

# Cunningham Connection

August 21, 2017

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## From the Principal...

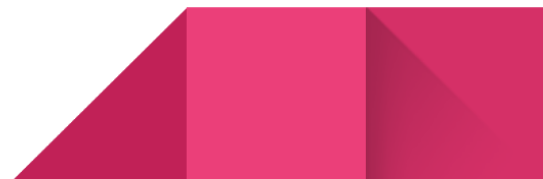
I hope everyone had a great summer and is excited about the 2017/2018 school year! We have events planned in the upcoming weeks to welcome new families and returning families to Cunningham. Today, all class assignments will be mailed containing additional information. Please contact me if you do not receive a letter in your mailbox by Thursday. This year, in addition to the weekly emails from the Cunningham PTO, we will send out the **Cunningham Connection**. The Connection will highlight the great things students are doing at Cunningham and provide information about events. The Connection will always be emailed to Cunningham families, but if you prefer a printed copy, please let me know. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jredden@miltonps.org](mailto:jredden@miltonps.org) or (617) 696-4285. If you have not done so, please email a picture of students reading a summer book to add to our "Summer Reading Selfie" collection!. We will be totaling summer reading hours and share summer reading photos in September. Below, please see the Summer Reading Selfie of Mrs. Kerry O'Leary (first grade teacher)

reading with her son who will start kindergarten this year! Enjoy today's Solar Eclipse with your special glasses! Happy Birthday to Mrs. Butler our new Assistant Principal and Curriculum Coordinator!

## Cunningham New Staff

Just about every staff member has already started preparing their classrooms or office spaces for the upcoming school year. Teachers are eager to get their class lists so that they can start communicating with families. This year we are welcoming additional staff to Cunningham.

1. **Mrs. Bernadette Butler** - Fresh off her 2017 MFE Administrator of the Year award as the Elementary Science Coordinator, Mrs. Butler will now serve as Cunningham ELA/Math coordinator as well as the assistant principal for Cunningham. Ms. Butler is a former Cunningham graduate and former Cunningham teacher. She is already familiar with Cunningham staff, students and families. She will remain in the office next to mine this year.
2. **Ms. Loretta Delp** - Ms. Delp will co-teach in kindergarten with Ms. AnneMarie Quinn. Ms. Delp has worked in Boston for the past five years, most recently working as an ESL teacher in a first grade inclusion classroom at the Patrick J. Kennedy School.
3. **Ms. Holly Mawn** - Ms. Mawn is teaching third grade English this year. Last year, she completed her internship from Northeastern University in Ms. Julie Ostrowski's Collicot classroom. She received great reviews from faculty and students in Collicot as well as in the demo lesson she taught in Cunningham.
4. **Madame Nawar Mushin** - Madame Mushin will teach the third and fourth grade French students their French. This is the first time we have had this teaching structure in place at Cunningham but I am confident we have two great educators ready to make it work! Madame Mushin is trilingual and formerly worked as a civil engineer and has taught both Arabic and French.
5. **Ms. Suzanne Caswell** - Ms. Caswell will teach the third and fourth grade French students Math and ELA in English. Ms. Caswell has many years of experience as both a teacher and literacy coach in Salem Public Schools. We were fortunate to hire someone who has experience teaching older students how to learn in English at the upper elementary level.
6. **Ms. Catherine Howland** - Ms. Howland will teach 4th grade English this year. Ms. Howland has degrees from Indiana University (Biology and History Major) and Brown University (Masters in



Elementary Education). For the past six years, she taught at Great Falls Middle School in Montague and Brooke Charter Schools in East Boston.

7. **Ms. Briana DeFilippis** - Ms. DeFilippis will be a special education teacher. She will work with students both in and out of the classroom. Ms. DeFilippis received both her Bachelor's (Science of Psychology in Education) and her Master's (Special Education) from Northeastern University. Most recently, she worked at the Heath School in Brookline as a 5th grade teacher.
8. **Ms. Lauren Finkle** - Ms. Finkle will teach Art to Cunningham and Collicot students. She received a Bachelor's and Master's in Fine Arts from Boston University. Since 2011, she has taught Art at Waybright Elementary in Saugus. On a side note, my niece who had Ms. Finkle for the past four years in Saugus is very sad that she will not have her again this year in 5th grade!
9. **Señora Laura Serna** - Señora Serna will teach Spanish, in the classroom, to 1st, 2nd and some 3rd grade classes. Having two Spanish teachers will alleviate some of the scheduling issues. She will also facilitate some library classes this year. She is joining Cunningham and Collicot after a year of teaching at the Tucker. She is already familiar with the curriculum and has worked with Dr. Martine Fisher, our World Language Director, closely in preparation for this role.

We will also have additional staff who work for multiple schools working with Cunningham teachers and students. Please see the Cunningham Handbook for a complete list of all staff and roles. The School Committee will approve Cunningham's Handbook on Wednesday and I intend to email it out by the end of the week.

## Reach for Reading

All Kindergarten students and students in the English Innovation Pathways strand will soon be introduced to a new ELA program called Reach for Reading! A committee of teachers and administrators reviewed many different ELA programs last year and unanimously agreed Reach for Reading is the comprehensive program that will best serve teachers and especially students. More information will be communicated about the Program, but here is a [link](#) that provides some information.

## Adult Ed Website

Sarah Warner, Director of Adult Education, designed a new website for Milton's program. The goal is to make course announcements and registration easier. The address for the website is [www.miltonadulthood.org](http://www.miltonadulthood.org).



