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Teachers/Service Professionals of the Year Selected

The Holmdel Township School District is proud to participate in the NJ Governor's Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program. This program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, the rewards of teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. Today, Holmdel announced this year's recipients of this honor. They are:

Holmdel High School: Elizabeth Kenny-Foggin, Teacher; Doreen Coticelli, Educational Services Professional

William R. Satz School: Elizabeth Smith, Teacher; Jane Denton, Educational Services Professional

Indian Hill School: Taryn Treubig, Teacher; Barbara Wagner, Educational Services Professional

Village School: Marcia Vaccarino, Teacher; Frances Flannelly, Educational Services Professional

Holmdel High School:

Elizabeth Kenny-Foggin



Ms. Kenny-Foggin has been a teacher of Special Education for twenty eight years, including the last twelve years in the Holmdel school district, first as a LDTC, but more recently as a classroom teacher so that she could work up close with her students.

She has been affiliated with Fairleigh Dickenson University for over twelve years, beginning as a graduate student studying dyslexia, and eventually earning the following certifications: Dyslexia Special Certificate; Orton Gillingham Teacher Certificate; Orton Gillingham Teacher Trainer; and currently pursuing an Orton Gillingham Therapist Certificate.

Ms. Kenny-Foggin has provided professional development in the area of multisensory training both at the college level and for teachers in the district. She has also been instrumental in creating an elective class at the high school based on a multisensory approach, and embedded with Orton Gillingham methods, along with current research to support incoming 9th graders in the areas of reading, writing, study skills and learning strategies to increase academic skills and meta-cognition. She is also an active member of a district committee working on presentations and trainings related to Dyslexia and other language based disorders, and has presented nationally and internationally on the topic.

Ms. Kenny-Foggin's recognition as "**Teacher of the Year**" is both well-earned and well-deserved; she is worthy of congratulations and deserving of our collective thanks!

Doreen Coticelli



To be sure, Mrs. Coticelli’s career in education has been a “labor of love.” Spanning more than forty years, Mrs. Coticelli has worn many hats: classroom teacher, special education teacher, supervisor of Special Services and, for the last nine years in Holmdel, a Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultant (LDTc). Her list of credentials is quite impressive: Orton-Gillingham Reading Specialist; Nationally Certified Educational Diagnostician, and Pupil Personnel certification. Not one to “rest easy” Mrs. Coticelli recently attended a conference at Harvard University on Learning Differences. She feels she brings something special to the job in that she has an adult autistic daughter and has been through the entire gamut of what some of parents are, or will be, going through and can offer advice, guidance and support. We salute Mrs. Coticelli and thank her for her valuable service to the students and parents of the Holmdel community!

William R Satz School:

Elizabeth Smith



Elizabeth Smith is a colleague invested in first and foremost the best interest of the students. This is what drives her planning, instruction, and honest professional relationships, as she is critical in pushing dialogue that questions best practice and ensures that all students – especially our needy readers who so often fall through the cracks – are being not only taught, but taught with care. Her position is unique in that she teaches a small population of students that come from English teachers across the whole department, which provides many challenges in terms of planning and collaboration. And yet, this challenge is met and exceeded, which is evidenced by her dedication to maintaining and fostering positive and professional collaborative relationships, creating a team of teachers invested in the literacy success of a student and providing support not only for the student, but for her colleagues as well, by sharing materials, professional resources, and specialized training. She is able to do this across departments as well, for she serves on the I&RS committee for the school and is also involved in many district-wide initiatives, including a committee gathered to determine and assess students with dyslexia in the lower grade levels, involved in not only developing the testing, but training teachers with resources to serve these students. As a master teacher, Mrs. Smith wholeheartedly deserves this recognition – a she consistently goes above and beyond for the staff, the community, and most importantly, her students.

Jane Denton



Mrs. Denton is a Satz employee who has dedicated herself to improving the safety, health, and academic success of all of our students, and staff members, here at the Satz School. Overall, Jane is a hard-working, well-informed, preceptor who leads by example. The students and parents always have wonderful things to say about her and about how thoroughly she handles situations. She has taken the lead in integrating the use of technology to make sure that all of staff members, monitors and coaches receive the necessary training in accordance with district policy. Additionally, she consistently provides our staff with up-to-date medical information about our students, or about any other medical concerns that may be pressing to our school. Because of her dedication, she makes herself openly available to anyone who needs to sit down to discuss their personal medical concerns or needs as well. As the nurse's office has the potential for becoming an extremely stressful place for patients, at times tensions run high and trying to provide care can be very difficult. Mrs. Denton expertly handles every situation with an unmatched expertise, empathy and poise. Because of her professionalism, calmness and demeanor, Mrs. Denton is not only an expert in deescalating emotional situations, but she also has the ability to bring tranquility to an otherwise chaotic situation. There is no one more worthy of this distinction than our nurse.

Indian Hill School:

Taryn Treubig



Mrs. Taryn Treubig has been a teacher at Indian Hill since 2011. As a math teacher, Mrs. Treubig connects with her students strongly. She encourages them to become deep thinkers about math and she uses a variety of approaches to teach her students. Her classroom is both child-centered and rigorous. She helps her students learn problem solving strategies and challenges them with creative and exciting lessons every day. As an educator, Mrs. Treubig supports and encourages her students to be the best that they can be. She does this by developing an excellent relationship and rapport with her students and engaging their interest and motivation from the first day of class. Mrs. Treubig loves to see the humor in classroom situations and laughs easily with her students, which helps to make her students comfortable and happy in class. She is extremely knowledgeable which helps her to tailor her lessons to meet her students' individual needs, a vital skill for any teacher. Mrs. Treubig is an inspirational teacher who motivates her students every day!

Barbara Wagner



Our school nurse, Mrs. Barbara Wagner demonstrates deep knowledge of nursing as she works with our students, interacting with care and expertise. Students are at ease due to her calm and professional manner. Mrs. Wagner encourages students to develop independence around their own health, offering direct nursing assistance and intervention when needed. She is valued for her direct and highly competent approach to nursing. It is obvious to members of the school community that Mrs. Wagner has our students' best interests at heart and she often counsels staff members as well who trust her knowledge and seek her out for health advice. She has an awareness of the impact health issues can have on student learning and she advocates closely for our students' health. The job of school nurse in a large 4th – 6th grade school such as ours, is a busy one. Mrs. Wagner counsels Indian Hill School students and parents, addressing their physical needs. She treats students with respect, discussing their health candidly and openly with them. We are lucky to have a professional such as Mrs. Wagner on our staff.

Village School:

Marcia Vaccarino



Mrs. Vaccarino is an exceptional educator and dedicated professional. She began teaching at Village School in 2009. During her time in the district she has always put children first, providing them with the tools they need to be successful in all aspects of their lives. She fosters a positive atmosphere in her classroom, where children are encouraged to take educational risks that allow for student growth. Mrs. Vaccarino provides opportunities for her children at their level of readiness, in order to differentiate learning experiences for all. She has embraced technology in her classroom and truly believes that her students need to be 21st century learners. Technology is incorporated into her daily lessons, bringing amazing opportunities to her students.

Mrs. Vaccarino goes above and beyond to promote a positive culture for our entire school community. She has been involved in many activities that fall outside her daily classroom instruction. Mrs. Vaccarino has served on several committees dedicated to curriculum and student achievement. She is seen as a leader among her grade-level colleagues, always with the best interest of children in mind. Additionally,

Mrs. Vaccarino always participates in our school/district performances. She has been a show stopper during Village Idol, the Teacher Talent Show, and Battle of the Faculties. Mrs. Vaccarino is dedicated to all of our causes for the community, and we are very proud to have her as part of our team!

Frances Flannelly



Ms. Flannelly joined Village School in 1999. She is truly dedicated to the well-being of our students, staff, and families. She is always positive and handles every situation in a caring manner. Ms. Flannelly is very sensitive to students needs when she meets with them in her nurse's office. In many cases, she is dealing with significant issues that require a calm demeanor for our very young children. She is masterful in the way she handles each situation, ensuring our students understand they are in great hands. In some cases Ms. Flannelly will also meet with an entire class if an issue is impacting a large group of children. She is very perceptive and quickly assesses how best to help with delicate situations. Ms. Flannelly is always mindful of following up with families, in order to continue a partnership that brings the greatest results for our students. She truly understands the connections that need to be made to keep the lines of communication open between school and home.

Ms. Flannelly is a go to for our staff and families as well. She is a colleague and friend who can be trusted with personal information, and is always willing to take the time to discuss whatever is on your mind. This same sentiment is present with our families. There are times when she has assisted with medical situations if a parent was having a difficult time in the building. Ms. Flannelly always follows up to be sure all is alright. It is in these ways that she brings all facets of the school community together to enhance the positive atmosphere at Village School. We are lucky to have her as part of the Village team!