



## Get to Know New Superintendent Dr. Angelina Bergin

### What has your career been like thus far?

Rewarding. I feel extremely fortunate for all of the opportunities that I have had in my professional career. I was a middle school science teacher and I also taught high school chemistry and physics. I then became assistant principal and then principal in Lansingburgh CSD and served as Director of Personnel Development at Saratoga CSD. I have enjoyed working with wonderful students, staff and community during unprecedented changes in education. Watching students learn and expanding their opportunities is incredible gratifying.



### What are some of your strengths in this position?

I bring a love of education to the position because education has made me the person I am today. I truly appreciate the wonderful educational experience that I had and hope to give that to each of our students. I'm also very hands on and look for opportunities to work directly with the students and staff. Additionally, I am a strong student advocate.

### What is the best part of your job?

Without a doubt it's interacting with the students. I love being involved in student activities and being involved with the Brunswick family. I also enjoy working with a team of adults — teachers, staff, parents, community members, board members and administrators — all focused on the common goal of improving student learning.

### What is the biggest challenge facing Brunswick?

I think the biggest challenge right now is expanding the educational programs and opportunities during very difficult financial times. We want to provide a rich academic program that meets the needs of all learners while being respectful of taxpayers.

### What are some of your goals for the year?

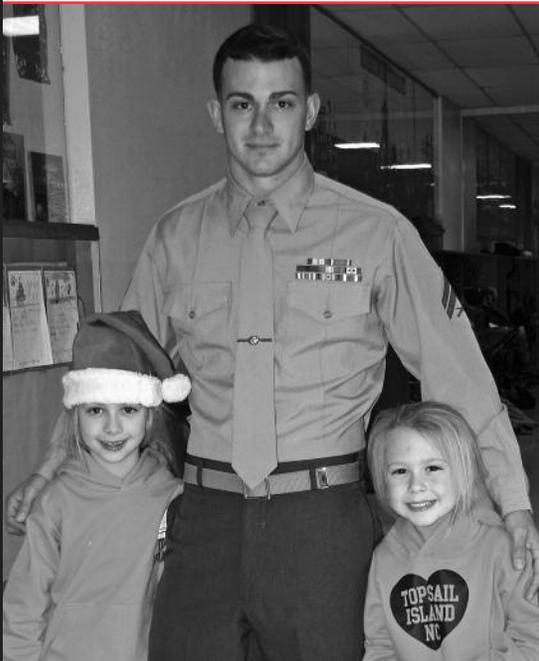
My personal goal is to build meaningful relationships with the students, staff and community in Brunswick. This is a year for me to learn about the District, get feedback from the community and work with the Board of Education on short- and long- term goals for the District. Additionally, we are looking to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) opportunities for our students.

### What is your leadership approach?

I am a hands-on leader. I love to walk our school buildings and be visible in the community. I like to work alongside people collaboratively and listen to problems and concerns and work with the person or group to share information and implement a solution.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love spending time with my family and being involved in my two children's activities. I also enjoy volunteer work.



## Corporal Makes Surprise Homecoming at TES

Katie and Kylie Gross will never forget the homecoming of their brother Corporal Matthew White as he surprised them during school on December 17 at Tamarac Elementary.

Corporal Matthew White of the United States Marine Corps visited the school to surprise his sisters whom he had not seen in over a year.

Katie, a second grader at Tamarac Elementary, had told her mother that the only thing she wanted for Christmas was her brother Matt. Her big brother was happy to make that wish come true.

"I'm happy to be home for the holidays and spend time with my family," said White. "My sisters didn't know I was coming home so I was excited to surprise them and see them after such a long time."

Katie and Kylie, a kindergartener, greeted their brother with surprised faces and big hugs.

Corporal White was deployed on the USS Kearsarge and is currently stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He has served in the Marines for four years and will soon be re-enlisting for another five years.



## Student Signs National Letter of Intent

Tamarac senior and varsity softball pitcher Briana Matazinsky was joined by her family, friends, coaches and district officials on November 18 as she signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball at Manhattan College. Brianna was recognized as an exceptional scholar athlete who led her team to a 17-3 record and taking them to the Section II final last season.

Congratulations to Briana and her family on making the Brunswick community proud!

## Students Host Senior Citizens Luncheon

The Tamarac High School Band, Jazz Ensemble, Choralaires and Key Club hosted the 19th Annual Senior Citizens Luncheon. Over 200 senior citizens attended the event and were treated to a fantastic concert and lunch.

Principal Richard Pogue enjoys this annual event and the opportunity to showcase the musical talents within the school community.

"Our students and faculty are generous, thoughtful and caring. Our school cafeteria staff, Building and Grounds workers, Key Club members, their advisor and the music department all work together to put on a great event," said Pogue. "I never get tired of hearing from our guests how talented our students are and what a wonderful job everyone does for the senior citizens of our district."

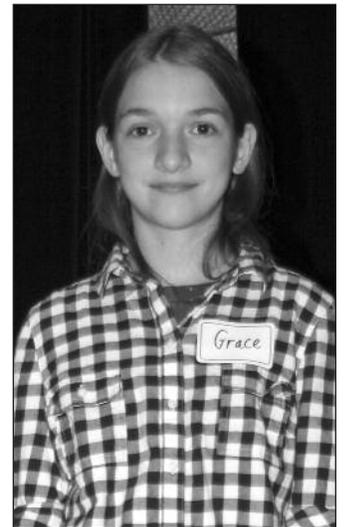
## 8th Grader to Represent District at Spelling Bee

After ten rounds, eighth grader Grace Morton won the Tamarac School Spelling Bee on November 20.

By correctly spelling the final word "bodega," Grace won the school's competition. With her win, Grace qualified to participate in the Regional Spelling Bee at Proctor's Theatre in February.

"Congratulations, Grace. I know you'll be a great representative for Tamarac," said Assistant Principal Chris Rockwell. "And congratulations to all of our students who participated. You all had a lot of courage to stand up in front of your classmates and put your spelling skills to the test."

Eighth grader Chloe Purello finished second in the school's Spelling Bee. Both girls have qualified to participate in the spelling bee every year since fifth grade. Congratulations to all of the contestants!



## District Earns Outstanding Internal Audit

A financial risk assessment mandated by New York State found that Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District has outstanding internal controls in place to safeguard district assets, prevent errors, detect potential fraud and ensure financial reporting is accurate.

Lyn Derway, Assistant Superintendent for Business, was pleased with the annual audit results and looks forward to using them to continue to improve the district.

"It was a clean audit with two minor recommendations that we are happy they brought to our attention and will look at them closely," Derway said.

The Internal Auditor, Michael T. Wolff, presented his findings to the Board of Education's Audit Committee and indicated that he audits nearly 30 school districts. He noted that he does not recall another instance when his testing did not reveal any major exceptions.

In conducting the financial risk assessment, key staff members were interviewed to obtain an understanding of the financial processes, internal controls and general operating procedures. In addition, transactions were randomly selected

and tested in the following areas: cash receipts and cash disbursements covering the period of April 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013.

The areas reviewed during the engagement included, but were not limited to: Board of Education Minutes/Actions, Cash Receipts, Bank Reconciliations, Cash Disbursements, Accounts Payable & Purchasing, Claims Audit Function, Extra Classroom Activities, Lunch Program, Fixed Assets, Information Technology and the Transportation Department.

During the review there were exceptions identified, however, none of the exceptions rise to the level of a significant deficiency or material weakness of internal controls.

Superintendent Angelina Bergin was impressed with the report findings and the hard work and organization that the district produces every day.

"I am really proud of the systems we have in place and proud of our employees for their fiscal responsibility. Their dedication is key in making Brunswick such a great district," said Dr. Bergin.

# Highlights of Student Accomplishments

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

*The following list highlights some of the great accomplishments of our students so far this school year:*

- Abbey McGrath represented the district at the 2013 NYS School Music Association's Winter Conference in Rochester.
- The boys' varsity basketball team adopted a family in need through the Unity Sunshine Program for the holidays.
- Students from SADD raised money to buy teddy bears and donated them to the Battalion 2 fire departments for first response vehicles to give comfort to any child involved in an emergency.
- The girls' cross country, girls' soccer, volleyball and football teams were all named Scholar Athlete Teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for earning a GPA of 90% or better for the quarter.
- Eighth graders from Tamarac's National Junior Honor Society organized Thanksgiving baskets for Hope 7 Community Center's food pantry in Troy.
- Fifth grade Tamarac Elementary School student Celia Martin has her artwork displayed on the bulletin board outside of the cafeteria.
- Students in Kids Care Club and RAPP (Reaching Academic and Personal Potential) teamed up to make homemade pies for Joseph's House, a shelter in downtown Troy.
- Tamarac Elementary students helped bring joy to those in need by creating greeting cards that were delivered with Thanksgiving meals from Equinox Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner.
- The seventh grade students dedicated the middle school courtyard as a Veterans' Honor Garden.
- Middle School students collected 2,248 items that helped stock the shelves of the Brunswick Cares Community Food Pantry.
- The high school band performed at the grand re-opening of the Brunswick Wal-Mart. The school band performed at the original grand opening of the store when it opened in 1996.
- The boys' varsity soccer team raised \$1,610 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention by participating in the September Out of the Darkness Walk, dedicating their senior night to raise money and organizing a charity raffle.
- The girls' soccer team was featured in the Troy Record for their efforts to raise awareness for Cystic Fibrosis.
- Tamarac's National Junior Honor Society inducted 33 new members into the organization at their induction ceremony.
- The Tamarac Varsity Football team raised \$3,930 for Autism awareness and research, nearly doubling their original goal of \$2,000 as part of their "Attack on Autism."

## Tamarac Holds Solar Panel Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

**B**runswick (Brittonkill) CSD celebrated the completion of the district wide solar panel project with a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 26. Superintendent Angelina Bergin welcomed the guests including Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, Brunswick Town Supervisor Phil Herrington, Board of Education members and staff from New York Light Energy and CSArch.

Phil Herrington, a graduate of the school district, is pleased that the project will provide students with the opportunity to learn about solar energy and protecting the environment.

"I love this school, I love this district and I believe that the completion of this project is a great move for 2013," said Herrington.

Brunswick Board of Education President Matt Wade also spoke to the crowd about the benefits the solar panel provides on a variety of fronts.

"This truly is a win-win-win for the district: first, taking this tangible step in the green direction exemplifies the Board's recent green school proclamation; second, the solar



array system will save the district on energy costs; and third, and most importantly, the curricular impact of our new system will be felt district-wide, from Pre-K to 12th grade. I can't wait to see how our faculty incorporates this into their work. It's real, workable science and technology literally just outside the window," said Wade.

Jacob Ali provided a drum-roll for the cutting of the ribbon and the Chorales Tenors and Basses performed a medley of sunshine related songs.

The solar panel systems are installed on both school buildings and bus garage at no cost to the school district. The district expects to save about \$20,000 a year in electricity costs and integrate photovoltaics and green energy into the curriculum.

New York Light Energy in Latham is installing and maintaining the photovoltaic systems. There is no cost to the district because the company will own, install and maintain the solar panel system. In exchange, the company will sell the energy the solar panels create back to the district for 30 percent less than what National Grid charges.

## CURRENT RESIDENT

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# Honors Seminar Continues to Challenge

The Honors Seminar class has been a part of Brunswick's course catalog for four years. Modeled after a college class, Honors Seminar focuses on the skills students need to be best prepared for the future such as research and independent study skills.

The elective class is offered in ninth, tenth and eleventh grade and meets every other day in the library around the Board of Education table. Students often lead the class discussions with guidance from their teachers Aimee Bishop, Tim Jacques, Jordan Carroll and Steve Pomposello.

There are high expectations for the students enrolled in the class. The requirements for ninth grade honors seminar is an 85% overall GPA in 8th grade, teacher recommendations,

homework completion, good effort and an admissions test.

Tenth grade student Dana Proctor gives up her lunch period every other day to take the class.

Dana immediately knew she wanted to take the class after seeing a presentation about the class given by Honors Seminar students when she was in eighth grade.

Dana credits the class with improving her writing and public speaking skills and is happy to be earning college credits while getting a better understanding of what she can expect in college.

"I never enjoyed public speaking, but after my first year in the class it became much easier for me," said Dana. "Our conversations often lead to

questions and debates and it's nice to hear so many opinions and learn from the debates."

Liam Fitzgerald, also a tenth grade student, was looking for an additional challenge in his schedule when he chose to take the class. In addition to a challenge, Liam said he found a unique experience in high school that encourages students to think critically and learn about other viewpoints than their own.

"My favorite part of Honors Seminar is the freedom and challenge it provides. The teachers give us instruction, but we can then apply it to our life and in our other classes," said Liam. "It's given me more confidence in my other classes and skills I will use for the rest of my life."

## Reading Program Launched

Tamarac Elementary School launched a million minute reading program to encourage reading throughout the community. Their goal is for the school wide community to read a million minutes by the end of the school year. Every month, the participants are given a goal of how many minutes need to be reached to accomplish their final goal of a million minutes at the end of the school year.

The October goal of 138,510 minutes was

reached and exceeded with more than 143,000 minutes read! As a reward for reaching their goal, Tamarac Elementary School Principal Karen Lederman dressed up in something out of the ordinary.

"Reading is one of my passions. I was thrilled when our community reached our first reading benchmark," said Lederman. "Dressing 'silly' was the least I could do to express my excitement at the accomplishment!"

