✓ responded to 5/26/86

SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL
4703 E. INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85018
TELEPHONE: 952-6385

Dr. J. Calvin Bruins, Principal
Mrs. Brenda J. Corte, Assistant Principal

February 4, 1986

Mr. Charles Foley, Principal
Concord High School
Concord, New Hampshire 03300

Dear Mr. Foley:

The recent national tragedy of the Challenger space shuttle has had a strong effect on the country's students. The televised accounts of the fates of the seven crew members, particularly Christa McAuliffe, has forced emotions that some young people may never have experienced.

The enclosed poem is written by one such student, Linda Douglas, a freshman at our high school. The emotions she writes of so eloquently reflect our anguish, but additionally it reminds us of "the spirit" in which the sacrifice was made. We hope it creates the same for you.

Sincerely,

J. Calvin Bruins

J. Calvin Bruins, Ed.D.
Principal

Helen L. Muirhead

Mrs. Helen Muirhead
Teacher

dl

Enclosure

cc: Ronald Reagan, The President
William Graham, Acting Administrator, NASA
Richard Smith, Director of the Kennedy Space Center

PLEASE DON'T CRY

Joy, excitement, I'm on my way
To make history this very day
The count down is done, rockets flare,
I'm pushed to my seat; we are clear!
A teacher in space, who would have dreamed
But who would dream of the space shuttle--
Oh my God! Flames and fire!
This ship is a funeral prye! Help me please! I beg of you!

Where am I? What is that fire?
It's the ship! But why am I higher?
Have I blown free? I don't feel pain.
Where are the others? What do I see?
A new landscape--people call. Now I seem to walk a hall
A great glowing light, so round, so tall.

I understand now, I have died
My body is gone, and people cry
Please don't weep--I still soar.
My spirit takes me where I've not been before.
Understand, I didn't want to die, but it didn't hurt;
Please Don't Cry.

Linda Douglas
Freshman
Arcadia High School
Scottsdale, Arizona