

The Legend is Retiring

from Mrs. Tomasetti, cover walking into guidance and not seeing Carm at the desk, ready to help in any way that she can, while always meeting her deadlines. For me, personally, Carm was instrumental in teaching me the Rosa way when I was an educational assistant, a teacher, a counselor and now an assistant principal. I really enjoyed the conversations with Lynne, Ted, Carm, Jay and myself when I was working in the guidance office. Leaving Rosa to go to East was the hardest thing I ever had to do and a big reason why was because I would not see Carm every day. We couldn't even talk about it as no amount of sausage and peppers could ever fill that void. On a lighter note, I will truly miss watching Carm get all worked up if a teacher were late with his or her interims or grades. If the 3 p.m. deadline were missed, it usually never happened again as the teacher knew he/she would have to face the wrath of Carm!

Carm was always there to brighten our day with her witty personality, gracious smile and willingness to lend a hand. Even though I was never able to cross the line by her desk without hearing it from her, she always knew I loved her and respected her for all of her help and guidance with the math letters, the NJASK and PARCC mailings, math recommendations and 8th grade schedules. I just know her "favorite" thing to do was to keep track of the green math schedule changes.

Carm, thank you for allowing me to be part of your school family and for treating me like a son. I truly thank you for helping all the children who have passed through the guidance doors in their times of need. No one will ever be able to replace you and you will always be in our hearts. The sausage and peppers and cream puffs were always my favorite times at Rosa and not just because of the great food. Spending quality time with you, our beloved Carm, was truly the most special part of the celebration. I

wish you much happiness in retirement and I hope you always find something productive to do. **Mr. George Zografos, Assistant Principal**

I have been in denial about Carmella's leaving. I will miss our conversations so much. I have never known Rosa without her. I met her when I first started here 16 years ago. It became apparent very quickly that Carmella was extremely competent, funny, quick-witted and the possessor of a heart of pure gold. Thank you for everything, dear Carm. Love you! **Mrs. Halden, Language and Literature**

My favorite thing about working with Carm is that it's like working with family. I laugh and smile every single day because I get to work with her. **Ms. Gina DeMonte, Student Assistance Counselor**

I met Mrs. Tomasetti six years ago when I started at Rosa. The first time I went into my office, I started cleaning out the desk. I found six sheets of legal paper with handwriting from one of the previous nurses with some helpful information. At least twice on every page, I read "get this from Carmella." Three pages in, I began to think "Who in the world is this Carmella? Is she some sort of god?" Well, I finally met Carmella and I can honestly say I found my "work mom." Everyone knows moms have rules. I quickly learned those "rules." First, never leave the lid on the copy machine up. It is the equivalent of leaving the toilet seat up! Second, always looks sorrowful before you approach. The sorrowful expression pulls on any mother's heart strings and forces her to help you. Lastly, NEVER, I mean NEVER step on the plastic mat around her desk! She doesn't like anyone to be that close! All kidding aside, I am not sure how I will survive without my "work mom." A lot like my real mom, Carmella has been my counselor, my supporter

and my friend. She will truly be missed. **Mrs. Angela Mooney, School Nurse**

From the minute I walked into Rosa, Carmella and I immediately became family members, not just colleagues. She has a way of opening her heart to everyone she meets—students, staff and families. She never says no to a request for help. In fact, before you can say anything, she has already started working on the problem and has it figured out for you. Her heart is enormous, probably more like "ginormous." Knowing how to make people feel comfortable and understood is truly one of her talents.

Carmella also has a flair for organizing, hosting and cooking. She made many, many Rosa events extra special with her signature dishes—French toast bake, sausage and peppers, and the fantastic cream-puffs—as well as her beautiful designs and spreads. All of us looked forward to how she made the holidays and birthdays fun by adding some creative flair. On the day-to-day, Carmella always welcomed us with a smile and asked how we were doing. Never selfish or boastful, she quietly enjoyed her accomplishments with her family and friends.

Everyone should also know how lady luck was on her side when she played cards. She would often share her casino stories and the people she would meet while playing poker. No one deserved it more than Carmella. Luck should be hers to enjoy since she gives so freely to everyone around her. And, although she had her share of crazy life stories - like having a tree fall on her car when she and her husband were at a stop sign - she never lets things get her down. Positive, beautiful, loving, upbeat and deeply compassionate about her family and friends, Carmella is the real deal and a gift to Rosa. I will miss her laugh and humor more than anyone can know but I will always treasure her friendship and the lasting mark she made on my heart.

Mrs. Lynne Vosebikian, Assistant Principal