



Georgia Association of School Psychologists

Remembering those lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School

December 16, 2012

Dear GASP Members,

As our President stated, our hearts are indeed broken. All of the children and adults lost to this terrible tragedy are our own. This horrific event could have taken place in any of our schools. Not only have 20 innocent first graders been lost, teachers, a principal and a fellow school psychologist have been lost. I ask that all of you remember them with thoughts and prayers.

As we go to school tomorrow, please be cognizant that children and adults in our own schools may be traumatized and so may need our emotional support. It goes without saying that if any group of people can provide that support, it is us. There are wonderful NASP web sites that can provide information on how to best support those in such painful situations and many of you have received additional training in this area. Use your expertise and love of children to help those who may need it tomorrow and in the following days. Do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do to support you or your schools. I plan on contacting the President of the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists to give our condolences from Georgia and to see if there is anything we can do to help.

I have never been more conscious of the need for mental health services in our society. Hopefully our country will be more willing to extend these services in the days to come, in light of this tragedy. Perhaps this will be the last time that a child is lost in this most horrific manner- in a school. I am also humbled and proud of our field. We are needed now more than ever.

Hug your children and family members even closer. Be aware that we have gifts of love and empathy to give to those who need it most.

Your GASP President,

Karen Hodges