MEMORY EVENT SCRIPT – CHECK PRONOUNS (ALL ”HE” CURRENTLY)

This morning we come together to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of STUDENT NAME. STUDENT NAME tragically passed away on DATE, from TYPE OF DEATH; he was AGE, a grade GRADE student at SCHOOL NAME School. STUDENT NAME is survived by his loving family, DAD, and MOM, who are here with us today, as well as his SIBLINGS. Although NAME has been with us a relatively short time, he made close connections with a number of students and staff and was an important part of our community.

Most of you who connected with NAME developed a friendship either as a competitor or team mate on either the soccer pitch or rugby field; NAME loved sports and was developing a keen interest in boxing as well. Unfortunately, his life as an athlete gave way to significant injury when he suffered a fractured jaw and then shoulder reconstruction. The past few years had been difficult for NAME as he was forced to the sidelines, not knowing if he would be the same athlete or even if he would be able to compete again.

In discussing the tragedy of NAME’s passing, his parents have a strong desire that we learn from mistakes made and that we, as a school community, look after one another and remind ourselves of the dangers of drugs; most particulary, opioids. The number of overdose deaths among our youth has doubled in the past year. These lethal drugs do not discriminate by affluence or education, they impact all of us in all parts of our community. Please, if you or anyone you know is participating in the use of these drugs, please reach out to us for support.

In remembering NAME I will always see him as one of the most polite and courteous young men I have had the privilege to work with. In connecting with staff and students the words used most frequently in describing NAME was “Incredibly Kind”. TEACHER’S NAME also described NAME as a selfless person who thought about others first. He indicated that he would often see NAME in the school or in his own neighborhood and that NAME was always quick, with upbeat enthusiasm, to greet him with, “Hello TEACHER NAME how is your day going”. A simple gesture with such profound influence; Kindness is such a wonderful legacy to leave behind and certainly one we could all learn from.

In many waysNAME’s life was full of new beginnings, taking advantage of opportunities and not dwelling on the curve balls that life sometimes throws at you. Things were not always easy for NAME but as DIFFERENT TEACHER NAME described to me, “NAME always seemed to have a smile on his face and a look in his eye that gave you reassurance that he was going to persevere, that he was going to find his way.”

NAME’s life was cut much too short. Now, we all have our lives to live, our hopes and dreams to pursue, my hope for all of us is that we continue to take care of one another, that we are here to pick up one another when we fall and that we celebrate in each other’s success.