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STAFF

## South COLONIE Fall 2009

NEWSLETTER



▶ *South Colonie Superintendent Jonathan Buhner (right) and Board of Education President Brian Casey present Colonie Central High School English teacher, Emily White, with a certificate of tenure. White was one of 33 teachers, teaching assistants and other staff recognized at a special school board tenure reception in September. More on pages 2-3.*

## South Colonie Central Schools welcomes new district staff

- Trisha Apple ..... Saddlewood School Monitor
- Jason Bissonette ..... Lisha Kill Physical Education Teacher
- Patti Clark ..... Veeder School Monitor
- Kristen Daley ..... Lisha Kill Food Service Helper
- Christine Devine ..... Sand Creek Physical Education Teacher
- Colleen Dillon ..... Saddlewood Teaching Assistant
- Courtney DiNovo ..... Forest Park/OSL Teacher
- Samantha Gonyeau ..... Lisha Kill Teacher
- William Harvey ..... District Bus Driver
- Sharon Herald ..... District Office Account Clerk
- Lucia Ieraci ..... Shaker Road School Monitor
- Kristine Isaksen ..... Bus Garage Senior Keyboard Specialist
- Allison Jeffers ..... Veeder Keyboard Specialist
- Julie Jenne ..... Sand Creek Music Teacher
- Christopher Karle ..... Sand Creek English Teacher
- Christine Kiernan ..... Saddlewood Special Education Teacher
- Juliet King ..... High School Food Service Helper
- Gala Kmack ..... Roessleville Elementary Teacher
- Darcy Labine ..... Veeder School Monitor
- Diane Leva ..... Lisha Kill School Monitor
- David LoGiudice ..... High School Monitor
- Linda McConnelee ..... Roessleville Teacher
- Michele Mechlin ..... Roessleville Social Worker
- Nancy Melius ..... Sand Creek Food Service Helper
- Kristin Mesick ..... High School Guidance Counselor
- Lisa Meurs ..... Forest Park Pupil Services Senior Keyboard Specialist
- Lynne Miles ..... Saddlewood Teacher
- Lisa Nichols ..... Veeder School Monitor
- Judy Nicholson ..... High School Food Service Helper
- Steven O'Connor ..... High School Custodial Worker
- Diane Parower ..... High School Keyboard Specialist
- Mark Pennock ..... High School Teaching Assistant
- Anthony Priore ..... High School Monitor
- Lisa Quinn ..... High School Assistant Head Cook
- William Roemer ..... High School Physical Education Teacher
- Timothy Ryan ..... District Custodial Mechanic
- Deborah Sterge ..... High School Food Service Helper

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## The Energy Educator

### ▶ RELATING SUMMER SEMINARS TO REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

BY DISTRICT ENERGY MANAGER JAMES BROWN

I had an opportunity over the summer to participate in two professional development workshops — a weeklong institute on global warming and a four-day seminar on service learning.

Though the topics were quite different, the seminars were very much related. The global warming institute taught us about the need to reduce emissions

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# Congratulations tenured staff

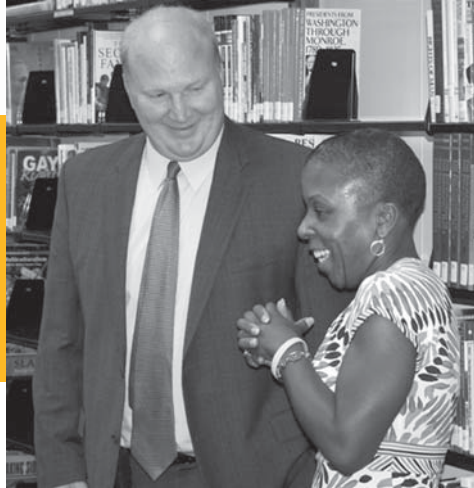
## ▶ 33 HONORED AT FALL RECEPTION

**T**hirty-three of the district's finest teachers, teaching assistants, counselors and librarians were honored by the South Colonie Board of Education this fall for their recent tenure appointments.

A reception was held at Colonie Central High School in September where Board President Brian Casey joined Superintendent Jonathan Buhner and other board members and administrators in presenting the honorees with certificates for this accomplishment. Featured on pages 2-3 are some photographs capturing the night. Congratulations to all!

- Michelle Angevine ..... Lisha Kill School Counselor
- Jamie Carr ..... Sand Creek Social Studies Teacher
- Michele Daby ..... Forest Park Teaching Assistant
- Elizabeth Dollard ..... Shaker Road Elementary Teacher
- Gianleo Duca ..... High School Social Studies Teacher
- Lauren Fetsko ..... Forest Park Elementary Teacher
- Joann Fields ..... Lisha Kill Reading Teacher
- Jessica Fiore ..... Sand Creek Teaching Assistant
- Katherine Greco ..... High School Industrial Arts Teacher
- Linda Gresens ..... Lisha Kill Teaching Assistant
- Lindsay Henner ..... High School Social Studies Teacher
- Leslie Horton ..... Sand Creek Special Education Teacher
- Juli Hutchins ..... High School English Teacher
- Jessica LaFex ..... Lisha Kill English Teacher
- Joan Lipscomb ..... Lisha Kill Special Education Teacher
- Karen Fleshman ..... Saddlewood Special Education Teacher
- Michael Lubbers ..... Forest Park Art Teacher
- Elaine Luizzi ..... Forest Park Library Media Specialist
- Nicholas Murphy ..... Sand Creek Teaching Assistant
- Maureen Musto ..... Lisha Kill Special Education Teacher
- Erin Nichols ..... High School Mathematics Teacher
- Christina Norris ..... Lisha Kill Art Teacher
- Eric Obermayer ..... Lisha Kill Social Studies Teacher
- Michelle Papa ..... High School Mathematics Teacher
- Carolyn Parisi ..... Roessleville Elementary Teacher
- Douglas Rosenbert ..... High School Mathematics Teacher
- Jennifer Satin ..... Shaker Road Special Education Teacher
- Joel Scism ..... High School Industrial Arts Teacher
- Lindsay Steenrod ..... Roessleville Elementary Teacher
- Erin Taylor ..... CALC Teaching Assistant
- James Vardaro ..... High School English Teacher
- Emily White ..... High School English Teacher
- Beth Wyman ..... Veeder Elementary Teacher





## *Tedisco new Roessleville Principal*

**M**arybeth Tedisco became new Principal of Roessleville Elementary School in September. She replaced Suzanne Moore who took on a new position in the district this school year as Supervisor of English Language Arts (ELA), Reading/Literacy and Social Studies.

Tedisco has worked at Roessleville for 16 years as a special education and elementary education teacher. She has also taken on several leadership roles at Roessleville over the years as Bully Prevention Coordinator, chair of the Character Education Committee, coordinator of the Response to Intervention program as well as serving as the district's Mentor Coordinator.

## *... welcoming new district staff*

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

- Dawn Thomas ..... Lisha Kill Food Service Helper
- Thomas Tuper ..... High School Custodial Worker
- James VanWormer ..... High School Science Teacher
- Kathleen Villa ..... High School Physical Education Teacher
- Susan Weiss ..... Veeder Teacher
- Bryan Zajesky ..... CALC Social Studies Teacher
- Margaret Zukowski ..... Shaker Road School Monitor



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO:**

1. TO TURN OFF ALL LIGHTS IN YOUR OFFICE/CLASSROOM WHEN THE ROOM IS UNOCCUPIED, EVEN IF YOU ARE LEAVING FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES.
2. USE 1/2 LIGHTING WHERE POSSIBLE.
3. TURN OFF COMPUTERS, MONITORS, SPEAKERS AND PRINTERS AT END OF EACH WORK DAY AND DURING LONGER PERIODS OF NON-USE.

## The Energy Educator

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

of greenhouse gases. Participants and speakers came from literally all over the world. At this institute, not surprisingly, we were encouraged (if not out right required) to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as we could.



In the service learning workshop we learned how to increase student achievement by getting them involved in solving problems in their community. One example would be to teach students about the problem of global warming, while asking them to personally take ownership and work on solutions to the problem.

One solution a student might choose is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging reducing, reusing, and /or recycling. This became very contagious for all of us. By the second day, several attendees expressed their concern about our group not doing enough to help the environment. Someone asked if we could have recyclable containers in the rooms for cans, bottles and paper. The initiatives did not stop there. Someone else asked that lights be turned off in areas that we were not using. Others asked that we, as a group, bring in our own coffee mugs so as not to fill the trash with the Styrofoam cups that were provided. Still others asked the host organization if we could have pitchers of water, so as to not use so many plastic water bottles.

### TAKING CHARGE AND IMPLEMENTING CHANGE

Though in no way related, the connection between the two conferences became obvious to me. In the institute about global warming, it was assumed that participants would reduce, reuse and recycle. At the community service seminar, there was no mention of it — yet the participants politely requested that it take place. Participants in this institute were demonstrating how to implement change by getting involved and being a role model for others.

In 2001, when we began our energy conservation program here in South Colonie, I cannot recall many workshops having recycling bins, let alone having participants demanding to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Our program was implemented not to protect the environment, but to divert dollars from our energy budget to our instructional budget. It has, and continues to achieve that goal, thanks to your efforts.

During the 2008-09 school year we reduced our consumption by more than 26 percent as compared to 2001, and avoided more than \$400,000. This is even more impressive considering how much more energy costs today than it did in 2001, and that we have increased the size of many of our buildings over the years.

Your actions have created an ethic in South Colonie that other districts have noticed, and are trying to emulate. It goes beyond the original intent of trying to save money for the district. Beyond the dollars saved, that energy reduction has also helped protect our environment.

Like the seminar participants, many of you have fostered “grass roots” efforts that have lead to various recycling programs, conserving landfill space and/or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some of these programs are also generating more money for our district. Whether you have been motivated by saving money, protecting the environment, or both, I appreciate your part in making our energy conservation program at South Colonie a successful one.

## Other News & Notes

### ▶ TSA PLANS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

South Colonie Central School District employees are eligible to participate in a Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) plan. If you are interested in participating or would like more information on what is available, please have your TSA plan agent contact Shirley Kelty at the District Office, 869-3576, X2455.

### ▶ NOVEMBER IS OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR DISTRICT HEALTH INSURANCE

November is Open Enrollment for health insurance ONLY for all eligible district employees. The district offers two health plans: Capital District Physicians' Health Plan and Blue Shield of Northeastern New York. Benefits become effective January 1, 2010.

Employees who do not enroll in a health insurance plan during the open enrollment period in November will have to wait until the next open enrollment period for health insurance beginning May 1, 2010. Please note that May 1 is also open enrollment for dental and prescription plans as well as health insurance.

For more information and information packets regarding these insurance plans, please contact the Insurance Department at the District Office, 869-3576, ext. 2455.