



Dear Larson Families,

It is with a heavy heart that I share some difficult news with you all. Our beloved Colleen Reilly, who was the Administrative Assistant at Larson for many years, passed away peacefully in the early hours this morning, March 7th. With her two beautiful children by her side, she succumbed to the cancer she was diagnosed with just under a year ago.

We understand that this news may be distressing for many of you, especially to those of you who worked closely with Colleen over the years. We share in this sadness with you.

Some children learned of her passing this morning before school, but we did not share this information school wide. We encourage parents to have open and honest conversations with their children tonight about Colleen's passing, and to offer them support during this time. Our school counsellor and staff were available to assist students who may have needed extra support, and will continue to be over the coming days.

Colleen gave everything she had to getting through this disease. Her spirit was never defeated. She continued to live life to fullest; including a trip to Palm Springs just a couple of weeks ago with her two adult children, Finn and Dylan. Colleen's friends were important to her, and she continued to foster and care for those relationships throughout the last year. Colleen was generous with her time, and she loved people. She was gracious with everyone, and had a keen ability to make everyone feel seen and important. Although her passing is very sad and it hurts immensely, the Larson staff is thankful to have so many wonderful memories of her.

Some of the words that have been used to describe Colleen are:

Effervescent

Larger than life

Generous

Loving

Always happy

Resourceful

Positive

Funny

Trustworthy

Supportive

Compassionate

A true friend to everyone she knew



When we consider the Orca values at Larson of Kindness, Compassion, Protector, and Intelligence....Colleen was all of those and more. She was a true Larson Orca and someone we can all aspire to be like.

We kindly ask that you keep Colleen's loved ones in your thoughts. At this time, we do not have further information about plans to celebrate her life. Thank you for your understanding, compassion, and support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Larson Staff

