

Some thoughts on preparing for the impending death of a member of the school community:

- ❑ Give the students relevant information, keeping in mind the privacy of the person. The more notice/time students have of the impending event, the better they can prepare and be prepared.
- ❑ Consider different strategies for students- which groups are closer/more associated with the person? Which groups have lesser contact/knowledge. (No need to create trauma)
- ❑ Responses by more affected groups could include:
 - Prayer tree; prayer vigil/s; burning lamp/candle in appropriate location/s with picture of teacher; prayer jar with prayers people can drop into the jar.
 - Memory book/box; story-telling sessions about experiences with person.
 - Prayer room/quiet room for prayer for person
 - Letters to teacher
 - Message "wall" for teacher.
 - Card/s for teacher; blessings/ messages of thanks
 - Messengers from students who bring blessings and prayers to be read to person. Perhaps use of oil to signify the prayers of the school for the person.
- ❑ Responses for less affected groups:
 - Mention in daily class prayer
 - Collection for flowers/message bear
 - Candle/lamp burning in class sacred space
 - Lamp burning in foyer of school
 - Updates in newsletter

Don't forget parents (past and present); past students; fellow staff members (past and present) (if a teacher). Provide some of these ways for them as well.

Further details can be found in:

Booklet: Grief and Loss in the school Classroom:

<https://kweb.bne.catholic.edu.au/ree/RE/EFF/WitnessWiderCommunity/Grief%20and%20Loss%20Background%20Information.doc>

Booklet: Anticipating grief and Loss in Schools:

<https://kweb.bne.catholic.edu.au/ree/RE/EFF/WitnessWiderCommunity/Book%20%20Anticipating%20Grief%20and%20Loss%20in%20Schools.doc>

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