



May 25, 2021

Dear Families,

Today, just before noon, we heard what sounded like gunshots close to the school.

Tia's pre-K class was on the stairs coming up from the school yard. Cecilia's, Simone's, and Charlotte's classes were outside. The adults hurried everyone in.

All entrances were locked. Students could move normally inside the building, but no one could enter or exit. About thirty minutes later, the police department gave us the all-clear.

We were physically safe. Outwardly, most children seemed okay. Some cried. Others wanted to sit under their tables for a while. A few wanted to call home. A younger sister went to her older brother's class for some reassuring hugs. Before the end of the day, all children looked more at ease. But this was unsettling.

A fourth grader wrote:

Come inside come on come inside!!!! All I could hear was running and screaming and sorrow. Sorrow was the thing I could hear the most. Sorrow for the prekindergarteners for experiencing this. Sorrow for the teachers, how they must keep

us safe no matter how much they wanted to scream and run.
Sorrow for me.

A fourth grader feels protective of our youngest children and her teachers. That is a lot to carry.

Sometimes we feel relief that what *might* have happened did not. Sometimes, what might have happened keeps interrupting our thoughts. Even if your child was not on the school yard, your family might be having a strong reaction.

As soon as we were inside, in-person classes gathered to process the event. We will continue checking on them.

Please reach out to school counselor, Tina (tina@cpe1.nyc), if someone in your family would like to talk more.

Gabriel