

Tiffany Moutis
Superintendent of Schools



Danielle Dolci
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Mansfield Township School District
Office of Superintendent
www.mansfieldschool.com
200 Mansfield Road East
Columbus, New Jersey 08022
Phone: 609-298-2037 Ext. 2000

November 10, 2022

Dear the MTSD Staff and Community,

It is with great sadness that I write this letter to our family community. One of the fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Peg Traino, passed away earlier today, as a result of a medical condition. She was a wonderful teacher loved by all her students and friends at school. We will all miss her greatly. Her commitment to students and love for learning has touched us all.

Our district is supported by Burlington County Crisis Team who are available to talk with staff and students. If a staff member or student is upset and is in need of support, please contact Mrs. Christa Edolo, School Social Worker at cedolo@mansfieldschool.com, Mrs. Johanna Sobon, JHES Guidance Counselor at jsobon@mansfieldschool.com or Mrs. Julie Katz, MTES Guidance Counselor at jkatz@mansfieldschool.com.

Parents, I encourage you to talk with your child(ren). How we, as adults, manage ourselves serves as an important model for helping kids handle tragedies like this. It is important that they know they are loved and supported as they talk about their feelings.

If your child(ren) want to attend the funeral, we encourage your or another adult to accompany them. You may want to consider the following when talking with your child:

- Tell the truth. Talk about death vs. "going to sleep." Explain the situation.
- Allow for your child to talk about feelings. If this is the first loss your child has experienced, your child may not know how to respond and will be looking for your guidance.
- Affirm all expressions. It's okay to express feelings honestly.
- Encourage written expressions such notes, letters, pictures to the family etc.
- Reaffirm that your child is safe and that your child is loved.
- Affirm that your child's reaction is normal and you understand the way the child's feels.
- Watch for signs of trouble such as aggression, withdrawal etc.
- Help the children return to as normal a routine as possible.

Our deepest sympathies go to the Traino Family. We care deeply for all involved.

Tiffany J. Moutis
Superintendent