

## LUCY CONNOLLY

Mrs. Lucy Connolly was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario to European immigrant parents. From an early age, Lucy exhibited the necessary skills and attributes required to succeed as a childhood educator. With a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemistry, along with her Bachelor's of Education degree both from the University of Toronto, Lucy embarked on her dream of educating the Catholic youth of Toronto after being hired as a high school science teacher in 1977. Coincidentally, Lucy began her teaching career at St. Joseph's High School (now Michael Power/St. Joseph's High School), the same school she attended as a student a few years prior. After several years of teaching chemistry, Lucy transferred her skills to Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic High School in 1989 and began her next adventure as a chemistry teacher and the Department Head of Science. In 2004, Lucy transferred back to Michael Power/St. Joseph's where she remained as an influential figure for her last 5 years of teaching.

Lucy was considered by many as a compassionate, caring, devoted, and determined individual. She was well-respected by her students, her colleagues, and her friends. With a quiet beauty and sense of humility, Lucy was known as a classy and passionate individual dedicated to the art of teaching and the field of science. Not only did Lucy have a strong dedication to teaching youth, she took great pride in promoting the importance of the scientific field to her students. Despite the difficulties that the field of chemistry may have brought to many students, Lucy was always available to her students to offer extra support and answer any questions. Lucy was entirely devoted to her students. She was a motivator, a strong supporter, a mentor, and the true epitome of what a Catholic high school teacher should aspire to be.

Aside from her teaching career, Lucy was a loving wife of 29 years and a proud mother of three children. She took great pride in the accomplishments of her family and was always available to offer support and praise. She instilled great strength into the hearts of her husband and children through her constant motivation and unconditional love. In addition to her family, Lucy held strong relationships with an unprecedented number of friends. With a gentle demeanor and a genuine sense of humour, Lucy was a supportive and trustworthy friend to many.

After enjoying a leisurely summer traveling with family and friends, Lucy was diagnosed with metastatic colon cancer during a routine check-up on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Despite the unforeseen turn of events, Lucy accepted her condition immediately in a classy and selfless manner. She was not afraid to encounter the grueling effects of chemotherapy and hospital procedures and took the opportunity to reflect on her life by further developing her sense of faith. Unfortunately, Lucy's intense determination and will power were not capable of combating the aggressive effects of her previously silent disease. Only a few short weeks after being diagnosed, Lucy passed away peacefully on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with her family by her side.

As a means to honour the wife, mother, teacher, colleague, and friend that Lucy was to so many, the Connolly family has decided to honour her life with a scholarship in her memory. Funds raised and donated to the Lucy Connolly Endowment for the Sciences Scholarship will be used to provide an annual award to an eligible student from both Michael Power/St. Joseph Catholic High School and Monsignor Percy Johnson High School, who is accepted into a program in the Sciences at a Canadian post-secondary institution.