

Runaway's violent end stuns pals

Principal: 'His life wasn't going well'

By Pati Nash
STAFF WRITER

Friends did not think much of the offhand comments about suicide Jason Baldwin had made the past two weeks, said his principal at St. Mary's Catholic School in Elgin.

But Tuesday, in the wake of the seventh grader's violent death, those students were talking it over with counselors at the small, private school he had attended.

"Now, there's this guilt and they want to come talk about it," said Carl Macaione, principal of the school at 103 S. Gifford St.

Jason made some recent comments, but they were of a joking nature and did not alarm the students, he said.

"He talked about killing himself or something because his life was not going very well," said Macaione. "They joked about it . . . Obviously, we didn't know. What may have happened if we did, God only knows."



Friends didn't take Jason Baldwin's suicide talk seriously.

Baldwin, 13, 103 E. State St., South Elgin, apparently was running away from home in his father's brand new Mercury when he was chased by police, struck a house in an upscale Geneva neighborhood, and ended his life with a single gunshot to the head, authorities said.



Neighbors walk around the Geneva house that seventh-grader Jason Baldwin crashed

South Elgin crashing i