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December 7, 2022

To our Confluence families,

I want to let you know about an incident yesterday in the vicinity of Confluence Preparatory Academy in Downtown West. The incident took place after most CPA students and busses had left for the day, when a woman in the street with a gun shot herself in the hand. Some early press reports inaccurately said that a CPA student had been injured and that the incident happened on school grounds. Neither of these reports are correct—no CPA student was injured, and no shots were fired on school grounds.

As a precaution, CPA officials placed the school on a soft lockdown, and regular after school activities resumed. We appreciate the swift response by St. Louis Metropolitan Police and our CPA staff to ensure the safety of our students.

Thankfully none of our students were injured in this incident due to the swift action of school personnel and St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. But this is just another reminder of the urgent danger that guns pose to our children in St. Louis whether these weapons are used intentionally in a crime or fired by accident, so I also want to mention something else we are doing to deal with the guns that seem to be everywhere in our community.

Most of the 22 children killed and 111 injured from gun violence in our region this year have occurred in the City of St. Louis, and most were accidental and entirely preventable. We know that proper gun safety precautions can save lives. That's why Confluence is partnering with St. Louis Public Schools on Educators for Gun Safety, a long-term effort to educate families and gun owners on the importance of gun locks, distribute free gun locks and teach recipients how to use them. We are also working in our classrooms to help our students discuss their thoughts and feelings about guns in their community and develop practical strategies of their own to avoid unsafe situations with accessible firearms, and what to do if they find themselves in such a situation.

You'll be hearing more about this effort as we continue. The link below includes information about Educators for Gun Safety, and I hope you find it helpful.

<https://www.confluenceacademy.org/gunsafety>

As always, thank you for being part of the Confluence Academies family. Please reach out to me or your school principal to let them know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Candice Carter-Oliver'.

Candice Carter-Oliver, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Office, Confluence Academies