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January 6, 2021

Dear Union #28 Community,

On the date of what should be a celebration of a peaceful transition of the presidency within our democracy, we are faced with violent images and outrageous displays of contempt, disregard and disrespect that in no way represent the values of our community and our nation. We are exhausted and uncertain as we try to make sense of yesterday's events and as we continue to move through yet another crisis in our country.

We strive to be a peaceful nation. The call to violence must be loudly and actively denounced. The use of violence perpetuates fear. Please let us stand firm in our commitment to our shared values and our vision of a peaceful and inclusive nation.

We know that children absorb all of what is going on around them and can feel any stress we may be feeling. In order to support your conversations with your children, we have included some resources for you. Now more than ever, we need to remember kindness in our conversations with ourselves, our children and our community.

Resources for families:

[Guidelines for Talking to Kids](#)

[How to Talk to Kids about Violence, Crime, and War](#)

[Talking to Children About Stressful Events](#)

[Dealing with the Aftermath of Tragedy](#)

[Tips for Parents on Media Coverage](#)

[Tips for Parents Talking About Media Coverage During Traumatic Events](#)

[Age Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event](#)

"There is more good than bad in this world. More light than darkness and we can make more light--together."

(Peter H. Reynolds)

With peace and kindness,

The Union #28 Leadership Team

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Prudence Marsh, Director of Student Support Services
Bruce Turner, Director of Finance and Operations
Gillian Budine, CNC Coordinator
Lisa Candito, Principal, Erving Elementary School
Annie Foley Ruiz, Principal, Leverett Elementary School
Jackie Mendonsa, Principal, Shutesbury Elementary School
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