



**Westland Middle School
International Baccalaureate World School**

5511 Massachusetts Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20816
Phone: 301-320-6515 Fax: 301-320-7054



January 10, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Montgomery County Public Schools is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education.

During the week of January 16th, our school counselors and health education teachers will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect. The lessons, known as Personal Body Safety lessons, have been developed at the county level and will be shared with all 6th through 8th grade students this year. The purpose of the lessons is to help students:

- Develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community;
- Learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect;
- Learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults.

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact our counseling chairperson, Maria Kohlerman (Maria_A_Kohlerman@mcpsmd.org), your child's counselor or your child's health education teacher, David Obstgarten (David_S_Obstgarten@mcpsmd.org) or Leanne Kunkel, (Leanne_M_Kunkel@mcpsmd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison L. Serino".

Alison L. Serino
Principal