

Volume 3, Issue 1

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# Our Schools

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF WHIPPANY AND CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ



HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Excellence in



# A Message From the Superintendent

This issue of the “*Excellence in Our Schools*” newsletter introduces you to the Hanover Township Public Schools new faculty. Together with our existing teachers, they are committed to being part of a “*Community That Inspires Excellence.*”

Excellence will be needed as we begin the process of crafting a school budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The economic downturn, coupled with changes to the school funding laws, will present our Board members and administrators with many challenges. I encourage parents and community members to be part of the process by attending one or all of the Board of Education’s Budget Review Meetings. These meetings will be scheduled during the months of January and February. The actual dates, times and location of these meetings can be obtained by calling the Board of Education Offices at 973-515-2400 after January 1, 2009.

One constant in our lives is the need for the Hanover Township Public Schools to continue to provide the children of this community with outstanding educational programs and experiences. At the same time, we must also be sensitive to the impact of the current economic climate. Working together, I am confident that we can meet this challenge for the benefit of our students. Happy Holidays!

Scott R. Pepper, Superintendent of Schools

## Meet Our Excellent New Staff

- **Pictured On the Cover (clockwise from the top):**

1. *The Hanover Township Public Schools Honors Band students perform under the direction of Mrs. Tracy Currie at the Rockaway Mall during the MCCEA Pride in Our Schools event in the spring of 2008.*
2. *Salem Drive School students watch as Mr. Joseph Giorgio, Hanover Township Business Administrator and Mr. Roberto Camean, Principal of Salem Drive School dig in at the 2008 Arbor Day celebration.*
3. *Mr. Harry Wong, author of The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher presented a workshop for new teachers in August 2008. Mr. Wong is pictured here with Memorial Junior School’s new science teacher, Angela Chou.*
4. *Bee Meadow School held a mock presidential election on November 3, 2008 in which the students got to vote for the candidate they thought would make the best president. Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Sharon McLaughlin organized the event for the school.*
5. *Members of the Student Council led the way for the Mountview Road School community to donate food items to the Interfaith Food Panty of Morristown in October 2008. The Interfaith Food Pantry sent a letter of thanks for the 150 pounds of food that will be distributed throughout Morris County. Pictured are the 2008-2009 MTV Student Council Officers.*



- Mrs. Sharon Ferraiuolo has joined the staff at Mountview Road School as a lunch time General Aide. She is also the MTV PTA Vice President.



- Mrs. Luba Demitre is the new part time General Aide at Mountview Road School.



- Terri Ciecierski is the new Special Education Aide at Memorial Junior School. She has a BA in Secondary Math Education from Susquehanna University and many years of teaching experience at the middle school level.

## Meet Our Excellent New Staff



- Alyssa Ciampaglio is teaching in the Autism class at Bee Meadow School. She graduated from Marist College with a BA in Psychology and a BA in Special Education. She completed her student teaching at The Anderson Center for Autism and W.W. Smith Elementary

School in Poughkeepsie, New York. She taught for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year and in the extended school year program in the Autism classroom at Bee Meadow School. Ms. Ciampaglio loves the performing arts (acting, singing and dancing), traveling and outdoor adventures (hiking, skydiving and camping). She is also a huge fan of the NY Giants and the NY Yankees.

- Maureen Hughes is teaching 4th grade at Salem Drive School. She graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a BA in Sociology and a Minor in Spanish.

She also earned a MA in Education there. She did her student teaching in the 5th grade at SDS. Last year she was a long-term substitute Spanish teacher at Memorial Junior School. She grew up in south Jersey and has a Chihuahua puppy named Cowgirl. In her spare time Ms. Hughes enjoys listening to country music and scrap booking.



- Jessica Huston is the new Language Arts, Reading, Computer teacher at Memorial Junior School. She graduated from Muhlenberg College with a B.A. in English. She is attending

graduate school at Fairleigh Dickinson University pursuing a Masters degree in Education with a Language Arts and Literacy concentration. Prior to joining us in Hanover Township Ms. Huston was a Teacher's Aide for Hartshorn Elementary School in Millburn. She completed her student teaching experience at Union High School. In her spare time she loves hiking and charades.



- Justine Conte is the new Coordinated Services teacher at Salem Drive School. She got her BS in Elementary Education at Susquehanna University and a M. Ed in Reading at William Paterson University.

She taught for 10 years in Wyckoff, NJ as a first, then second grade teacher, and joined us in February as a long-term substitute in first grade at Mountview Road School. She lives in Cedar Knolls, and her children attend Mountview Road School.



- Valerie Useche is our new 6th and 8th grade Spanish Teacher at Memorial Junior School. She graduated from Montclair State University with a BA in Spanish/Spanish-Translation. She earned her Master's degree in Spanish Language and Culture at Salamanca University in Spain. Prior to coming

to Hanover Township, she taught at H.B Whitehorne Middle School. When she is not in the classroom Ms. Useche loves to travel, learn new cultures and dance.



- Angela Chou is teaching Science in the 6th grade at Memorial Junior School. She graduated from The College of New Jersey with a BS in Biology and Elementary Education (double major). She student-taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade Gifted and

Talented students at Lawrence Intermediate School in Lawrenceville, NJ. She was also a substitute for two years in Roxbury Township Schools. She enjoys watching tennis and traveling .

## Meet Our Excellent New Staff

- Gina Kontos is our Occupational Therapist at Bee Meadow School and Mountview Road School. She earned her BS in Occupational Therapy from Kean University. She



worked for 10 years in Early Intervention practice through Montclair State University and 10 years in Bergen County school system servicing only special education students. Previously, she worked in physical rehabilitation at Kessler Institute in West Orange and behavioral health for Cathedral Healthcare systems in Newark, NJ. Ms. Kontos has extensive experience working with autism spectrum disorders and developmental delays impacting school related skills such as handwriting, fine motor and activities of daily living. She is extremely interested in maximizing learning potential through the use of multi-sensory strategies. She enjoys creating new and modifying existing fine motor and handwriting programs. She is involved with volunteer work for the Making Strides/American Cancer Society and ASPCA, where she will embark on training her dog Hudson to become a therapy dog. In her spare time she loves gourmet and organic cooking, interior design, antique restoration, jewelry design and fabrication, photography, yoga and pilates.

- Kimberly La Marco is our new Speech and Language Specialist at Bee Meadow School. She earned her BA and MA in Speech Language Pathology from Kean



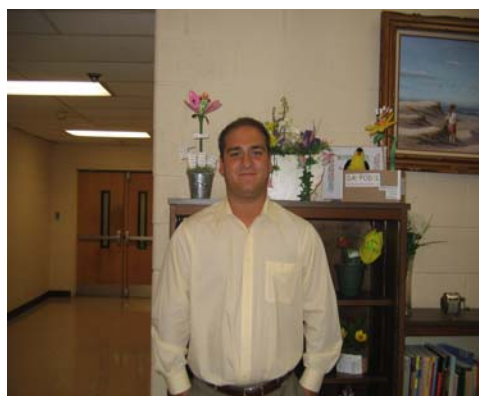
University. Prior to coming to Hanover Township, Ms. LaMarco worked in the Morris Plains and Morristown school districts. She joined us at Bee Meadow School in February 2008. In her spare time Ms. LaMarco enjoys reading, shopping, walking and playing with her dogs, Xena and Zeus.



- Maria McIvor is teaching 3rd grade at Bee Meadow School. She graduated from William Paterson University with a BA in Sociology and Elementary Education. She also attended Upsala College where she ob-

tained a BS in Business Management and Marketing. Prior to coming to Hanover Township Ms. McIvor taught 3rd grade in Chatham, NJ. Maria enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading novels and playing softball.

- Kenneth McPeek is the new Health and Physical Education teacher at Memorial Junior School. He graduated from Seton Hall University with a BS in Business Man-



agement and received his health and physical education credits at William Paterson University. Mr. McPeek has substituted and coached in the district for the past 5 years. He enjoys coaching and will coach soccer and basketball this year at MJS. He himself graduated from MJS in 1997. Prior to teaching he was employed by the New Jersey Devils.



- Maria Valla is our new Instrumental Music, String Teacher for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at Bee Meadow, Salem Drive and Mountview Road schools. She graduated from Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts with a BA in Music Education.

She taught private string lessons to a wide age range of students from her home in Berkeley Heights for the past nine years, as well as other various camps and workshops for young students. Her music performance experience includes participation in various orchestras, chamber groups, bands and solo recitals in New Jersey that performed in notable venues such as Carnegie Hall, The New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Lincoln Center. When she is not playing or listening to music, Ms. Valla enjoys hiking with her black Lab, Lucky and going to the beach.

## Meet Our Excellent New Staff

- Stephanie Prol is teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Salem Drive School. She graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a BA in Political Science/Pre-Law and Elementary Education. She is currently pursuing a MA in Elementary Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Prior to coming to Hanover Township Ms. Prol was a New Jersey ASK remediation teacher working with 4<sup>th</sup> graders helping to target areas that the students were struggling with. She was also a long term maternity leave replacement teacher at Bee Meadow School where she taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She enjoys hiking, biking and traveling.



- Colleen Griesbach is our new Guidance Counselor at Memorial Junior School. Ms. Griesbach graduated from Fordham University with a MS in Education in Counseling. She received her BA in Psychology from Quinnipiac University. Her experience includes substitute-teaching grades K-12 in addition to three counseling internships throughout her graduate training at Fordham. Prior to joining the MJS community she served as a counselor at a non-profit agency in New York City. She enjoys yoga, has a passion for sports, and loves to travel, especially to New York, her hometown.



- Jacqueline Romola is teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Bee Meadow School. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from The College of New Jersey. She has previously taught in the Caldwell-West Caldwell School District and the Hampton Town-

ship School District, completing maternity leave positions in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Reading is one of her favorite hobbies and she is always looking for a new book to enjoy! Ms. Romola also loves listening to music and spending time with her two dogs, Shep and Codie.

- Dana Apicella is teaching Art at Salem Drive School and Mountview Road School. Ms. Apicella graduated from Montclair State University with a BA in Art Education. Last year she taught as an Art Teacher Leave Replacement in the Randolph School District. Ms. Apicella also taught in various art programs in Montclair, Mendham, South Orange, and Bedminster. She enjoys painting, drawing, outdoor activities and music.



- Raymond Uy is the new Vocal Music Teacher at Memorial Junior School, Bee Meadow School and Mountview Road School. He earned his BA in Music Education from Westminster Choir College, and his MA from the Eastman School of Music. He has taught in the Elizabeth Schools and at the college level in California. As a copyrighted songwriter and opera singer, Raymond Uy has been an active musician outside of the classroom as well. He has performed internationally, from lead tenor roles with the Lyric Opera of Los Angeles, to recitals and concerts across Europe, as well as in collaborative performances between the Westminster Symphonic Choir and orchestras that include the NY Philharmonic, NJ Symphonic Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.



- June Ricciardi is the new part time secretary in the Child Study Team office at Bee Meadow School.



**SPRING 2008  
STATE TESTING  
DISTRICT RESULTS**

**MATHEMATICS**

GRADE	NUMBER TESTED	PERCENT PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	PERCENT PROFICIENT	PERCENT ADVANCED PROFICIENT	TOTAL PERCENT PROFICIENT
3	188	3.2%	53.2%	43.6%	96.8%
4	179	7.8%	41.9%	50.3%	92.2%
5*	182	13.7%	48.4%	37.9%	86.3%*
6*	174	18.5%	43.4%	38.2%	81.6%*
7*	177	30.5%	38.4%	31.1%	69.5%*
8	149	16.1%	42.3%	41.6%	83.9%

**LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY**

GRADE	NUMBER TESTED	PERCENT PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	PERCENT PROFICIENT	PERCENT ADVANCED PROFICIENT	TOTAL PERCENT PROFICIENT
3	188	8.0%	81.3%	10.7%	92.0%
4	179	9.0%	80.3%	10.7%	91.0%
5*	182	22.0%	68.1%	9.9%	78.0%*
6*	174	22.7%	72.7%	4.7%	77.4%*
7*	177	10.7%	63.8%	25.4%	89.2%*
8	149	3.4%	83.9%	12.8%	96.7%

All results include both regular and special education students.

\*Test results in grades five through seven are based on new (higher) standards.

*“A Community That Inspires Excellence”  
Support Hanover Township Public Schools*

**Hanover Township Public Schools**

Administrative Offices

61 Highland Avenue

Whippany, NJ 07981

Phone: 973-515-2400 Fax: 973-540-1023

[www.hanovertwpschools.com](http://www.hanovertwpschools.com)

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