

Dreaming of Tomorrow

As educators and parents, we do everything we can to prepare our students and our children, for the future. We ask our children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Their faces light up and they give great thought to their future aspirations. They are so excited to think about their "tomorrows". They aspire to be doctors, teachers, lawyers, and singers, the next Oprah or even President! As wonderful as this is, we can not forget the 20 Chicago area students who will never have the chance to see "tomorrow".

Since September 2007, 20 Chicago Public School students have been killed. 18 of these students have lost their lives to gunfire. How do we overcome and end so much violence against our youth? Rallies have recently been held at the Thompson Center (downtown Chicago) and school sites, to demand answers from authorities on heightened security and tougher gun laws. In the meantime, students continue to live in fear of being shot or killed. What happened to walking home from school, taking a walk outside or playing on your porch without the threat of being hit by gunfire? Fighting is never acceptable, but what has driven our youth to the point of taking another's life?

Avalon Family, it does take a village to raise a child, but remember, that village needs hope, love, support, encouragement, and guidance. Everything we do as teachers, parents, and friends today will have an effect on what our Avalon students will do tomorrow. Let's make sure we make every day a day to remember.

As we continue throughout this school year let's not forget the CPS students whose lives were taken way too soon.