

Lori Schafer

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Death article

Death comes unexpectedly. It does not wait for anyone. As second semester began, it did so a little more empty than before, as there was one less Blazer walking the halls who would never be returning.

On January 1, sophomore Leibert Phillip passed away.

“We miss him. We miss his presence. My English class seems empty. I always think ‘oh there’s so many kids missing’ but the other day, hardly anyone was,” said Student Achievement Services Teacher Susan Weber.

Phillips enjoyed singing and dancing. He loved music and weight training. He was always willing to help and would greet everyone and make them feel welcome.

“I look like a gentleman,” Leibert wrote on a paper he turned in to his teacher.

“He perceived himself as a gentleman and he was. He was always well dressed,” said Weber.

Phillips adored his mother’s cooking and she loved to cook for him.

“We were very close. He was the love of my life. I have his nephew here. They were like brothers. They were three years apart,” said Phillip’s mother Linda Kore.

Everyone considered him to be their best friend.

“He maybe had two or three best friends but you could ask anyone who their best friend was and they would say ‘Leibert’,” said Weber.

Phillips left behind him his mother, his older brother and sister, and his nephew.

“I had three but the Lord called my baby home. He was the love of my life. He is my pride and joy,” said Kore. “Mommy loves you very much. She’d do anything for her son. If he needed something she’d get it the next day. Mommy taught him many things. She loves him very much and that’s the most important thing is that I gave him love. I would give him all the love in the world that he needs and wants. I was a very supportive parent but now he’s gone and he’s in the arms of God. He joined his grandparents.”

Phillips was on the school wrestling team and twisted his ankle at the home tournament against Grandview after his mom dropped him off at the school and went to work. She was not called and notified about his injury after it happened and found out from a student who saw her when she came to pick him up

after.

Kore is a nurse and took care of his ankle that night and later took him to Children's Hospital where they found out his ankle was fractured.

Over the next couple days he kept asking his mom about school and if he could go to school. New Year's Day he collapsed.

"He was with his father. I drove out to North Suburban hospital. They were doing CPR for 45 minutes. The doctor said stop because he was already gone," said Kore.

The requested autopsy showed that because of the fracture he received at the wrestling match, it caused broken vessels which created a blood clot that went up into his lungs. Before this he had been healthy.

"I'm still angry and hurt and I'm not going to let it go easily. I'm sad about it. That was my heart. I called him my huggable bear. I just hate what happened to him," said Kore.

A common injury took the life of this beloved Blazer. He will be missed by those he left behind and will always be remembered.

"We miss his presence. He was happy to walk through these doors every day. He was a Blazer. This was his school," said Weber.