

**ROBERT MULLANEY**  
*Principal*



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**MILLIS HIGH SCHOOL**  
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March 5, 2018

Dear Families,

As I'm sure you are aware, the recent tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14 has heightened concern throughout our nation on the issue of school safety. Please know that we take our responsibility for keeping our school safe very seriously. We are very fortunate to have School Resource Officer, Dale Bickford, assigned to our school every day. Additionally, Millis Police Chief Chris Soffayer is a recognized leader in the area of school safety. We work closely with the Millis Police Department, the Millis Fire Department, and other agencies such as the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office to develop plans and policies for the safe operation of our school.

The events in Parkland, Florida have also given rise to student activism and civic engagement. You may have heard that Wednesday, March 14 has been promoted as a national school walkout day. Students in schools from all over the country will be taking part in actions to memorialize the victims of the tragedy in Parkland and to raise their voice regarding school safety. Millis High School is no exception. We have a number of students who have indicated they plan to participate in the event. I have spoken to groups of these students who feel very strongly about the action. Though their plans are still taking shape, it appears that students involved will leave classes for 17 minutes at 10:00 on March 14. It is not anticipated that every student in the school will take part in the walkout nor will any student be compelled to leave their class. In meeting with these students, we have discussed the tenets of civil disobedience. Among these is the belief that if one commits an act of civil disobedience, one also accepts the consequence that comes as a result of the act. Students who participate in the walkout will receive an appropriate consequence for leaving the classroom. In meeting with these students, I have been impressed with their thoughtful discussion. They have spoken about the importance of the walkout being voluntary, respectful, organized, and safe. They have also expressed their desire to have this event be their message. For this reason, we are not inviting parents or others to join in the action of the students. I would encourage parents to discuss these issues with their students at home.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for supporting your students and your continued support of Millis High School.

Sincerely

Robert Mullaney  
Principal

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