Dear Families,

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, I want to let you know that we will be addressing this topic in our class. While I feel that it is important to answer the students’ questions about 9/11 and to provide a basic explanation about the event, the main focus of our discussion is going to be about heroism in the face of a disaster. We will read about the heroic efforts of a group of civilians who used their decommissioned fireboat to help fight the fires in lower Manhattan on 9/11. I will emphasize the positive communal acts of heroism to provide a less-scary way for the students to understand a sad yet important part of our city’s history.

I will tread quite lightly during our lesson about 9/11, however your child may have questions afterwards that he/she will want to ask you. I have found in the past that children sometimes need time to assimilate an idea before they are ready to ask questions or discuss their thoughts. I would suggest that you let your child lead the way in any discussions you have about 9/11, however you may want to touch base with your child after school on September 9th to provide an opening for such a discussion.

If there are any special circumstances or concerns you want me to be aware of in regards to your child’s understanding of 9/11 and our lesson in class, please get in touch with me! Send me a note or an email so that I can adjust the lesson to meet your child’s needs.

Warm regards,