

## ***In Memoriam: Diane Dougherty***

*-- Peggy Staarman, Jean Shervais*

Diane Dougherty was a modern woman who lived life to the fullest. She was both a loving wife and mother of three children but was equally invested in her teaching career. Everyone who knew Diane loved her sense of fun and respected her academic and professional abilities. As a teacher in the Coatesville Area School District, Diane reached out to hundreds of students over many years.



She was also both a Writing and Literature Fellow of the National Writing Project and taught many teachers through PAWLP, the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project, at West Chester University. Diane was truly a master teacher because she always remembered to put her students first. Her knowledge and desire to be a better teacher also led Diane to co-author two books on teaching and literacy.

The wife of a school principal and the department chair in her own school, Diane and her loving husband Joe raised three children who have also approached life with the same sense of balance and respect for others. At Diane's memorial service, her daughter Amy and her two sons Eddie and Mark expressed how their mother's love of literature and poetry inspired them. She and her son descended the Spanish steps in Rome and discovered the house where John Keats once resided. Looking out of the window, Diane cried realizing she was viewing the same scene that this revered poet once saw.

Diane and Joe loved their grandchildren and continued to make the world a better place by inspiring them as well. She wrote a poem for her grandchildren on each of their birthdays. At the service, her granddaughter described the joy she had when Diane took her to many American museums. Diane regretted that she was unable to take her abroad, but her granddaughter felt as though she had seen the world by visiting those museums with her treasured grandmother. Diane will be remembered for her passions for travel, opera, and all aspects of the world around her. May we all aspire to such a life well-lived.