

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**New Administrator & Teacher Biographies**

*Written by our new staff*

**Dianne Bacsik** is the new Math Investigations teacher at the Pierce Middle School for 7th and 8th graders. She earned a dual Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Mathematics from Boston College, just graduating this past May. She did her student teaching at the Lincoln School in Brookline and was a substitute teacher for the Brookline Public Schools as well. Dianne is originally from Hamilton, New Jersey, where she grew up as the youngest of three. Dianne's two favorite hobbies are yoga and baking, but not at the same time!

**Mary Bashir** is so happy to be the new second grade French Immersion teacher at Cunningham Elementary School. She earned her B.A. in French Studies at the College of the Holy Cross and the Université de Bourgogne à Dijon and her M.A. in French Studies at Middlebury Language School of French and the Université de Paris à Nanterre. More importantly, however, Mary is a graduate of Milton Public Schools and is delighted to be working alongside some of her amazing former teachers! This is her tenth year of teaching and loves a dynamic and multi-sensory learning environment. In addition to French, Mary has extensive experience teaching health and fitness and is particularly interested in the positive impact that physical fitness has on personal empowerment, emotional wellness and academic and professional achievement. When not teaching, Mary can be found kayaking, biking, playing beach volleyball and watching French film.

**Andrew Boles** is the new Assistant Principal at the Pierce Middle School. Mr. Boles earned his Bachelor's degree from Westfield State College and a Master's degree in Education from Bridgewater State College. He has been the Assistant Principal at the Dedham Middle School and the Joseph Martin Middle School in Taunton. Mr. Boles background is in Social Studies and Counseling and is eager to start the school year.

**Maureen Butler, OTR/L** is the new occupational therapist who will be in the preschool as well as at Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in occupational therapy from the University of New England in Maine. She has over 10 years experience in all areas of pediatrics and has worked in the Quincy Public Schools, South Shore Therapies as well as doing home visits for Early Intervention. She has specialty certification in Sensory Integration as well as training in various programs including Brain Gym, Handwriting Without Tears and Therapeutic Listening. She has three children and recently moved back to Milton. She is an avid runner and loves training for marathons.

**Esra Buyukozer** is the new fifth grade French teacher at Collicot Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Interpretation and Translation from Bosphorus University in Istanbul and her Masters Degree from Marmara University in International Politics with a major in Communication. Esra has twenty years of work experience in the private sector as a marketing consultant and has delivered numerous education seminars in her field. She joined Milton Public schools in 2009 as a teacher aid in first grade French.

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

She is a world traveler, has visited many countries over four continents and is an avid reader of detective novels.

**Deirdre Cady** is a new Special Education/Mathematics teacher at the Pierce Middle School. Ms. Cady earned her Bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College and her Master's degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Previously she was a grade 5 teacher at the Jackson/Mann school in Boston. Ms. Cady also served as a Legal Secretary at the firm Ropes7 Gray LLP.

**Chris Callahan** is a seventh grade geography teacher at the Pierce Middle School. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Connecticut. He then received his Masters Degree in Teaching History from the University of Massachusetts. Chris has previously taught High School History and was the building sub for the Pierce Middle School last year. Chris won a wiffleball Homerun Derby over this past weekend.

**Bridget Canty** was hired as a special education teacher at Milton High School. Bridget received her bachelor's degree in Social and Rehabilitation Services, and a Master degree in Special Education; both at Assumption College. Bridget is coming to Milton from Bartlett High School in Webster where she was a Life Skills teacher for 12 years working with students with Intellectual Disabilities. Bridget is a 9 time triathlete who enjoys competing in races with her 5 sisters.

**Amy Chew** is a new third grade teacher in the co-taught classroom at Tucker Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Boston College, and her M.Ed. in Moderate Disabilities. Amy was a kindergarten special education teacher at the Boston Renaissance Charter Public school for two years. Before this, she was an aide at the Angier School in Newton in a first grade classroom. Amy enjoys painting and playing tennis during her free time.

**Kate Daley** is the new PhysEd/Health teacher at Milton High School. She earned a bachelors degree from Bridgewater State College. Kate covered a long-term PE position at the High School last year. Prior to teaching at Milton, was a PE teaching at Abington High School and has also worked in the Weymouth School system. Kate will be coaching Freshman Girls volleyball this fall and is excited to get back into coaching.

**Marilyn Decker** is the new K-12 Science Director for the Milton Public Schools. She earned her Masters and Bachelors degrees in Physics from SUNY Stonybrook. A physics and chemistry teacher she has taught science at all levels and was most recently the Director of Professional Development for Teachers 21. She was the K-12 Science Director for the Boston Public Schools from 2001 to 2008. She has a close affiliation with the Merck Institute for Science Education (MISE) and was part of a MISE teaching team that provided professional development to teachers in Thailand after the Tsunami.

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Alicia Fessenden** is the new French immersion first grade teacher at the Collicot School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Geography from McGill University and her M.Sc. in Elementary Education from Bank Street College of Education. Before moving to Boston this past year, Alicia worked in New York City as a first and second grade teacher. Alicia became a Hospice volunteer over the summer and greatly enjoyed the time she spent with her 97-year-old Hospice patient.

**Amy Gale** is the new Curriculum Coordinator at the Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Ethics from Drew University and her M.A.T from Simmons College. Amy began her career with the Boston Public Schools in 1996 at the Lyndon Pilot School in West Roxbury and in 2005 joined the staff at the Richard J. Murphy School in Dorchester. Amy has taught a variety of grade levels and subjects, but most recently she taught Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics and English and Grade 6 Inclusion Mathematics. Amy and her husband are avid runners and have participated in a number of road races and triathlons and hope to get their almost two year old daughter involved when she gets a bit bigger.

**Matt Gibbons** is the new business teacher at Milton High School. He grew up in Quincy and stills lives there today. He earned his bachelors degree at Nichols College. He spent the last two years teaching and coaching hockey at North Quincy High School

**Liz Hallisey** is the new seventh grade special education English teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Child Psychology and Social Work from Bridgewater State College, and is in the final stages of completing her Master's in Special Ed from Curry College. Liz has been an instructional aide at Pierce for the past three years, working with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the language based program. Liz is a graduate o Milton High School, and is excited to give back to the system that taught her.

**Danielle Huebner** is the new Latin teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English with a Minor in Linguistics from San Diego State University and her M.A. in Linguistics (Applied and Theoretical) with a Minor in Classics also at San Diego State University. Danielle has over ten years experience teaching both Latin and Linguistics from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level through University. In Massachusetts she has taught in the Newton Public School District and at the Boston Latin School. Danielle is the proud mother of a Sphynx: a hairless cat who is so ugly that he's cute.

**Larry Jordan** joins the Milton High School special education department after serving the Boston Public Schools as a Special Education Director and LAB Cluster Coordinator. Prior to his service in Boston, Mr. Jordan was a special education teacher in Baltimore Maryland. Mr. Jordan earned his bachelor's degree in Education and Sociology from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and his master's degree in Leadership in Teaching and Special Education from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Mr. Jordan is originally from East Providence, RI and is married and has two young daughters.

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Stacia Kates** is a new Kindergarten teacher at Glover Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Massachusetts and her Graduate Degree at Wheelock College where she majored in Young Children with Special Needs. Stacia spent 8 years teaching kindergarten in the town of Franklin before she assumed the role as NAEYC Accreditation Coordinator for Franklin. She served in that role for the last 8 years and is now very excited to get back into the classroom! She lives in Milton with her 4 young children, 2 of which are students at Cunningham.

**Ben Kelly** is the new mathematics teacher at Milton High School, teaching Algebra I, Geometry A and AP Statistics this year. He earned her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Boston College and is finishing his M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from the Boston College Lynch School of Education this year. Ben taught last year at Saugus High School, and spent time in the Milton Public Schools during the previous two years as a student teacher. Ben is originally from upstate New York and spends his free time on the golf course and playing and building guitars.

**Valerie Kelly** is the new third grade French immersion teacher at Tucker Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in French and Psychology from St. Lawrence University and her M.Ed from Boston College. Valerie studied abroad for a year in Normandy, France. Valerie was a paraprofessional for a year in a Kindergarten French Immersion classroom at Placentino Elementary School in Holliston and did her student teaching in a first grade classroom at the Nixon Elementary School in Sudbury. Valerie grew up in Holliston's French Immersion program and is excited to begin her career with Milton's French program.

**Karen Kronewitter** is the new fifth grade teacher at Glover Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in French from Bates College in Maine and her Masters in Education from DePaul University in Chicago. Karen taught French in Chicago for the past three years and is happy to be back in the Boston area. Karen spent ten days in Quebec over the summer and enjoyed exploring the city while taking at a course for teachers.

**Sherette Malloy** is a new first grade teacher at Cunningham Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychology from Kean University and her M. Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. Sherette has been teaching for 18 years. She has work with children in Pre-K - third grade and was a Reading Recovery teacher for 3 years. Sherette spent part of her summer vacation this year in Williamsburg, VA and North Carolina with family celebrating her fathers 70th birthday.

**Colleen Martin** is the general music teacher at Tucker and Glover Elementary Schools. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of New Hampshire. Colleen covered long-term second grade and kindergarten positions at the Clifford Marshall School in Quincy last year and completed her student teaching in Wells, Maine in 2008. Colleen enjoys staying active through playing soccer and

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

challenging herself in road races. When not in the classroom, she also makes every effort to travel and explore new sites.

**Louisa McCarthy** is the new librarian at the Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Geography from Dartmouth College and is currently working towards a Master's in Library Science from Simmons College. Louisa worked as a volunteer in the Pierce library last year and is excited to officially join the Pierce team. Louisa lives in Boston but enjoys spending her weekends in New Hampshire. Louisa loves all things technology and is also hoping to learn how to cook this year.

**Bernadette Moonan** is the new first grade teacher at Collicot Elementary School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Following her graduation Bernadette taught fourth grade at St. Mary School in Quincy and has spent the past two years teaching kindergarten for the East Providence Public Schools. She is a Milton native and proud alumnus of the Milton Public Schools.

**Allison O'Donnell** is the new fourth grade special education co-teacher at the Glover School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from The College of the Holy Cross and her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Allison completed her Master's Degree in Education through a one year accelerated program at UMass Boston called "Teach Next Year". As part of the program, Allison worked as a full time student teacher in a second grade inclusion classroom at the Martin E. Young Elementary School in Randolph, Massachusetts. Allison also completed the Boston Public School's Pathways Program to receive her licensure in mild to moderate disabilities. Allison has run the Boston and Chicago Marathon and is hoping to complete the New York Marathon next fall.

**Marla Rubin** is the new speech therapist at Collicot Elementary School. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Speech Pathology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. For nine years, Marla specialized in teaching deaf and hard of hearing children how to listen and talk using hearing aids and cochlear implants. Marla has been very busy lately since she got engaged, bought a house, and found a new job all within the last 8 months.

**Margaret Sadock** is the new Grade One French Immersion Teacher at the Cunningham Elementary School. She earned her M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Lesley University. Margaret completed her teaching practicum at the Haggerty School in Cambridge, and she then taught as a substitute teacher at the Underwood School in Newton. Margaret is the Publicity and Recruitment Officer for Cambridge Youth Hockey. She has recently worked on developing a community outreach program that will provide free hockey instruction to at-risk youth beginning this fall. Margaret was granted the CYH Woman of the Year award in 2010 for service to the organization.

**MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Juanita Shaffer-Ratzlaff** is the new Chemistry and AP Biology teacher at Milton High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Cell and Molecular Biology from Missouri State University and her M.Ed from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Juanita taught for five years in Boston Public Schools after spending 8 years in research at Harvard Medical School/MGH. Juanita spent her summer actively engaged in research at Northeastern University. She did manage to enjoy a week visiting friends and family in Missouri and is looking forward to teaching in Milton.

**Adriana Staff** is the new French teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in French and English from the Al. I. Cuza University in Romania and her M.A. in French from Kent State University, Ohio. Adriana has been a French instructor at the Boston Language Institute for the past year and also worked as a substitute at the Teddy Bear Club bilingual pre-school in Newton, MA. Adriana went back to Romania (her home country) over the summer and had a great time with friends and family.

**Robyn Thompson** is a new Art teacher at Pierce Middle School. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University and her M.Ed. from Lesley University. Robyn worked as an Art Teacher for the Middle and Upper School and as the Assistant Director of Diversity at Worcester Academy for the past three years, where she completed her student teaching and was the John Hope Fellow from 2007 to 2008. Robyn has exhibited her work in galleries in Worcester and on the South Shore. She enjoys painting with acrylics and taking various art classes where she can grow as an artist.