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TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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Project-Based Learning Comes to THS Teachers urged to use more PBL activities in classes

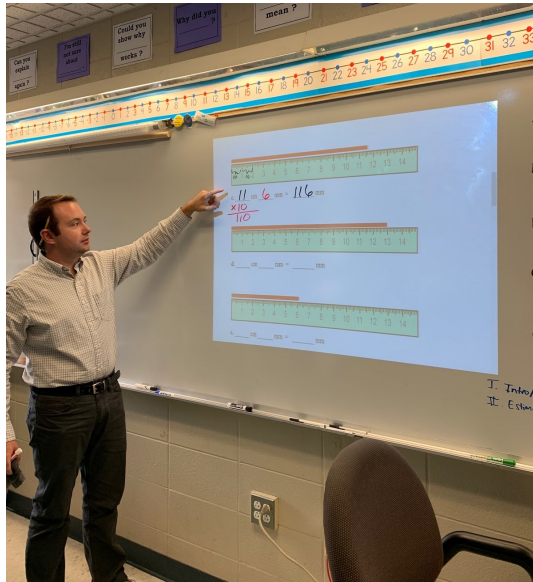
By Cam Jolivet
Staff Writer

Students going to survey the marsh, students making their own personal house online, students doing their taxes in consumer math. These are all examples of PBL or "project based learning."

"A lot of the learning is directed by student interest without a preset outcome. One of the big differences between doing project work and doing project based learning work is that there is not a preset outcome and the learning takes place through the base of the course of the project," said Patrick Kelley, "It's not what you would typically envision where you learn a topic and then produce a project as your product of learning at the end."

Mr. Kelley is a new face at Triton High School, and he has brought new ideas for the school. He is one of the main activists pushing for more PBL in the school system. PBL is the idea to replace standardized testing with more projects to increase students problem solving skills.

One person who agrees with Kelley about project based learning is Thomas Horsley, environmental and marine biology



Math teacher Mr. Matt Haley demonstrates PBL in class (Jolivet photo).

teacher. Horsley's aim is to give students the opportunity to put classroom content in a real-world and meaningful way. "I want you all to experience Environmental See **PROJECT** on page 2

Kindergarten's Newest Mister PGS hits the 'jackpot' with Mr. Paul White

By Sophia Mailhoit
Staff Writer

Kind, dedicated, passionate, hard working, energetic, compassionate, and positive: these are just a few of the words new kindergarten teacher Paul White's colleagues have used to describe him.

"Pine Grove hit the jackpot when we hired him," said Nicole LaPerriere, the vice principal of Pine Grove.

Many first graders don't know what they want to be when they grow up, but for White, this was not the case.

"When I was in first grade I had a teacher who set me on this path, showing me how exciting learning can be," said White.

In junior high and high school, White worked at summer camps with 5- to 7-year-olds. He would then go on to study teaching at the University of Maine, Farmington. After graduating, he taught in Maine for 23 years before becoming the only male kindergarten teacher at Pine Grove Elementary.

In the United States there are about 700,000 preschool and kindergarten teachers. Of those teachers, only 2.3 percent of them are male, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some may think that there is a stigma surrounding male teachers in a kindergarten classroom. White, however, has found the opposite.

"I've had numerous supportive families who are excited to have their children in my classroom," said White. "For some students, I have been the positive male role model they've needed as they are coming from a single-parent household."

As the only male kindergarten teacher at Pine Grove, White's position brought about a change in the school that can really benefit students in the community.

"I think it's unusual to have a male kindergarten teacher and I think it's great for our school," said Melissa Gagnon, a kinder-



Kindergarten teacher Mr. Paul White stands in his new Pine Grove classroom (Mailhoit photo).

garten teacher at Pine Grove. "I think that having different role models is a great idea."

White's passion for teaching the newest generation is evident simply by the smile on his face when he talks about his career.

"I feel like (at) that age they are still at an early age of learning where everything is exciting and everything is brand new to them," said White. "I love being able to see that excitement in their eyes or just have an opportunity to teach them something new."

The people around White have come to know him as someone who can really connect with his students, which when talking about kindergarteners can be something that is rather difficult.

"I remember going in there and he was reading a story, usually I walk in and they notice me and some of them make eye contact. Not when he's reading a story. The kids are just pinned on him," said LaPerriere.

For his students he has one piece of advice that he wants them to take all the way to graduation.

"The biggest piece in thinking about education is to know that at times it's going to be hard work, and not to give up," said White. "My former principal before I came here used to say 'Yes school is supposed to be fun, but at times school's not going to be fun.'"

Renovated Pine Grove Reopens



The new front of Pine Grove Elementary School shines during a recent visit by the *Triton Voice* (Photo by MarkAnthony Glickman).

By MarkAnthony Glickman & Kyle Noonan
Staff Writers

As the sun rises, the light shines off the new chrome sign "Pine Grove School" at the front entrance of the building. The sun bursts through the glass wall, lighting up the entrance of the main hallway. The light shows a new and bright beginning for Pine Grove Elementary School.

"The school is very open and uplifting with all the sunlight the building lets in," said Principal Christine Kneeland.

PGS has been going through a remodeling since April of 2018 and has been finishing up in October of 2019. The school has had so many changes that it looks brand new.

The process for PGS to get remodeled has been long and tedious with the project breaking ground in the spring of 2018. The project was broken up into phases where the building was remodeled section by section, so classes could still be in session. One of the struggles was having to relocate classrooms constantly throughout the remodeling.

"Just keep your eye on the prize," was what Principal Kneeland would tell the staff throughout the renovations.

Some of the biggest renovations to the school were to the gym, library, and cafeteria. The gym has brand new flooring, basketball hoops, and a fantastic viking logo in the center of the court. The library has brand new furniture and



The new gymnasium floor in the school (Photo by MarkAnthony Glickman).

three flat screen TVs, one of which is interactive and functions like a Smart-board. The cafeteria has the best kitchen in the district now with an all new setup and equipment. Included in the cafeteria, visitors will find a new theater stage.

"Every classroom I walked into had new technology," said Triton senior and former Pine Grove student Jack Niska. All over Pine Grove there is new technology. There are multiple flat screens located throughout the building to help faculty and students learn new material. Each grade has a common area with an interactive flat screen TV and carts filled with Chromebooks for the kids to use for learning.

The new technology also gives the teachers new ways to have an interactive classroom and get all the students involved in the curriculum. "The students having access to new computers makes it a much easier time getting work done online with all the access they have," said Head of Library Media Julie Stafford.

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Children Have Challenging Behavior, Lorraine Miles Fixes It

New behavior analyst at Triton helps others understand challenging behavior in the classroom

By Nathaniel Howard
Staff Writer

If you step into the Guidance offices of Triton Middle School, you will be greeted with an overwhelming amount of laughs and smiles from the different staff members. One of those smiles belongs to Lorraine Miles.

Ms. Miles is the new behavior analyst at Triton Middle School and she says it has been “all good things.” since she has arrived a Triton.

Miles just started working at Triton this year, but before that she taught in a daycare for preschool, and was also a behavior specialist in Topsfield. She then taught a class in Topsfield for students with special needs. After that, Miles became a behavior analyst, and currently works at Salisbury Elementary School, Pine Grove School and Triton Middle. Miles works in dealing with inappropriate behavior that may disturb the classroom setting.

“I help students and school teams understand challenging behavior and how to interact with challenging behaviors,” said Miles. Miles helps keep the classroom running smoothly and efficiently.

Miles wanted to become a behavior analyst so she could support others,

“I wanted to be able to have those answers and be able to help support students, and teachers, and families on what to do when you have those really tough behaviors,” said Miles with a smile.

Teachers and staff who work with students often have a rough transition working at a new school, but Miles’ transition has been a



New TMS occupational therapist, Lorraine Miles (Howard photo).

good experience so far. “It’s a great place to work: awesome kids, awesome teachers, great administrators. I feel very lucky,” said Miles.

Miles’ teacher mentor, Ms. Curtis, said that she thinks Triton does a wonderful job of helping recent teachers transition into the new environment.

Miles said that the only real challenges she has had so far while working at Triton are the typical obstacles that any job contains. These include getting to know everybody and how things work.

Miles is a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analysts) , a teacher who is an essential part of the education system and help the classroom run more smoothly.

“There is no doubt in my professional opinion our schools need support with BCBA’s,” said Evaluation Team Chairperson Leonora Swerling. “They are educated in behavior analysis and are able to support teachers with supporting their students who may be exhibiting behaviors, which are disruptive to the class and themselves.”

To have successful teachers in a school, they must be supported by the school itself. At the same time, the teacher must also be responsible and want to be a valuable mentor to the student..

“I think that Ms. Miles is very approachable, she is also very flexible, so she is very willing to meet with different teachers about different needs. She is willing to help out in a lot of ways,” said Ms. Curtis. Curtis also describes Miles as collaborative and very patient.

When talking about her work, Miles said that, “The students really benefit.”

‘SES Feels Like Home’

New Occupational Therapist, Ms. Kaitlyn Tilton

By Chloe Chaimovich & Cam Dacy
Staff Writers

After traveling around the country pursuing different aspects of her profession as an occupational therapist, Kaitlyn Tilton says, “SES feels like home.”

Beginning her career in California, Tilton has worked her way across the country doing a variety of jobs. When she was about to leave for a job in Alaska, recently, a family emergency brought her back to her roots on the East Coast. When she returned to Massachusetts, she spoke with teacher Mrs. Barbara Oswald coincidentally while getting her nails done. Oswald said there was a job at Salisbury Elementary that she might be good at.

“Barbara told me I should apply for the job, so I did, and here I am!” said Tilton. On her rollercoaster of a career, Tilton has worked in just about every aspect of occupational therapy and found herself to most enjoy working with kids.

“I spent 12 years in the acute medical field in big hospitals in Boston,” said Tilton, “then I traveled around the country for eight years working in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, or people’s homes, and then spent the last four years focusing on pediatric care, acute care, working in homes, and also got to work with premature babies.”

Tilton’s job as an occupational therapist is to make sure those with a special leaning plan have the services they need in order to help them flourish in the classroom. Whether it be exercises to improve fine motor skills, hand eye coordination, basic tasks, behavioral skills, the list goes on and on. She helps adjust those with disabilities, physically, or mentally, so they can thrive like their peers in class.



Ms. Kaitlyn Tilton stands outside her OT room at SES (Chaimovich/Dacy photo).

“I’ve loved it. It’s a profession that’s allowed me to do what I want with myself and now I have a family and it’s allowing me to have a family,” Tilton said.

Tilton’s caring approach with the kids and enthusiastic personality is one of the main reasons she was hired for this job and is such a great fit. SES Principal James Montanari and Tilton’s mentor Mrs. Angela Curtis both made a point to comment on this when we asked them about Tilton.

“Ms. Tilton is upbeat and positive with her students, open to suggestions, flexible with schedule changes or issues and has made herself available to collaborate with other staff,” Curtis said.

Ms. Tilton looks at each student individually and uses different approaches with them all depending on their personal preferences and what they need in order to make their school experience the best it can possibly be. “Based on her interviews, I felt Ms. Tilton would always do what is right for the student. She is child centered,” Montanari said.

‘I Have Found My Place’

New School Nurse, Ms. Sarah Frizzi

By Julia Casaletto & Heidi Ernst
Staff Writers

After working at multiple different hospitals and starting a family, Ms. Sarah Frizzi knew that when the opportunity at SES arrived to become a school nurse, it was meant to be.

“I have found my place,” said Frizzi.

Frizzi began her career at Salem State to study Nursing after high school. She has been a nurse ever since. At the start of her career she always knew she wanted to become a school nurse one day.

Stepping foot into Frizzi’s office one can immediately tell she works to make the room a comfortable, inviting space for children in need. The walls are filled with bright colors, posters and encouraging quotes. Frizzi expresses that she wants to acclimate to her new working environment to help fulfill the student’s and the schools needs. Although she is excited to be working at a school, it is a big adjustment from working in a hospital. School nursing is a very different type of nursing that Frizzi is still adapting to. Her main goal for this year is to familiarize herself with this new career and to care for all the students to the best of her ability. So far Frizzi has had a great experience at SES. Frizzi may be nervous at the start of her new career but that hasn’t stopped her from making a great impression on SES faculty members.

“It is very warm and welcoming,” recalls, Frizzi.

Along with working at SES Frizzi also works at Anna Jaques and York Maine hospital. She has experience working with not only children but all different ages. She has worked in pediatrics, “special care nursery,” the ICU, and with adults and the elderly. Frizzi expresses that she likes to stay busy and work in many different environments, with various patients. Before becoming a school nurse she wanted to make sure she was obtaining a significant amount of experience in many fields.

“I get to do a little bit of everything, so

it fulfills me in all the ways,” said Frizzi.

School nursing is vastly different

from working at an average hospital. Although many nurses are able to get to know their patients fairly well, school nurses get to know the student’s personal lives if they are struggling at home.

“School health professionals juggle a complex array of medical and social issues, seeing thousands of students, and often moving from school to school throughout the district,” according to the National Education Association. School nurses not only work with children they also have to work with other faculty members and parents to inform them their child needs medical care or a doctors appointment.

“School nursing is way more than band-aids and ice packs,” according to the *Daily Nurse*.

After working in pediatrics Frizzi knew that she wanted to spend her life working with children. Frizzi says that being a school nurse isn’t just about healing physical wounds, but emotional ones as well.

Frizzi also plays an essential role in addressing behavioral health for students struggling mentally. Students will come to her if they are struggling to manage stress or are just nervous for an upcoming test. Frizzi explains that the best way to assist them is to apprehend what’s going on and to walk them through some exercises. She adds that a great way to make them comfortable is to talk to them, and have a conversation with them about how things are going in school, and how they’re doing overall.

“I like the detective work that’s involved with this,” said Frizzi.

Frizzi works well with her other faculty members at SES and leaves a good impression on her co-workers.

“She’s been proactive and is on top of things daily. She’s kind, patient, thorough, and a great asset to the SES community,” said kindergarten teacher, Jane Keeler.



New SES school nurse, Sarah Frizzi (Frizzi photo).

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Science and Marine Biology as if you were working in those fields. As many of you are considering pursuing those kinds of careers, I believe its critical for you to leave my classroom with the skills you'll need to be successful within that context. Furthermore, it's fun and engaging!” said Horsley.

The goal of most teachers is to prepare students for the field of learning and work that they will be going into. Like Horsley, Matt Haley, high school math teacher, is a strong believer in PBL in the school system. Although Haley is confident about PBL, he said that he doesn't think it should replace standardized testing.

“I would not switch completely, partly because note-taking and practice are academic skills that allow students to construct knowledge. I like how PBL emphasizes real-world connections and applications, and so even if I don't switch to PBL, I will continue to connect math to real-world problems,” said Haley.

PBL dates back all the way to the early 1900’s when philosopher, psychologist and educational reformer, John Dewey supported the idea of “learning by doing.”. Statistics show that PBL improves a student’s likeliness to enroll into college and improves problem solving skills. A new study by the University of Texas says that PBL students are “significantly more likely to enroll in 2-year institutions of higher education and just as likely to enroll in 4-year and private institutions in Texas as the more affluent school.”

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The kids favorite addition has to be the new playground with monkey bars, slides, and a climbing rope pyramid. The best part of the playground for both the kids and teachers is the ground that surrounds it. It's a thick rubber floor that is very soft and bouncy, so if a kid were to fall, no serious injury would occur.

The overall cost of the renovations was approximately \$39 million. The Massachusetts School Building Authority paid half of the cost and the Rowley taxpayers paid the other half. The renovation to the Pine Grove School was a major success for the district and is now the most modern and innovative schools in the district. This changes the image of Pine Grove from a run-down elementary school to one that's on the cutting edge.