



Diana Kay Tharp

October 24, 1961 - July 4, 2018

Diana Kay Tharp, a dedicated teacher, died peacefully on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in Charlotte. Diana, 56, of Charlotte, was born October 24, 1961, in Charlotte, the daughter of Carroll E. and Jane Anne (Smith) Tharp. She lived an active childhood, always involved in the outdoors and school activities. Following graduation from Charlotte High School in 1979, she earned her bachelors of education from University of South Carolina and spent over 10 years teaching in Whitmore, SC, and Fayetteville, NC. She later taught science at Pansophia Charter School in Coldwater, MI.

Diana devoted her life to her students, always inspiring the wonder of science in them. She often led expeditions along the beaches of South Carolina to rescue migrating turtles. In Michigan, she ensured that foreign exchange students found the best experience in their studies, hosting trips up North to Mackinac Island and beyond. She enjoyed volunteering as a docent at the Binder Park Zoo. Diana volunteered much of her time to her community and her church. As a member of the Gresham United Methodist Church, she helped organize various activities. She served as her mother, Jane's "right hand" at the Charlotte Community Nursery Preschool. Diana also loved special trips with her Aunts, and time spent with her nieces and nephews.

Diana is survived by her mother, Jane Ann Tharp; siblings, David (Betsy) Tharp, Sharon Gault, and Mark Tharp; aunts, Helen (Jack) Snedeker, Sue

(Dick) Trimble, Rachel (Doc) Wiley, and Kate Tharp; special nephew, Ian "Bug" Gault; and her nieces, nephews and cousins. She is predeceased by her father; aunt Sally Vanderploeg; and her brother-in-law, Danny Gault.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, July 29, 2018, from 2-5:00 p.m. at Camp Frances in Charlotte, MI. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society or Gresham United Methodist Church. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Diana on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **29**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Camp Frances
Cochran Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

AH

“ *Abigail Hefner sent a virtual gift in memory of Diana Kay Tharp*



Abigail hefner - October 03, 2018 at 04:36 AM

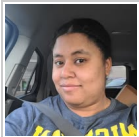
MT

“ *Deepest sympathy to all who are mourning the loss of Diana, especially to our dear "Miss Janie." Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We'd like to share part of a poem written by John Greenleaf Whittier that has been comforting to our family in times of loss.*

*Who hath not learned, in hours of faith,
The truth to flesh and sense unknown;
That life is ever lord of death,
and love can never lose its own.*

Christopher, Dave, & Andrew Monroe and Ali & Mary Turfe

Mary E. Turfe - July 24, 2018 at 10:11 AM



“ *Diana was a substitute teacher of mine as a child. We reconnected years later when she began receiving medication from the pharmacy where I work. I always enjoyed her coming in because we managed to find a second to catch up and lift up one another.*

Ariel Marie - July 09, 2018 at 09:09 AM



Laurie
Newland

“ So sorry for your loss. I didn't know she had been ill. Diana and I were flag girls together in the CHS marching band.

Laurie Newland - July 08, 2018 at 08:12 PM



“ Rest in peace Miss Tharp. You were such an amazing teacher and I'll always make sure to use pencil in my notebooks because it isn't water soluble.

Toni Barbier - July 07, 2018 at 03:31 PM

JB

“ Diane was one of my friends from school. Have alot of great memories... Until we meet again Diane.... R.I.P.

Jodie Bruce - July 06, 2018 at 04:05 PM

KP

“ Dianna was one of my friends from high school. I have many fond memories of our times together. When I would see her years later, we would still talk and laugh about the fun we had together. I'm so sorry to here of her passing. She was a loving and giving lady. Prayers and love to all of her family.

Kim pruden - July 06, 2018 at 02:52 PM

MR

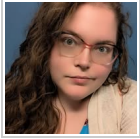
“ When our son David who was 6 at the time had his accident at the fairground and couldn't walk for many weeks Diana spent many hours reading to him or coloring and I think it was Diana that gave him his first set of legos I have always remembered her kindness.

Marge Robbe - July 06, 2018 at 01:16 PM

AK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I worked with Diana at Meijer for a few years, and enjoyed her company. She will be missed.

Amanda Kenyon - July 06, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ Ms. Tharp was and always will be my favorite science teacher. I still talk about her teaching me how to play chess and her great patience. She was always encouraging me and my friends to learn as much as we can and was a great part of my continual growth of curiosity.

Kelley Schroyer - July 06, 2018 at 07:39 AM

CR

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Diana will be missed until we are reunited in the presences of Jesus.

Tom and Cindy

Cindy Raymond - July 06, 2018 at 06:01 AM



“ I'm bawling my eyes out. Mrs. Tharp was my favorite science teacher and one of my all time favorite teachers in general!!! She was so kind and funny. I've thought of her often since high school at Pansophia. She was such an inspiring person and had such a heart of gold. I'm so sorry for her families loss.

Kendra Bond - July 05, 2018 at 10:44 PM

SG

“ Ms. Tharp was my daughter's, Katie, favorite teacher for a few years. She showed great patience and a love for teaching. I enjoyed talking with her at conferences and my visits to the school. She always made herself available to her students and their parents. My thoughts and prayers to her family during this trying time.



Shannon Marie Goheen - July 05, 2018 at 10:17 PM



“ Diana was always encouraging and shared her love her animals with me. Although we were not blood kin, she was always like a part of the Gault family. She was truly be missed by myself and her 'family' here in SC. Prayers for her family during this trying time.

Kerri White - July 05, 2018 at 09:11 PM

BQ

“ My husband and I met Diana when she was a student at USC Upstate. We always called her our “unofficial” adopted daughter. I was always impressed with her upbeat and giving spirit. I will always remember her visit to SC last year, and how we enjoyed a 3 hour lunch. We shall miss her vey much and wish we had more people liked her in this world.
You are all in our thoughts and prayers.
Dana and Becky Querim

Becky Querim - July 05, 2018 at 08:02 PM

AF

“ *My heartfelt sorrow to you Miss Janie. I have wonderful memories of going to the movies, hanging out, and working at Tony's pizza with Diana. I will miss her laugh along with the mischievous glint that you could always see in her eyes.*



Anne (McDaniel) Foote - July 05, 2018 at 06:46 PM

CS

“ *OH My, I was shocked to read this on FB. Such a awesome lady, with a special bond with her mom Miss Janey. My thoughts and prayers are with you Miss Janey and the family. xxoo Cammie (Mary Watson's Daughter)*

Cameron Smith - July 05, 2018 at 06:24 PM

BB

“ *We were neighbors with the Tharps in the 70's a block away, but got to know Diana best when we work together at Meijer. So sad to hear, will miss you Diana, prayers to Jane and the family.*

Beatrice Burger - July 05, 2018 at 06:07 PM

CG

“ *Miss Janie, so very sorry over the loss of your cherished daughter Diana. My boys have such great memories of nursery school because of you. Our prayers and thoughts go out to and your family during this sad time. Carolyn Griest, Eric, Patrick & Rick Morehouse.*


Carolyn Griest-Makin - July 05, 2018 at 05:00 PM

CA

“ I remember Diana as a sweet and loving young woman when my children attended Miss Janie's pre-school. I am very saddened to hear of her passing. My heart and prayers go out to Miss Janie and the pre-school family.

With much love from Claudia and the "Perry children." <3

Claudia Perry-St. Andre - July 05, 2018 at 03:52 PM

 Nancy Anderson

“ I am saddened to hear of Diana's passing. My heart goes out to Janie and her family. In each and every way Diana was a sweet soul. Hugs and prayers, Nancy fox Anderson

Nancy Anderson - July 05, 2018 at 01:08 PM

 Maureen Fay

“ Maureen Fay lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Tharp



Maureen Fay - July 05, 2018 at 12:45 PM

 Maureen Fay

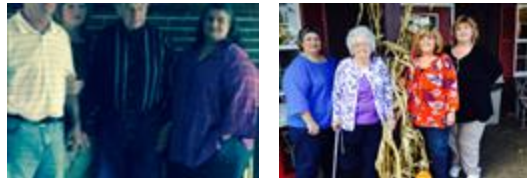
“ I am deeply saddened to hear of the loss of my "since Kindergarten" dear friend Diana. She will be sadly missed by so many. Diana was such a wonderful, kind and giving spirit. I consider it a great honor to have been able to call her my friend. My thought and prayers are with her family at this very sad and difficult time.

Maureen Gould-Rudesill

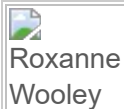
Maureen Fay - July 05, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ *Diana leaves a legacy of giving freely, serving all, and loving freely. Generosity was second nature to her. She has touched so many lives and will be greatly missed. I feel fortunate to have been able to call her my "sister". Praying for comfort and great memories for you. Love you. ❤️*



Marilynn Bright - July 05, 2018 at 11:39 AM



“ *We are very saddened to hear about the passing of Diana. Your loss has left all of us deeply saddened. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. May peace and comfort find you during this difficult time. Roxanne & Randall Wooley*



Roxanne Wooley - July 05, 2018 at 10:39 AM

CH

“ *Diana and I have so many wonderful memories together, we loved going to the movies and going out to eat to our favorite Chinese food place. I will miss her laugh, she had a laugh that would make everyone else around her laugh too. She is truly one of the the greatest people I have ever had the pleasure of calling my friend. I'll miss her beyond measure. RIP my sweet friend. 🥺💕*



Cheryl Hawver - July 05, 2018 at 08:20 AM

AT

“ *AG Twitchell lit a candle in memory of Diana Kay Tharp*



AG Twitchell - July 04, 2018 at 10:22 PM