



April 14, 2009

Dear Upper School Parents,

In this morning's assembly all upper school students listened to a presentation about safe driving, *It Won't Happen to Me*. This was far more involved than instruction of learning good habits or techniques while behind the wheel. Lauren Winborn, the co-founder of the program, presented cases of teenagers in different communities who had died in car crashes. Each of the cases was different, and the stories of the deaths were shared. Examples shared were passengers who were killed when they didn't know with whom they were driving; driving too fast in the rain; speeding home to beat a curfew; changing a CD and falling asleep at the wheel. Alcohol related deaths were also discussed, and a poignant DVD and two graphic commercials were shown. The entirety of the program concentrates on decision making and the ramifications of the decisions made.

The foundation requires that each student take home a book which tells forty stories from parents, friends, siblings and teachers about the death of their loved ones. In order to create a strong dialogue with your daughter about decisions behind the wheel, the foundation strongly urges each parent to sit down with your child and go through the book. The first page should be read out loud, and then they recommend you discuss different cases from the book.

Cases discussed today: Cart, Cruce, Ellsworth/Heykoop/Craig, Silverman and Durham.
All of the above should be reinforced and read with your child. Below is a list of crashes that the co-founders suggest you read as well.

Weather related crashes and/or speed----Brown, Cart, Hurst
Speed----Hull, Mullis, Owens
Seat belt----Botkin, Cruce, Silverman
Passengers who were killed----Ellsworth/Heykoop/Craig, Botkin, Norris, Wyatt---Know your driver and his or her condition.
Alcohol----Held, Cruce, Wyatt

We at AGS strongly suggest you take the time and have an open dialogue about the number one cause of teen death in our country.

Please sign below acknowledging that you have read the book with your daughter. Please have your daughter return the form to me by Friday April 17.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Burlington".

Rob Burlington
Director of Counseling and Student Life