Dear Sherman Community Members,

Your overwhelming sympathy for Mrs. Dowd and her family is greatly appreciated. Here is the information regarding the calling hours for Mr. Dowd. His obituary can be found on the CT Post website.

The wake will be held tomorrow at Spear-Miller from 4 – 8. The funeral will be held at Assumption Church at 10:00 on Thursday. Mrs. Dowd has asked that children do not attend any of the services.

We have been coordinating efforts with the Stratfield School community, the home school for Mrs. Dowd’s children. They are taking care of the food train and Sherman will be collecting gifts card for Becky and her family. Gift cards can be dropped off in the main office or at the PTA meeting tomorrow morning.

We will continue to support the children in ID and the rest of the student body in any way that presents itself. We will not be making an announcement to classes, rather letting the process and questions happen organically. When and if that happens, the staff has been informed to simply state that Mrs. Dowd has suffered a loss in her family and she is sad. We will then ask if the child would like to make a card for her and allow that to happen. If there is a greater need, our school psychologist, Megan Grskovic ([mgrskovic@faifieldschools.org](mailto:mgrskovic@faifieldschools.org)) and our social worker, Kristen Sabrowski ([ksabrowski@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:ksabrowski@fairfieldschools.org)) are at the ready. If you feel your child needs additional supports, you can contact them directly. There are many websites that can offer assistance to you as a family to talk about death. I have included a link to an article at the bottom of this letter that you may find helpful.

I do not know when Mrs. Dowd will return to school but we have provided all the support necessary to ensure the curriculum will continue without interruption and that the children are cared for. Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

Eileen O. Roxbee

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/death.html>