



RITON VOICE



Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

October 11, 2024

MEET THE TEACHERS

New Counselors, Educators, Instructional Aides, and Principals Join Triton District

In the Footsteps of a *Champy-on*

By Xander Averill
Staff Writer

In the cramped corner office of the guidance department suite, color and comfort streak the walls and threaten to burst from the small confines. Walls are adorned with posters of pets, artistic stills of Maine, and a plethora of encouraging imagery. In this small corner, Triton's newest hire, Mr. Sean Godbout, makes a safe haven for students.

"[Godbout] has quickly weaved himself into the fabric of the Triton community," said predecessor and Godbout's mentor, Dr. Erik Champy.

Mr. Godbout is Triton's newest guidance counselor and he, while sharing similarities with the beloved Dr. Champy is not the same person. Getting to know the new counselor is key to a connection with him and success in the future. And there are plenty of interesting facts surrounding the faculty member — a nature enthusiast, music lover, and pet owner.

But the highlight of his entry? This is not Godbout's first time walking Triton's halls.

Transferring into Triton amidst freshman year, Godbout quickly melted into the melting pot of the community in our high school. He

found his place specifically within the music program, even being able to form a band and play in the auditorium.

Godbout recounts a moment as a student here: when the heroin epidemic was getting bad in our area - Godbout got together with a group of students and the anatomy teacher and decided to put on a concert and raise money for those struggling with substance abuse and their treatment.

"That was probably one of my proudest moments as a high school student, being part of that," said Godbout. "I was glad to be part of a community that was so willing to help others."

See [GODBOUT](#) on page 2



Triton's newest hire grins outside the guidance office (Courtesy of Godbout)

You Gotta Want It

Colbert Hopes to be Finest IA

By Adam White & Beckham Zizza
Staff Writers

Mr. Zach Colbert is patrolling the classroom when he sees a student in a gloomy mood. His intuition tells him to say something, so he does.

He may be new, but when Colbert joined Triton he knew that one quality stood above the rest when it comes to being a part of a high school staff.

"You have to be dedicated," he said.



Mr. Zach Colbert, Triton's newest IA (Zizza Photo)

Graduating from Pentucket High, Colbert earned his degree in journalism during his college career at the University of Maine. The inspiration to pursue a career in the subject came out of his respect for one of his own writing teachers.

"I had a really amazing journalism teacher as a senior," said Colbert.

He further explained that these connections were something he cherished in and out of the classroom, and is a feeling he aspires to replicate among students here at Triton. The way he builds these connections is through his position as instructional assistant.

He likes the position as it offers more freedom than a teacher and allows him to specialize in what he enjoys most: building connections with the kids and having an impact on their days. Whether it be offering help on an assignment or giving encouragement through words, Colbert wants to be to these students what his teachers also were to him. With such a passionate attitude, his

See [COLBERT](#) on page 2

Business to the Max

New Teacher Joins Department

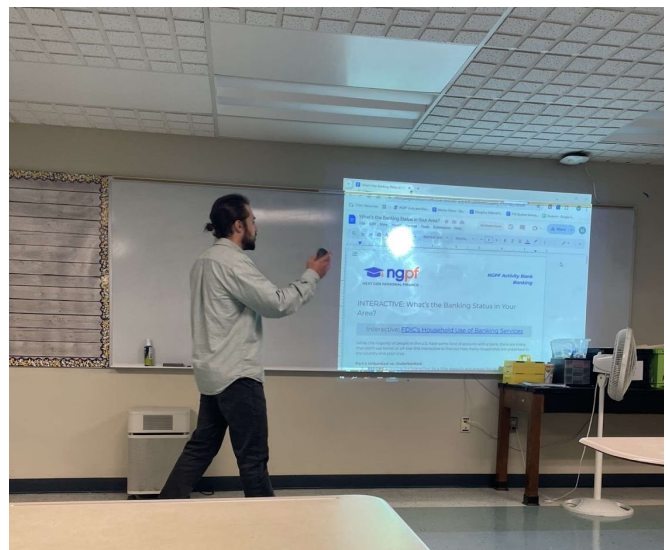
By Gennes Packer & Cassidy Beebe
Staff Writers

Standing in front of a room full of new faces, Mr. Maxwell Girouard has begun his teaching career at Triton High School.

This 22-year-old from Georgetown was eager to be a part of the Triton family.

Girouard grew up nearby and attended Georgetown High School. He has always had a passion to help out the people around him, so he attended the University of Vermont for education and enjoyed tutoring his peers. He loves to teach and create a group of life-long learners.

"I try to create a classroom that's very collaborative and has a feeling of community," said Girouard. "Students are helping each other work."



Mr. Girouard teaching financial literacy (Beebe Photo)

After applying for teaching jobs throughout the state, Girouard jumped at the opportunity to begin working at Triton after hearing there was an opening in the business department. He now teaches Math for Personal Finance, Financial Literacy, and economics.

He had some doubts about what his first day would entail: Girouard was thinking the students might not like him or even "burn the classroom down," he said, but he had some helpful guidance along the way.

Mr. Matthew Haley was assigned as Girouard's

See [GIROUARD](#) on page 2

New Assistant Principal, New Responsibilities

Marino Helps Lead at NES

By Anthony Navaroli & Jackson Mace
Staff Writers

At Newbury Elementary School, the new Assistant Principal (AP), Tracey Marino begins her day by greeting incoming students at the bus stop. This daily routine not only highlights her dedication but also sets the tone for her leadership style, which emphasizes collaboration and connection with the students. With a background in teaching and tenure that began during the COVID-19 pandemic, this AP has seamlessly transitioned into a leadership role defined by collaboration, adaptability, and a deep connection with students.

NES contains grades 1st through 6th with nearly four hundred students attend-

ing the school. NES is the smallest school within the Triton district, filled to the brim with teachers and principals creating a strong learning environment. NES focuses on ensuring students are actively engaged throughout the day and influences the students to have fun while learning.

"Triton is a district that I have wanted to go into for a while," said Marino. "I live in Newburyport, and after working in Haverhill and Chelsea, I was hoping for something closer to home and also in the district I really liked."

Her journey to Newbury Elementary School has been a rewarding experience. After working in diverse environments, Marino's approach has been shaped by the unique challenges and strengths of each school, allowing her to bring a fresh perspective to NES. Her past includes notable roles such as the "former reading specialist [for Chelsea Public Schools]."

Said Beth Yando - Principal at NES, and
See [MARINO](#) on page 2



New Assistant Principal Mrs. Tracey Marino (in back) visits students in Mrs. Dolphin's 1st-grade class (Mace photo).

Triton Regional School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, or any other factor as defined and required by state and federal laws.

Finally Fulfilled

Franco-Hale finds her Place at Salisbury Elementary School

By Devyn Alantzas & Sophia Stanley
Staff Writers

Maria Franco-Hale didn't feel she was where she was meant to be.

After beginning her career as a psychology major focusing specifically on non-verbal communication, she had worked nearly 20 years in the field of developmental disabilities and mental health. First working in the clinical field, she later took a job in human resources at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Even though she got to dress nice and made good money, she still wasn't fulfilled.

"Something was missing for me," said Franco-Hale. "I was making a lot of money and got to wear pretty clothes and it was really easy, and no one called me at three in the morning, but something just I felt like there's something that I need more than this."

Franco-Hale is now an instructional aide at Salisbury Elementary School in a pre-kindergarten classroom.

Not only is she loving it, her mentor, Mrs. Kerry Lebreck had nothing but great things to say about her.

"It's been fabulous," Lebreck said. "It's nice to have someone who was a teacher. I mean it's like the optimal circumstances, someone who was a teacher helping out a teacher in their classroom. It's been amazing. She's so helpful, so knowledgeable, and I'm just really thankful that she's here."

When work settles down and there's free time to be spent, Franco-Hale enjoys singing in an adult choir, power walking, and listening to music. On top of these, she loves to laugh.

Hale started her journey at Framingham State University, attaining her undergraduate degree and then moving to Adelphi University for graduate school. There she majored in psychology and her specialty was non-verbal communication. In graduate school, her focus was on children and adolescents.

"That was kind of my jam; being able to read what you would call micro behaviors in people," she said.

That's when she worked in developmental disabilities and mental health. Then she went on to work at MIT in human resources, where she also met her husband.

Ending her time at MIT she felt like something was missing and she needed more from her job. She talked with a career counselor to explore what else she could do for jobs. After working with a counselor and taking time to evaluate her work, she decided to step down from her job at MIT and do what she had always wanted to do; work in a classroom. She worked in a preschool for many years as a head teacher. She loved working in the classroom and she was always coming home happy.

Today, Lebreck and Hale have been working in the class together for about three-and-a-half weeks, and they had said it has been very smooth sailing despite the typical chaos of the first few weeks of school. For Hale specifically, she expressed how easy it has been to adjust to the schedule because she is coming from a far more hectic schedule as she is transitioning into an IA.

Franco-Hale had already been lucky enough to have a connection with Lebreck so working in the classroom has only made that stronger. But she also has been able to build connections with the students whom she has enjoyed spending her time with so far while working at SES.

"I am really really happy I am in this classroom," Franco-Hale said.

The new principal of Salisbury Elementary shared some more insight with us.

"Things are off to a positive start," Mr. Michael As-tuccio said. "Maria has been partnering with Kerry Lebreck, the classroom teacher, to build relationships and set routines with our youngest learners, and each time I visit the classroom, Maria, Kerry, and the students are busily engaged in exciting activities like art, foundational math and literacy skills, and play, which is critical for our preschoolers' development."



Mrs. Maria Franco-Hale, an IA in pre-k at SES (Alantzas Photo).

Fan Favorite

Osgood Brings Creativity to the Classroom

By Sadie Deveau & Nancy Arias
Staff Writers

Being in a classroom again after four years can be a hard transition, but Ms. Olivia Osgood, a new teacher at Triton High School seems to be getting a pretty good hang of this as time flies through this new school year.

Even though this is Osgood's first year here at Triton, she says she has already had an excellent experience so far. Feeling welcomed to the school and saying the community as well as the students are so kind and making her feel at home again.

"It feels like I've been here for a while," she said.

Osgood attended the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and earned her bachelor's degree in social justice education as well as transferring to the University of Sevilla in Spain when completing her bachelor's degree. She was a Spanish teacher at Kipp Academy in Brooklyn, New York, and she was also a Dean at Lynn Collegiate from 2020-2024 before coming to Triton with her wish to teach again in her own classroom as she missed it so.

As a dean, she would give out the detentions, suspensions and any other disciplinary actions regarding students, she did this for four years. Knowing how it was to be a teacher, she wanted to get back in the classroom and teach again, so she came to the idea of transferring to Triton, which gave her the opportunity to be in a classroom of her own again that was closer to home.

Osgood found that the teaching style that worked best and reached the students was games and exposure to Spanish.

"Having fun and playing games is effective for learning but also exposing students to as much Spanish as possible," she said.

Other than being a teacher at Triton, she also does many interesting things in her free time, such as playing with her cat Esmerelda, which she had stated she's allergic to but loves very much, creating something crafty, always cooking something delicious, and singing with her friends and family. Osgood said they mostly sing impromptu and had performed at "Take Back the Night" [an annual event that spreads awareness of sexual violence, relationship violence, and other forms of interpersonal violence] in Lynn, Massachusetts, with her best friend they are also performing at their friends wedding together this month in England.

Kelly Duffy, an IA in Osgood's class discussed the teacher's strengths.

"Mrs. Osgood is knowledgeable in her field, has a fun style and is able to connect with the students," she said.

Mrs. Jessica Casassa, Osgood's mentor, agreed. "Ms. Osgood is doing great, she has a really nice demeanor with kids, so I can already tell they are building a great report together," said Casassa. "She is super friendly and outgoing, and I think the kids are actually drawn to that."

MARINO from page 1

the Assistant Principal for Haverhill Public Schools for over two years.

Now serving as AP, she is focused on building strong connections with both students and teachers to create a positive learning atmosphere.

"She is very knowledgeable and has been wonderful to work with," said Yando. "She has connected with the students and offers daily support to the teachers. She is out at recess each day and is learning about the students and building relationships. She has been supportive to the teachers and continues to learn about NES."

After her past districts, her move to Triton is both personally and professionally enriching for her. In this leadership role, she strives to create strong relationships with students, supporting teachers, and strengthening the school community as a whole. "She is a great team player and that has really benefited the staff at NES," said Elyse Earls - Assistant Principal at Pine Grove. Her dedication to creating a nurturing environment where students and staff can succeed makes them a part of NES's mission to encourage and inspire.

With prior experience, Mrs. Marino resonates with her staff, understanding how demanding their roles are. She strives to help lighten the load in any way possible.

"I want to find ways to make things easier for them so they can focus on their students," said Marino.

With only one month under the belt as the NES Assistant Principal, time will have to tell if she can follow through on her plan of creating a thriving community.



Ms. Olivia Osgood (Arias Photo)

GODBOUT from page 1

Described by his former guidance counselor and mentor, Dr. Champy, as "diligent" and a "scholar and gentleman," Godbout was an excellent student, heavily involved in each community he interacted with — especially the arts — challenging himself to step outside of his comfort zone and step up for his community.

After graduating from Triton in 2017, Godbout attended Salem State University, aiming to become a high school English teacher. However, halfway through his undergraduate degree, he began wondering if that was the right choice for him. Meeting with his advisor brought up the idea of being a guidance counselor, sparking something in him.

"It could be a great role because I can work in a school, but also make a difference [and] be a safe person for students," said Godbout.

Upon finishing his undergraduate degree and beginning his master's, Godbout began working at Triton in the middle school as an instructional assistant, then at Salisbury Elementary as a Supervisor of Students. It was last year that Godbout interned here, working under Dr. Champy as he finished up his master's degree, earning himself dual licensure to be both a social worker and a guidance counselor. This path has led him to where he is now, making a home in his corner of the guidance office.

For this year, Godbout is focusing on getting to know students and building relationships with them.

"I want all my students to feel like they can come to me with anything," said Godbout. He aims to get a feel for the needs of the school as a whole and establish himself in his role as a guidance counselor.

Did he feel pressure to be like Dr. Champy? Godbout disagreed that he felt any pressure to do so.

"Dr. Champy has such a presence and I know that nobody can fill his shoes..." said Godbout. "What's great about this community [is] that everybody knows 'Oh, Dr. Champy is Dr. Champy. He was excellent but now we have Mr. Godbout and he'll be great too, just different.'"

Outside of school, Mr. Godbout is all about music, from listening to it, to playing the drums, the guitar, singing and even writing his own songs.

"Music is a big part of my identity," said Godbout. Like plenty of New Englanders, Godbout also enjoys the natural world, specifically citing camping and boating as some of his favorite hobbies.

"If I'm not working at school you'll find me playing music somewhere or up north in the woods," said Godbout.

Mr. Godbout is looking forward to this school year, optimistic about what he can do — whether it's meeting with students on his caseload or running GSA alongside Ms. Christian. "I can see him accomplishing all that he sets out to," said Ms. Christian, current mentor of Godbout.

"I'm so happy about this decision, truly," said Dr. Champy. "It could bring tears to my eyes, how happy I am and how much faith I have in Sean Godbout."

COLBERT from page 1

integration into the Triton family came with praise, as his co-workers noted his perceptiveness, willingness to learn, and adaptability.

Mrs. Trina Knowles is a special education teacher and a mentor figure to Colbert.

"Zach has a great attitude! He's flexible and always eager to help anyone who needs it," said Knowles.

Knowles had nothing but good things to say about Colbert's qualities.

"He was very attentive as well, learning about his job responsibilities and watching teacher-student interactions," said Knowles.

Zach Colbert is the son of English teacher and track and cross-country coach, Mr. Joe Colbert. In the case of the Colberts, integration and work together couldn't have worked smoother.

"I have always thought that Zach should be working with kids, so I encouraged him to apply and he did. The rest of it was all him," said Joseph Colbert.

Although they work in the same building and carpool each morning, the father and son don't see all that much of each other throughout the day. This comes as a product of the two having differing roles and responsibilities throughout the day. Even though he can't see what he's up to, Joseph Colbert has confidence in his son's capabilities.

"Zach's best quality as a worker is that he cares and wants to do a good job," said Colbert.

GIOURARD from page 1

mentor this school year. Haley has helped Girouard get adapted to Triton and make his switch a bit easier.

"I really enjoy showing our new hires what's great about Triton and trying to connect them with students and teachers," said Haley.

Since he has been a mentor for three years, Haley takes his job very seriously and is always around to answer questions. He believes that Girouard is young and energetic, and has continued to impress him as the year moves forward.

Students in the school view him as a very passionate teacher. Senior Alex Sabino takes personal finance taught by Girouard and he has been able to have an enjoyable class filled with easy -lowing conversations.

Girouard has hopes to stay at Triton and continue his teachings in personal finance and financial literacy. He also wants to gain his masters in education, along with coaching baseball at the High School level at Triton or Georgetown.

"I have really enjoyed teaching these classes and hope to continue to develop the curriculum for them," he said.