

# Mom's Cancer Fight Prompts Plantation Youngster To Co-Author Book

BY JULIE LEVIN

**WHEN CADE TOLCHINSKY'S MOTHER TOLD HIM SHE HAD BREAST** cancer, the Plantation boy was scared and understandably had plenty of questions. Finding the answers to those questions, which let him better understand his mother's illness, has now left Cade in the unique position to help other children in the same situation.

Along with his mother CA Tolchinsky, the mother & son duo has authored a book designed to help other kids struggling through the same situation. "It makes me feel happy and helpful," said Cade, a 7th grader at University School of NSU. "When I went to Memorial Breast Cancer Center, I got to meet my mom's chemo nurses and doctors. They all told me how much a book like ours can help people because they hear stuff all day long like, "What should I tell my kids? It made me really happy to know that I can help someone else through a tough time."

The book, called "Dear Cancer, You Messed with the Wrong Mom" is a labor of love that took the Tolchinsky's more than two years to write after CA was diagnosed in late 2010. The 50-page paperback is a factual, yet easy-to-read conversation between mother and son, where Cade asks the questions that were troubling him, while giving his mom a chance to respond. Many of the questions are similar to what any nine-year old boy might ask, such as "Can you catch it?" or "Do boys get it?"

The idea for the book came about when



CA and Cade Tolchinsky

CA, an Assistant Athletic Director of Academic Services and Student Athlete Support at NSU and husband Larry, a local attorney, first broke the news about the illness to Cade, and sister Bryn, now 15. The Plantation couple welcomed questions, but Cade preferred writing his questions down in a journal, because asking them out loud made him uncomfortable.

He admits he knew very little about the illness before his mom was diagnosed, but now knows that while many people get breast cancer, many people beat it. He hopes what he learned will let other kids know what to expect, and will encourage them to look at the positive side of things. "Humor helps," he said. "We laughed a lot while going through this process. My mom even let me color on her bald head with markers."

He says the title they picked is a testament to his mom's toughness. "Cancer picked the wrong mom because my mom was going to beat it no matter what it would take. She's tough and doesn't back down," Cade said.

Cade and CA will be hosting a book signing February 12 at the NSU Arena for men's and women's basketball Think Pink night. The signing starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at 3301 College Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. Proceeds from the book sales will go to the Memorial Breast Cancer Center.

To learn more about the book, go to [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). You can also visit the website Cade designed for the book at [www.MessedWithTheWrongMom.com](http://www.MessedWithTheWrongMom.com)

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