



Elementary Principal Lederman to Retire in June

After 36 years as an educator, Tamarac Elementary School Principal Karen Lederman has announced she will retire at the end of this school year.

“I have been a part of our district family for almost 12 years as principal, and will treasure the friendships and relationships I have developed for many years to come,” said



Ms. Lederman. “I will miss greeting students each morning as they arrive and watching them grow from kindergarten to grade 5 and beyond.”

“While we are saddened to lose such a veteran administrator and kind colleague, we wish Karen the very best in her retirement. She has been a great leader and is loved and respected by staff and students,” said Superintendent Angelina Maloney.

The district began the search for a new principal in January. The school’s parents and staff will have the opportunity to meet the prospective candidate as he/she visits with stakeholder groups including the PTSA.

“Our goal is to have a highly qualified principal selected and ready to begin the 2016-17 school year. We also plan to do an extensive transition period with Karen and the new principal,” said Dr. Maloney.

Ms. Lederman looks forward to spending time with her immediate family – her daughter, son-in-law and beautiful new granddaughter.

“This has been my home and my community for nearly 12 years. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your families and your community,” said Ms. Lederman.

Teacher Applies Research Experiences in the Classroom

Tamarac Middle School science teacher Rebecca Tennyson was honored in December for her participation in Questar III BOCES Summer Science Research Program. She spent the last two summers working with Dr. Laura Kramer and Dr. Alex Ciota at the Wadsworth Center researching mosquito transmission and mutations of the West Nile Virus.

“I wanted to experience what it was like to work in a lab, and to learn what current research is going on in our region,” said Tennyson. “I thought it would be good to “brush up” on lab skills, and safety protocols I practiced while in college- to better myself and my students.”

Tennyson applies her experiences to different topics her students are studying: cells, human anatomy, the immune system and global warming, which allows her students to discover and experience science instead of just delivering content to them.

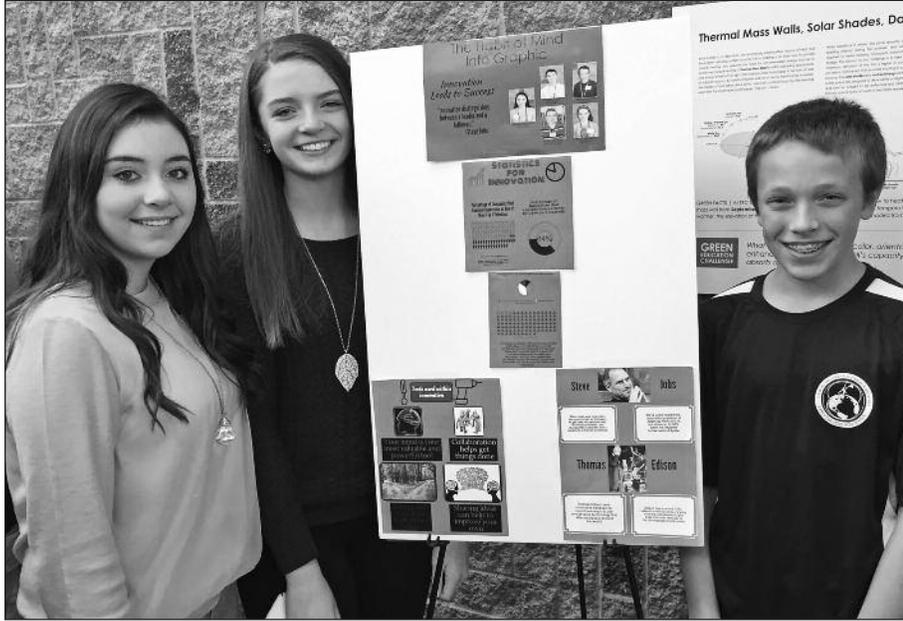
“I take a step back and let them ask questions and make mistakes. I have found that sometimes frustration can cause students to learn new things. I can lead them in the right direction, but they have to find out the rest of the way to get to the answer.”

Tennyson stated the relationships she made with the scientists she worked with are invaluable, and they will be

visiting her classroom for various projects this year. In addition, she was awarded a grant to purchase much needed supplies for her classroom which will allow her to facilitate an inquiry-based research project with her high school Biology class.



Students Present at Expo



Three 9th grade students, who are participating in the Clean Technologies and Sustainable Industries Early College High School program presented on the topic of, "Innovation, and the connection to success" at a Student Project Expo at the TEC-SMART campus in Malta. The students are (left to right): Isabella Realbuto, Katherine Champagne, and Nathaniel LaPlante.



Seventh grade student Elizabeth Gonzalez holding the cultural mask she made in Helen Findlay's art class.

Highlights of Student Accomplishments

Tamarac students have excelled in art, music, sports and giving back to their community.

- The National Junior Honor society organized a holiday service project for the entire 8th grade. Students purchased, wrapped and donated a slew of Christmas gifts to five local children in need.
- Tamarac High School student Bobby Simmons was named Wasaren League First Team All Star for golf.
- The girls' cross country, soccer, volleyball and boys soccer and football team were all named as Scholar Athlete Teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. To receive the honor, each team had to earn a GPA of 90% or better for the quarter.
- The boys' varsity soccer team raised \$1,105 for the College American Fund set up in support of the Gliosco Family.
- The sixth grade running club participated in a 5k Jingle Bell run.
- Fourth grade students attended GE Global Research's 26th Annual Science Day. Students observed demonstrations, went on a tour, received t-shirts, safety glasses and slime to take home.
- Students, staff and the Brunswick community knitted hats and mittens that they donated to St. Joseph's House in Troy and various organizations.
- Faculty, staff and students at Tamarac Secondary School put down their razors for No Shave November in support of cancer awareness. Students and staff contributed \$895 to be donated to various cancer charities including: American Cancer Society, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Fight Colorectal Cancer.
- Ninth grade student Shannon Walsh placed 9th at the Wasaren League Cross Country Championship meet, placing in the top 14 runners, automatically making her a Wasaren League All Star.
- Students from the Brunswick Music Department performed at the first annual Brunch with Santa at The Brunswick Barbecue raising \$600 for the Brunswick Educational Foundation.
- Fourth grade students have their art displayed in the Brunswick Town Offices. Students designed and "zen tangled" Zen Mandalas of Character. These artistic renditions are based on the ancient practice of focusing on a mandala to support meditation.
- Sixth grade band students: Cassidy Breh, Abigail Buckley, Sophie Champagne, Ethan Skaarup, Andrew Mastrandrea-Minbiole, Hope Rheeman, Balee Dunham, Colby Minbiole, Marissa Maiello and Leighana Hogan were selected to perform at the Rensselaer All County hosted by Averill Park on January 30.
- Tamarac senior Kathleen Renna recognized as a Time Warner Cable News Scholar Athlete of the Week.
- Tamarac's National Junior Honor Society inducted 27 new members into the organization at their induction ceremony
- The Tamarac Varsity Football team raised \$3,611 for Autism awareness and research, surpassing their original goal of \$2,000.

Chromebooks in the Classroom

Google Chromebooks in the classroom provide students with access to more than just apps. Teachers and students use Chromebooks to increase student collaboration, communication and organization.

Chromebooks were successfully piloted last year with the seventh grade team. This school year, students in grades 5-8 are using Chromebooks in science, English, social studies and other content areas. The District purchased a cart of 30 Chromebooks for each grade and teachers sign the Chromebooks out as needed.

Social Studies teacher Kevin Onorato said his students recently used Chromebooks to write, submit research papers and receive edits from him without having to print anything. Students can take multiple choice quizzes and immediately receive their grade after pressing the submit button.

“Using Chromebooks has really transformed what the classroom learning experience looks like for me and my students,” said Mr. Onorato. “Having access to information and feedback instantaneously allows students to collaborate and learn not only from me but from one another.”

Chromebooks look like a laptop, but run on a web-based operating system which helps to configure and manage user access and provide layers of security. Files and documents are stored on the web which enables faster boot times and a longer battery life.

Network Systems Manager, Eric Wetmore, said Google accounts were created for students in grades 5-12 and they can access their work anytime and anywhere. Wetmore said the district is slowly moving other aspects of the school to

Google Apps, and plans to purchase additional Chromebooks based on need.

“Last summer, we had to increase bandwidth school-wide, making sure access points could handle the increase in student traffic,” said Wetmore. “We moved from a 10 mbps pipe to a 50 mbps pipe, and plan to upgrade again to 200 mbps this summer.”

“Technology is changing the world we live in and rapidly changing education,” said Superintendent Angelina Maloney. “Our goal is to provide students with the tools and learning environments that they will need to succeed at the pre-k to high school level and beyond.”



College Credit Opportunities at Tamarac HS

Did you know that Tamarac High School now offers 13 College in High School courses from five area colleges totaling 43 credits? Students can earn college credits while taking courses during their normal day at a reduced tuition cost.

University at Albany – University in the High School Program

- Advanced Placement American History (6 credits)
- Calculus (4 credits)
- AP English Language and Composition/College English 121 (3 credits)

Russell Sage College in the High School Program

- French 4 (3 credits)
- French 5 (3 credits)
- Russian 4 (3 credits)
- Russian 5 (3 credits)
- Spanish 4 (3 credits)
- Spanish 5 (3 credits)

Hudson Valley Community College in the High School Program

- Personal Computer Concepts (3 credits)
- Business Concepts & Applications (4 credits)
- Principles of Marketing (3 credits)
- TV & Broadcast Media (3 credits)
- Honors /Library Skills for Research (1 credit)

Schenectady County Community College in the High School Program

- Comprehensive Music (3 Credits)

Siena College

- Physics (8 Credits)

AP Environmental Science

In addition:

- Advanced Placement and Independent Courses in our new “Learning Lab” for independent learning.
- Career & Technical Education Programs through Questar III
- New Visions Programs through Questar III
- Tech Valley
- HVCC TEC-SMART

Off Site Programs Such as:

Siena College High School Scholars
Bryant and Stratton College January Jump Start
and more!

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Congratulations to the Varsity Volleyball team who are Wasaren League Champions!

Students Host Senior Citizens Luncheon

The Tamarac High School Band, Jazz Ensemble, Chorales and Key Club hosted the 21st Annual Senior Citizens Luncheon. Over 200 senior citizens attended the event and were treated to a fantastic concert and lunch.

The event is a chance for the school district to thank both longtime senior residents and recent arrivals for their contributions to the community and to invite them into a school setting to visit with students.

“We are so happy to host this annual community event,” said Principal Richard Pogue. “It is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their musical talents with the community and for senior citizens to get to know what wonderful students we have here in Tamarac High School.”

— SAVE THE DATE —
High School Musical Production
“South Pacific”
April 8-9 • 7:00 p.m.

Alumni Visits & Inspires Students



Tamarac class of 2011 alum, Wade Hansen stopped by Tamarac Schools in January, and spoke with the students about healthy choices and his experiences. Wade recently finished playing major Division 1 football for the Virginia Tech Hokies and has signed with an agent to begin preparing to realize his dream of playing in the NFL.

“I feel obligated to come back to my roots and give back, but also be able to connect with younger kids and tell them it’s ok to reach for the skies, it’s ok to have a burning passion for something,” said Mr. Hansen. “Passion is the difference between being great and just trying to get by.”

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