psychological Association provides tips and strategies for parents and teachers of middle school-aged children.

[View in ParentSquare](#)

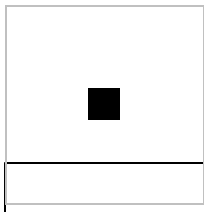
Please do not reply to this email.

Stay involved with your child's learning and activities at school.



You received this email because you are a ParentSquare user in BISD #303. If you received this email in error or wish to disable your account, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

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Bainbridge Island School District Office

8489 Madison Ave NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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