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April 20, 2007

Dear Educators,

Like all of you, we are horrified at the violence this week at Virginia Tech. Our hearts are with the families of the victims, and the students, faculty and staff of the university. We know that what happened at Virginia Tech and Columbine could happen anywhere and we are thankful that to date Long Island has not had to deal with this type of tragedy.

We remind you that [Kids in Action](http://www.ourkidsinaction.org) was established by Action Long Island in 2000 as a direct response to the Columbine tragedy. Our mission is to help young people become respectful, responsible, caring citizens with good judgment and integrity. We will continue to work with the business community, elected officials, civic leaders and educators to promote character education that fosters respect, responsibility and leadership skills for Long Island school students.

In light of this tragedy in Virginia and the anniversary of Columbine, we thank all of the educators and school staff who are reviewing school security measures, emergency preparations and response planning this week. We also want to thank all of you who've participated in our program and continue to promote character education in our schools. We don't pretend that these activities can protect our young people from every danger but we believe these actions can enhance the well being of our students.

We grieve with the families, students and staff of Virginia Tech and hold them in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dalpiaz
Executive Director