



# Tiger News

## Our Teachers Go Back to School

The last two weeks in August our teachers were not only busy preparing their classrooms, but also developing professionally. Teachers took part in the following course offerings this summer.

- In class support Team Teacher Training—for special education & regular education teaching teams
- Mentor training for those teachers mentoring new teachers
- I&RS team training for members of the Intervention & Referral Services Team
- New Teacher Orientation & Training in Classroom Management
- 2nd & 3rd year teachers received training in Instruction & Planning

**"We will kick off our Master Teacher Institute courses in September..."**

Many of these courses will continue to meet during the year.

In addition, our staff will participate in a variety of workshops on the first two days of school including Parent/Teacher Relationships, Bullying Prevention & Principles of Learning.

We will kick off our Master Teacher Institute courses in September with Understanding Learning Differences.

Other course offerings include Teacher Action Research, Teaching Reading/Writing Across the Curriculum and Advanced Technology Skills.

A Cooperative Learning Cohort, which began

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## New Faces in New Places

Join us in welcoming....

**Mrs. Dewey, Preschool Teacher.** Mrs. Dewey comes to us from St. James School in Basking Ridge, NJ, where she was the Early Childhood Director/Pre-kindergarten Class Teacher. She holds certifications in Early Child-

hood, Teacher of the Handicapped and Elementary Teacher. Mrs. Dewey has over 14 years of diverse teaching experience.

**Mr. McGarry, 8th grade math teacher.** Mr. McGarry is a graduate of The College of New Jersey and he holds

a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics. Mr. McGarry has experience teaching Pre-Algebra, 7th grade math, and high school Geometry where he integrated technology, utilized cooperative learning and aligned his lessons with NCTM standards.

## Mark Your Calendars!

- First Day for Students: Sept. 4th
- Back to School Night: LDW Sept 15th
- Back to School Night: AMS Sept 16th -4th & 5th grade
- Sept 17th—6th, 7th, 8th grade

## Alexandria Township Schools

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We're on the Web!  
[www.alexandriaschools.org](http://www.alexandriaschools.org)

## New Faces, con't

**Mr. Galante, Physical Education, AMS.** Mr. Galante is a graduate of The College of New Jersey and holds a Bachelors Degree in Health and Exercise Science/Education. He has taught Health & PE at Robert Hunter Elementary School in Flemington and Allentown High School in Allentown, NJ. He enjoys teaching golf, playground games, weight training, cardiovascular exercise, field hockey, softball, football, basketball, and ultimate Frisbee.

**Mr. Klobusicky, District Technician.** Mr. Klobusicky brings over 20 years of experience as a Technical Support Specialist with AT&T and five years of experience as an Independent Consultant for a variety of corporations and school districts.

**Mr. Kowalczyk, Health & Physical Education teacher, AMS.** Mr. Kowalczyk is a graduate of Kean University and he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Health Education. His professional experience includes teaching at Clinton Township Middle School, Milltown Elementary School in Bridgewater and instructing and coaching Gymnastics at Shields Gymnastics in Flemington.

**Mr. McGrath, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher.** Mr. McGrath is a

graduate of The College of New Jersey and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary Education. His professional experience includes student teaching in Ruamrudee International School in Bangkok, Thailand where he taught classes in Asian studies and Modern World History to a diverse student body.

**Ms. Meyer, 6th/7th grade Special Education Teacher, AMS.** Ms. Meyer holds a Masters of Special Education from New Jersey City University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Her diverse educational experience includes working with toddlers through teenagers in a variety of settings. Ms. Meyer filled a 4th grade maternity position last year where she worked collaboratively with the fourth grade team.

**Mrs. O'Neal, Part-Time Guidance Counselor, LDW.** Mrs. O'Neal holds a Master of Arts Degree in Student Personnel Services and a Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education. She has 9 years of experience working with students and will work with Mrs. Stoskus to implement a school wide program aimed at building positive social relationships while reducing bullying at LDW.

**Mrs. Sheneman, Part-Time Music**

## Alexandria Schools GO GREEN!

In an effort to become more efficient and environmentally friendly the district is moving towards a paperless environment. The following documents will now be posted on our website:

- school calendar (by Sept 4th)
- parent handbook
- other school documents

A limited number of hard copies will be available in the school offices for those that do not have computer access.

**Teacher, LDW.** Mrs. Sheneman is the piano teacher and the sole proprietor of Sheneman Piano Studio in Flemington, NJ. She has experience as a music teacher and choral director at J.P. Case Middle School in Flemington and as a professional accompanist to a variety of choirs over the past 20 years.

**Mrs. Petrie, 4th grade teacher.** Mrs. Petrie has a B.S. in Elementary Education from East Stroudsburg University. She has three years experience teaching 4th grade in Bernards Township where she utilized a variety of instructional strategies such as flexible grouping, cooperative learning and integrating technology.

**Mrs. Crawford, secretary AMS.** Mrs. Crawford was an instructional aide in the 8th grade last year at AMS. Her kindness and patience when dealing with middle schoolers has made the transition to the main office an easy one.

**Sharon Lightner, instructional aide LDW**

Sharon will be an instructional aide in Mrs. Beck's class and we look forward to the return of "Lester" on LDW live.

## Edline Improves Communication

Edline, our parent communication portal will now be available for LDW parents.

Here's what you can look forward to:

- Individual Teacher webpages with Newsletters, Assignments & Calendar.
- Improved communication with your child's teacher
- District & School Event Calendar

Edline Activation Codes will be distributed at Back to School Night.

### NEW Features of Edline!

- *My File Locker*— allows students to upload school files to Edline and work on them at home.

(*My File Locker* is only available if the Student's Activation Code is activated.)

- Forms & Surveys through Edline (more



**Attend Back to School Night to get your Edline Activation Code! (LDW Parents)**

information to follow)

- PTA Webpage
- District, AMS, & LDW Calendar under "Contents" in addition to the District Calendar posted on our website

AMS- previously activated accounts will remain the same, just the child's classes will change.

## Check This Out!

*The next time you come in to pick up your child, be sure to check out ...*

- **Staff Spotlight Bulletin boards** at the entrance of each school. You'll see a picture of the teacher and learn a little about each teacher. A new team of teachers will be showcased each month.
- **In the News Bulletin Board** located at the entrance of the Ar-

**"A new team of teachers will be showcased each month."**

thur C. Pfefferle Wing containing highlights of press releases about school events.

- An **Information Station** (computer on a cart) will be set up at each

school to showcase pictures of special events & display important announcements. Parents can also use this computer to check their child's assignments on Edline.

## Familiar Faces in New Positions

### *Clelia Esposito, Literacy Coach*

In her new role, Mrs. Esposito will be working to identify students "at risk" for reading difficulties. She will then provide additional, individualized reading instruction to address the weakness identified and put students on a path to reading success.

### *Denise Fichner, Instructional Technology & Communications Specialist*

With the addition of a full time technician, Mrs. Fichner's new role will allow her to focus on assisting and coaching teachers K-8 in implementing technology into the classroom. As a Communications Specialist she will be responsible for ensuring positive and open communication exists between home, school & the community.

### *Joy Dominic, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction*

In addition to performing her duties as a member of the Child Study Team (LDTTC), Mrs. Dominic will be spearheading and supervising the district's curricular and instructional initiatives. Be sure to review her article on page 4, Curriculum Corner for more information on these initiatives.

## Where did they go?

Feeling a little confused when you arrive at LDW or AMS? Maybe it is because of these room changes:

At AMS,

- **4th grade** can be found in Rooms 6, 7, 8 & 9 (closest to the cafeteria next to the staff lounge)
- **5th & 6th grade** can be found in the Arthur C. Pfefferle Wing
- **Writing Lab** with Mrs. Staples will be held in Rm 11.

- Mrs. Carothers is now located in the main office at AMS
- The Child Study team is in the Central Office (on the **right** when entering the Arthur C. Pfefferle Wing)
- The Business Office is in the old Child Study Team office (to the **left** when entering the Arthur C. Pfefferle Wing)

At LDW:

- **Art** will be in Room 11 (formerly

Mrs. Drake's room)

- **Mrs. Beck's class** will be in room 116 (formerly the Pre-K class)
- **Preschool** with Mrs. Whitely & Mrs. Dewey will be in room 120 (formerly the Art Room).
- **Music** will be held in the library in the afternoons



## Curriculum Corner

*By Joy Dominic, LDTTC/Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction*

Welcome to the beginning of an exciting new school year! Throughout the year, I will keep you informed of the different aspects of curricular and instructional initiatives that are being done in the District.

One of the first things that we are introducing this year is the **Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)**. DIBELS is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through third grade. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. All students in grades one through three will be administered DIBELS three times per

year : Sept./Oct., Jan./Feb., and May/June. Students who are considered to be "at risk" for future reading difficulties will be eligible to receive additional reading instruction with the District Reading Specialist, who will work to specifically address the weakness identified.

DIBELS is directly linked to the Lester D. Wilson reading program, **Trophies**, and will indicate to the classroom teacher what specific skill the student should be working on, with regard to that program.

DIBELS was developed to measure recognized and empirically validated skills related to reading outcomes. Each measure has been thoroughly researched and demonstrated to be reliable and valid

indicators of early literacy development, as well as predictive of later reading proficiency. These measures will then aid in the early identification of students who are not progressing as expected. When used as recommended, the results can be used to evaluate individual student development as well as provide grade-level feedback toward validated instruction. The DIBELS measures were specifically designed to assess the Big Ideas of early literacy: **Phonological Awareness, Alphabetic Principle, Fluency with Connected Text, Vocabulary, and Comprehension**. The measures are linked to one another and have been found to be predictive of later reading proficiency.

Continued on the next page

# Alexandria Forms Partnership for Student Success

A volunteer group of parents and teachers met over the summer to begin *Alexandria Partnership for Student Success*, a research based model for creating a committee of educators, parents, community partners who work together to engage families and the community in productive ways.

The group reviewed current research on parent/teacher partnerships and discussed the 4 Key Practices of the Partnership:

- Key Practice #1: Parenting
- Key Practice #2: Communicating
- Key Practice #3: Volunteering
- Key Practice #4: Learning At Home

The Partnership will continue to meet during the year to develop an action plan to improve district practices in each of the Key Practices.



## Summer Projects

This summer we were able to complete school improvement projects that would only have increased in cost. These projects were possible through solid financial planning and cost saving initiatives on other projects.

- Driveway & Parking Lot Rehab Project**—paving at the middle school, repairs & resurfacing. Since the cost of petroleum, which is used to make asphalt, has been rising, waiting to complete this project will most likely cost more.

- Window Replacement at LDW**—the old windows in the nurse's office and two classrooms were the original double-hung, single pane windows. With the installation of the new, energy efficient heating system, energy efficient windows were also necessary. In addition, the new windows are safer and greatly reduce the noise from Rt. 513.

## Teachers, Continued from page 1

last year, will continue this year. Teachers from Kindergarten through 8th grade took part in Cooperative Learning Training facilitated by Dr. Jennings. This year, they will continue to utilize these strategies in their classrooms and meet regularly to share their experiences and refine their teaching methods.

## Curriculum Corner, continued

Combined, the measures form an assessment system of early literacy development that allows educators to readily and reliably determine student progress.

At a district level, we are embarking on the second year of our 5 Year Curriculum Cycle- All teachers within the district will continue to work with their

committees in collaboration with administration to rewrite the District curriculum. This process will involve using the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards as a guide and following the philosophy statements developed last year. Be sure to check our website for additional curriculum information (under Central Office drop down menu).



## Technology

The Technology department is excited to embark on year two of our three year district Technology Plan. The entire Technology Plan can be found on the Technology Page of our website (located under the Central Office Button).

Here are some exciting changes:

- Robert (Bob) Klobusicky is our new, full-time technician. See the article on page 2 for more information about him.



- Bob will be supporting all of the district's technology needs.
- Mrs. Fichner, Instructional Technology & Communications Specialist, will be assisting teachers in implementing technology into the classroom with the ultimate goal of improving student achievement through the use of technology.

- New computers in AMS Lab
- New Laptop cart at AMS
- Mobile Smartboard added at LDW
- 2 Mobile Smartboards added at AMS
- Equipped all classrooms at AMS with 2-3 student computers.
- Added an additional student computer in most LDW classrooms
- 4 additional Sound Systems at AMS
- 1 additional Sound System at LDW

## New to Our Website

New this year on our website: *Get to Know Your Administrators*. Here's where you can find these features:

*Dr. Jennings*—click on Central Office, Staff.

*Mrs. Kacedon*—click on the picture of LDW on our homepage.

*Mr. Pawlowski*—click on the picture of AMS on our homepage.

*Mrs. Bills*—click on Student Services, Special Education.

*Mrs. Dominic*—click on Central Office, Curriculum.

We are dedicated to providing up to date, easy to find information on our website. If you have questions, comments or suggestions on how we can improve our website please contact

Denise Fichner, Technology & Communi-

cations Specialist at (908) 996-6811 ext 247 or email

fichner@alexandriaschools.org.

"In 2003, Mrs. Dominic became a member of the Child Study Team as the Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant, which has allowed her the opportunity to interact with students at every grade level, recognize the expertise and compassion of the teachers who help our students reach new goals every day, and form relationships with parents."

## Superintendent Chats

Mark your calendar for the following Superintendent Chats: The format will be a 20-30 minute presentation with Q&A followed by an open question and answer session with all of the school administrators. Each chat will occur in the BOE conference room. The presentations will be placed on the website for those that can't attend.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
9/18	10:00 – 11:00	Presentation on G&T Program/Open Discussion
10/17	10:00 – 11:00	Basic Skills Program/Open Discussion
11/21	10:00 – 11:00	Bullying Prevention/Open Discussion
12/18	10:00 - 11:00	Technology in the School District/Open Discussion
1/15	10:00 – 11:00	Middle School Program/Open Discussion
2/19	10:00 – 11:00	Special Education Program/Open Discussion
3/19	10:00 – 11:00	Elementary School Program/Open Discussion
5/21	10:00 – 11:00	Role of the Board & Superintendent/Open Discussion
6/18	10:00 – 11:00	Year in Review/Open Discussion