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NASSCED December Newsletter

[Friend on Facebook](#)[Follow on Twitter](#)[Forward to a Friend](#)**Upcoming Events:**

*June 22-24, 2013: NASC Conference,
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*June TBA, 2013: NASSCED Meeting,
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Dec 4-6, 2013: NASSCED Winter
Meeting, Austin, Texas*

Good Afternoon Esteemed NASSCED Members,



Over the past 48 hours, we have all seen so many images that have certainly caused heartbreak and disbelief. So when I contemplated how best to open this newsletter given the tragedy that occurred last Friday, I decided to open with this image and message. Three years ago, I took a road trip with my kids and another family to Florida. My son, a kindergartner at the time, was having a hard time keeping up with the older kid's boogie boarding....after he took all he could, with tears in his eyes, he reached up, grabbed my hand and asked if we could take a walk.....and snap...the picture.

There are times on our journeys, whether we are a parent, teacher, or friend, when we have to, in unexpected circumstances explain. Whether we are explaining the complexities of life or the saddening things we are faced with, children look to us for the answers. Sometimes, those explanations come easy for us as adults as it did on the beach that day for me, and other times, we are at a loss for words. What doesn't change is this, for our young people, we are the face of hope.

Last Friday, I didn't have an answer and hope seemed lost. What I know, however, is this.... what I do, what we all do, MATTERS. Whether we are talking to our own kids or someone else's kids, it matters. From the media coverage, it was hard to believe that hope was alive last Friday in Newport, CT, however, the stories that have come out since, prove us wrong. Heroism and hope were indeed alive! And now, in the aftermath across the nation, young people are looking up to us to lead the way, to provide them the necessary hope and tools for a better tomorrow. Together we can protect, we can support, we can make a difference - those things will never change.

In conclusion, my wish for you this holiday season is that you do indeed find peace and hope! Take time to show gratitude to those you love and above all, at moments notice, may you take the time to grab the hand of a young child and join them on their journey, providing support, guidance, and above all, hope. Thanks for making a difference!

To assist you on that difficult journey, Dave Maloney from Connecticut shares resources the Connecticut Association of

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shares this with us, "Somehow I think we all need to think about what we could do both short & long term regarding these tragic events". The following will assist you with the short term!

Such a horrific event impacts schools, families and students everywhere. CAS offers the following resources which may be of help to school leaders:

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
National Association of School Psychologists
- [Helping Young Children Cope With Trauma](#)
American Red Cross
- [Helping Kids During Crisis](#)
American School Counselor Association
- [Talking to Children about Community Violence](#)
American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- [Talking with Kids About News](#)
PBS Parents
- ["Helping Children Cope With Tragedy"](#)
Report to Parents
- ["Coping With Loss"](#)
Principal magazine article
- ["A Death in the Family"](#)
Principal Magazine

[National Association of School Psychologists Website](#)

On behalf of the NASSCED, we would like to offer our deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary School and are keeping the entire Newtown community in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you again to everyone for a amazing Winter Meeting in Pinehurst! Thank you also to everyone from North Carolina that made our stay AMAZING!! To learn more about what transpired during Regional meetings, please click the below link for a detailed summary of each Regional meeting.
<http://www.nassced.org/resources/downloads.htm> 1.

All the best this holiday season,
Michelle McGrath, Ed. D
WASC Executive Director



**Board of Directors
2012-13**



**National
Leaders**

Check out *Leadership Magazine* to find NASSCED members leading the way in student leadership

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