Announcement to Students –Gordon Head Script

We have sad news that I need to share with you.

Ally Thomas, a grade 6 student in Division 8, who attended Gordon Head Middle School, died accidentally. Her family has given us permission to share this information with you, and we have let your families know that we are sharing this news at school.

When something like this happens, it can affect people in many different ways. Some of you may not feel very different at all. Some of you may feel sad, angry, shocked, or even scared. These are all usual reactions to hearing news like this and they are usually temporary. It is important to treat each other with respect and compassion today as each of you deals with this news in your own way.

If you are feeling like you need a place to talk about this, share feelings, draw or make cards, or just sit quietly by yourself, you can go to the Fishbowl. It will be open all day today, just let your teacher know that’s where you are going. Remember if you choose to go there that you are expected to be respectful and responsible and that we want you to come back and be part of the class as soon as you are able.

In order to respect Ally’s memory and her family, we ask that you avoid speculation either in person or by social media. As you look out for each other, please let any staff know if there are students that you think need particular support right now. There are extra counsellors at the school to provide support.

Today is a day for us to be our best selves, and support each other, as we process this sad news.

Follow up Conversation starters to use with your class, if helpful:

I know that it was hard for me to hear this news and I am wondering how it was for you?

Possible guiding questions:

* Had you heard this news? What were your thoughts?
* What experiences have you had with death or loss?
* What do you think this might be like for the family?
* What will help us feel better right now? What can I do for you today?
* What are some ways we help each other get through times like this?