

Miller Place Union Free School District

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October 14, 2020

Re: Christopher Pendergast Passing

Dear Miller Place School District Community,

Today I share with you the devastating news that our school community has lost a true hero in the passing of Chris Pendergast.

As most of you may know, although Mr. Pendergast was a teacher in the Northport-East Northport School District, his heart was always in Miller Place, where he will always be remembered as a true Panther.

If you had the honor of meeting him, riding or walking next to Chris in his ALS Ride for Life from Montauk to Manhattan, or hearing his story of determination, you walked away a better person. He left you with the lasting impressions that made you want to be more tolerant, kinder, more understanding and compassionate towards others. His fight against the devastation of ALS left you inspired, knowing him filled your heart and being in his presence left you humbled.

Chris and his family never asked to be in the limelight, yet they turned their heartache and despair into activism in the fight for a cure. He was the trailblazer and hero for those that suffered from ALS and supported their families like they were his own. Although his goal was to raise awareness, what he achieved was so much more. He reminded us to treasure life, health and each other.

Mr. P, you have left behind the unintended consequence of a gracious legacy few will ever compare too. We will miss you visiting our schools and cheering for our soccer teams.

Our world is a bit sadder today as Miller Place has gained another angel to watch over us. Walk free Mr. P. – you have earned it.

Our school community extends our heartfelt thoughts to Chris's amazing wife Christine, his son Buddy, daughter Melissa and a wonderfully supportive family at this extremely difficult time.

Many have connected with me regarding how to share their support for the Pendergast family. As we respect the family's privacy, please feel free to visit the ALS Ride for Life Facebook page or website at www.alsrideforlife.org where donations can be made to the foundation that Chris and his family founded in support of ALS families and to continue the quest for a cure. Feel free to mark your donations with "Always a Panther" so the family will know your donation is from our school community.

Sharing your tears,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools