

Thursday, January 4, 2018

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Save the Date! Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>; 8:45a.m. ~ 10:15a.m.

On Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Elizabeth School will host a workshop entitled, "Adoption Through the Eyes of Children: A Developmental Perspective." The Workshop Please see the description of the workshop below as well as a brief bio on our presenter.

#### Description:

Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of what children comprehend, think and feel about adoption as they grow up, from the pre-school years through adolescence. Common questions, fears and concerns related to birth parents, relationships with adoptive and extended family members and relationships with peers are addressed. Special emphasis is on methods for addressing ambiguous loss and grief, self-esteem and self-value and identity through an adoption-competent developmental lens. How non-adopted children perceive adoption is included, as well as the impact of feedback from peers and adults in the child's world which impact adoption adjustment.

#### Our Presenter:

Debbie B. Riley, LCMFT, is the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of the Center for Adoption Support and Education, a national leader in the provision of mental health services for the foster care and adoption community. As a marriage and family therapist with more than 35 years' experience, Ms. Riley has created a continuum of innovative and best practice clinical and training programs to address the complex needs of foster and adoptive youth and their families from all adoption backgrounds. A nationally/internationally-recognized adoption expert and sought-after speaker and trainer, she is the co-author of *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*. Ms. Riley is currently leading two national initiatives to enhance the delivery of adoption-competent services: The Training in Adoption Competency (TAC) is a national, comprehensive, evidence-informed post-Mater's training program for child welfare and mental health professionals; and the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative is developing two state of the art, standardized, web-based training curricula for child welfare and mental health professionals. Ms. Riley is also an adoptive parent.

I'm grateful that we are able to provide these workshops for you, our parents!

If you plan to attend, please e-mail Mrs. Lilly Reed at [lreed@stelizabethschoolmd.org](mailto:lreed@stelizabethschoolmd.org).

Thank you!

Vincent Spadoni