

Gun Violence and Children

As we were preparing to print this issue of *SSYL*, we heard the tragic news of a shooting rampage in the small town of Newtown, Connecticut. On a Friday morning, December 14, 2013, one man with automatic weapons left 28 people dead, including 20 children and six staff, killed inside Sandy Hook Elementary School.

This tragedy affects us all. At a webpage, NCSS has listed some resources that teachers and administrators might find helpful as we respond to our young students' reactions to this, or to any, act of violence. At www.socialstudies.org/resources, there is also a link to an essay by Sam Chaltain, "In the wake of the violence at Sandy Hook, is there something else schools can do to keep our children safe?" We should certainly pause to acknowledge that thousands of children in the United States are killed by guns each year—2,793 children killed in 2009. The number of *preschoolers* killed by guns in 2008 (88) and in 2009 (85) was nearly double the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in those years (41 and 48, respectively). There is, in a sense, a "Newtown Massacre" every weekend of the year in America, or an average of eight children killed per day! We understand the problem of gun violence to be an epidemic. Now it's up to us, the adults, to use the civic tools that we have inherited and struggled for to make life less dangerous for our children. We can't afford not to try.

—Andrea Libresco and Jeannette Balantic, Co-editors
—Steven Sellers Lapham, Associate Editor

Notes

1. Children's Defense Fund, "Protect Children Not Guns 2012," www.childrensdefense.org; Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, "Facts," www.bradycampaign.org/facts/gunviolence.



In Memoriam: Students and Staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School

STUDENTS

Charlotte Bacon
Daniel Barden
Olivia Engel
Josephine Gay
Ana M. Marquez-Greene
Dylan Hockley
Madeleine F. Hsu
Catherine V. Hubbard
Chase Kowalski

Jesse Lewis
James Mattioli
Grace McDonnell
Emilie Parker
Jack Pinto
Noah Pozner
Caroline Previdi
Jessica Rekos
Avielle Richman
Benjamin Wheeler

Allison N. Wyatt

STAFF

Rachel Davino, Behavioral Therapist
Dawn Hochsprung, Principal
Anne Marie Murphy, Teacher
Lauren Rousseau, Substitute Teacher
Mary Sherlach, School Psychologist
Victoria Soto, Teacher