

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Inspiring students Kindergarten to grade twelve in academics, career, and life

May 17, 2006

Today has been a difficult day for many of us here at school. We have had several counselors available for staff and students all day. I would like to thank Norwell Public Schools for sending over their team of five counselors to assist with the effort here. Several parents and grandparents in our school community who are grief counselors have stepped forward to offer their time and expertise this week...we deeply appreciate their help. Staff from Good Grief of Boston Medical Center have been here as well to brief our teachers on how to best help our students. We will have professionals available the rest of this week to support the community.

The School is bringing in one of the nation's leading grief experts to advise our parents on how to best support their children in this or other grief situations. Maria Trozzi of Good Grief will be presenting a program for SSCPS parents this Thursday evening at 7:30 PM. here at school.

"Helping our Children and Adolescents Develop Resilience in the Face of Loss"

Maria Trozzi will speak with parents about strategies to assist their children face this most unexpected death of their peer and the complicated issues that accompany the accident. She will help us discern what's normal, what's not, when to worry and most important, how to scaffold our children as they face the feelings that are typical for children at each developmental age as they understand what happened.

Author of *Talking With Children About Loss*, Maria has spoken on Good Morning America, CBS Early Morning Show and Larry King Live about helping young people with grief. She was a lead counselor at Columbine High School and helped counsel students in the Ground Zero area after 9/11. Maria's full biography is attached. I hope all parents will take advantage of this special session.

The Wightman family is still making arrangements for services for Torri. They will be notifying the school as soon as those are set.

The Annual and May Meetings of the Board of Trustees, scheduled for Thursday evening have been postponed until next Thursday, May 25 at 6:00 PM.

Keep checking our school website for up to date information.

Mike Munhall

ABOUT MARIA TROZZI

Maria Trozzi, M.Ed., is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, a consultant for the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital in Boston, and Director of the nationally renowned Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center. Her credentials and expertise have established her as one of the foremost experts on family resilience and loss in the country.

Her first book, *TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT LOSS*, was published by Putnam/Penguin in 1999. She is a frequent contributor to both national print and electronic media and academic publications, lending her expertise to a variety of situations families face that involve change, loss and transition. Most recently she has appeared on CBS's *The Early Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *Larry King Live!* She has co-hosted the weekly Lifetime national series, "What Every Baby Knows" and "Brazelton on Parenting."

Since 1991, she has lectured nationally with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton as a faculty member of the National Seminar Series, in which she and Dr. Brazelton do an annual ten-city tour to early childhood and health care audiences across United States. She keynotes dozens of national conferences each year primarily involving health care, education, social service and early childhood professional audiences. She particularly enjoys tailoring her remarks to particular audiences, providing a lively, often-interactive approach when possible.

Hospitals, organizations, and city officials often call upon Trozzi in times of crisis, both locally and internationally. She has been asked to work with the traumatized community of Chechnya, Russia, in the aftermath of their terrorist attack on school children and will work with pediatric professionals in Granada in the aftermath of the hurricane. She was flown to Littleton, Colorado, after the Columbine High School shooting to administer crisis management consultation to the parents, caregivers, and educators of Columbine High School. Immediately following September 11th, she worked with families and schools at Ground Zero and in Boston continues to support dozens of bereaved families whose loved ones died on the planes that emanated from Boston.

She provides on-going consultation to the Pediatric Trauma Program at Children's Hospital of New York, where she has designed a bereavement protocol response for both families and clinicians. Trozzi's approach will potentially serve as a model for Trauma Units.

Trozzi's interest in supporting resilience expands to the grief families' experience when a child is born with a disability: the *grief that keeps on giving*. Her recent research focuses on exploring particular stresses and training educators and health providers to be responsive. Trozzi hopes her findings will take this grief out of the closet for both affected families and the clinicians who treat them.

She lives in Boston and West Yarmouth and maintains a clinical practice devoted to issues of loss. Recently, Maria received the Humanitarian Award from Boston Theological Society for her contributions to the field.