



November 8, 2012

Memorandum

TO: Students, Parent, & Staff
FROM: Patricia A. Daley, Executive Director of Special Education & Student Services
RE: HCPSS Response to Hurricane Sandy

As I am sure that you are all aware of, the recent Hurricane Sandy has had a significant impact on many Howard County students, families and staff members. The attached resources may be helpful to you and your children as you try to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Some of these articles and resources are general informational items for adults and children, such as *Understanding Hurricanes – What is a Hurricane?* and *How to Ride Out a Hurricane*. There is an article by the Red Cross, *Coping with Shelter-in-Place Emergencies* and from the Center for School Mental Health, resources and web sites for *Dealing with Natural & Man-Made Disasters*.

There are also articles specifically for adults on how to help children deal with the trauma of the hurricane. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has a website that has articles and activities for those dealing with a hurricane. The article, *Parent Guidelines for Helping Children after a Hurricane*, is attached and is in both English and Spanish. There is an article from the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence (NCCEV) on *Helping Children in the Wake of Disaster*. There is also a book, *After the Storm, A Guide to Help Children Cope with the Psychological Effects of a Hurricane*

There are activities and stories for parents to do with their children. There is a story *The Windy, Rainy, Stormy, Terrible Night* by Norma Kimrey Colwell and Margaret Jennings that was written for children who experienced the trauma of Hurricane Hugo. There is a Disaster Preparedness Coloring Book by the American Red Cross for children. Finally there is a link to the Sesame Street web site that has a video on how to talk to your child about being ready for emergencies and how to use safe talk.

If you or any of your children continue to have concerns, coping problems, or trouble returning to normal activities, please feel free to contact any of your Student Services staff in your schools.