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Dear Parents and Students of Wilson High School,

As many of you may or may not know; our daughter, Madison Shanley (sophomore), at Wilson High School, was struck by a car while crossing the street after school on May 12, 2010. First of all we would like to say that Madison is recovering well from a broken collarbone and minor scrapes and bruises. Everyone involved with this accident is relieved that the extent of the injuries was not greater than they are.

The purpose of this letter is twofold; to express our sincere thankfulness for the immediate attention that Madison received after the accident and to bring awareness to Wilson parents and students about pedestrian and driver safety around the school.

Madison's sister, Kaeli, unfortunately, witnessed the accident and was at her aid immediately. In addition; several parents, teachers, students and most importantly; the student who accidentally hit Madison, came to her aid. Madison felt well cared for and safe from community members and emergency attendants. We want to thank everyone for their wonderful support and concern for both Madison and also for the boy involved in the accident.

No parent wants to have their child be at either end of this kind of accident. There is no blame; but only words of caution to other parents and students. Parents; I know we've told our children since pre-school to, "use the crosswalk". Now that they're in High School they may feel that this is unnecessary. I implore you to remind your students to re-initiate the rule to use the crosswalk. I suspect that Madison will seek to use a crosswalk more often, than not, in the future. It shouldn't take an accident to help remind us all of this life saving rule.

Students and parents who drive around the school (especially during peak traffic hours) should exercise complete caution while driving and/or walking in the street. We've all seen the craziness that happens before and after school. I know that this statement seems (in your life) to be unnecessary. But after you've experienced what both of our families have; you want to tell everyone to be more cautious.

I'm sure that everyone involved in this accident has been reminded that life is precious and that things can change in an instant. I will leave you with this question: If you knew you were going to die tomorrow...who would you call....what would you say....and what are you waiting for?

Sincerely,

The Shanley Family

