



Clint Small, Jr. Middle School
4801 Monterey Oake Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78749
512-841-6700

Sheila P. Anderson, Principal

Clint Small Cougars

April 17, 2008

Dear Students and Families:

I am deeply saddened to have to inform you that our friend and colleague, computer teacher Riad Hamad has died. Because the case is still under investigation, we do not know all of the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident.

Mr. Hamad was a longtime and valued member of the Small Middle School faculty, and his love and passion for education touched us all. Our thoughts and prayers now turn to his family, and we offer them our comfort and support during this time.

When students were informed of Mr. Hamad's death this morning, additional grief counselors were available on campus to assist them and staff through this difficult time. The additional counselors will remain available for as long as necessary.

Parents: please pay special attention to your children's emotions during this difficult time. They may hear rumors surrounding Mr. Hamad's death, but we want to reinforce to students that these are only rumors that are misleading and hurtful. Also, if you believe additional counseling or support is needed for your child, please know that Small Middle School and the Austin School District have resources available to assist.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 841-6700. Thank you for your continued support of Small Middle School.

Sincerely,

Sheila Anderson, Principal
Small Middle School



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FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

Date: April 17, 2008
From: Crissy J. Gunn, Paralegal for
Kristin Etter
To: KXAN News
Facsimile: (512) 469-0630
Re: *Hamad, Riad*
Pages: 2, including cover
Notes: To Whom It May Concern:

Please see the attached statement issued by Kristin Etter,
spokesperson for the family of Riad Hamad.

Please contact me should you have any trouble with this fax
transmission.

Sincerely,
Crissy Gunn
PARALEGAL

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I am providing the following statement as spokesperson on behalf of Riad Hamad's family.

On Monday night, Riad Hamad went to pick up a prescription at a local pharmacy. When he did not return home, his family immediately reported him missing and urged local law enforcement to assist them in locating him.

Tragically, Mr. Hamad's family received the heartbreaking news yesterday that the body recovered in Lady Bird Lake was in fact Mr. Hamad.

Mr. Hamad, a University of Texas graduate and long-time Austin resident, was an educator with the Austin Independent School District for ten years. In an article about Mr. Hamad in his school's newspaper (December 2007), a colleague stated "He has one of the biggest hearts . . . when everyone is walking out the door, he is coming in asking 'What can I do to help?'" He was pursuing his graduate degree in Educational Technology through the University of Texas. He was a peace activist who worked tirelessly on behalf of those less fortunate than him and was loved and admired by many members of the local, as well as international, community. One of his students has said "It's cool how he uses his time and energy to help people so far way," while another said "Although his antics may be out of the ordinary, he is still one of the most enjoyable teachers."

Mr. Hamad is survived by his partner of twenty-seven years, their two grown children and 5 cats. The Hamad family wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the Austin Police Department for moving so quickly to search for him. Mr. Hamad's family and friends are obviously devastated over their loss. They ask for prayers and privacy at this extremely difficult time.

Sincerely,

Kristin Etter