



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Welcome back to a new school year! Region 15 is happy to report that 25 men and women have joined our school district as teachers and staff, including three new administrators at Pomperaug High School. Attracting and retaining high quality staff is one of the district's Strategic Plan goals. We continue to maintain improvements in challenging economic times and look forward to the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Our Strategic Plan has guided our district's direction for the past six years. This fall, two dozen school and community members met in September to draft the next strategic plan which will drive district decision-making to 2014. Action teams will now examine the strategies in the new plan and map out the actions necessary to accomplish each one.

We're also pleased to report the addition of the PowerSchool Parent Portal which is available to all secondary school parents and guardians. The Portal gives parents and guardians of middle and high school students secure, real-time access to their child's grades, attendance, teacher comments and other information via the Internet.

We want to extend our congratulations to Region 15's Teacher of the Year, Marion Bouffard. She is a Kindergarten teacher at Gainfield Elementary School. Mrs. Bouffard's inspiration, kindness and collaboration with staff and families have earned her this recognition.

We also offer an e-newsletter, "Community Connections." Sign up to receive it free via e-mail today at [www.region15.org/ccsignup.htm](http://www.region15.org/ccsignup.htm). And as always, you can contact us at [www.region15.org](http://www.region15.org) or call us at 758-8259 with any questions.

## POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL LAUNCHES

Recognizing the importance of strong communication between our schools and our communities, Region 15 has launched the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Parents and guardians of secondary school students now have instant, online access to their child's academic progress, current and past grades, and attendance records using this web-based student information system. The portal is a powerful resource for parents to get regular feedback and review their child's academic progress.

In addition to posting grades, teachers can display the course description, assignment due dates, and school bulletins. Additionally, parents can read comments written by the teacher about a student's performance, providing a secure way to communicate with teachers from home.

*continued on page 2*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In September, a new Strategic Planning Team convened for three days to examine the "state of the district" and map out the future direction for Region 15 through 2014. The 23-member Planning Team represented a balanced cross-section of town, school, and community members.



*Parents, students, town officials, and school personnel representing Middlebury and Southbury met in September to complete Stage 1 of the second generation Region 15 Strategic Plan.*

Seven years ago, the Pomperaug Regional School District 15 accepted the challenge of building a strategic organization. The strategic planning process fosters the school/community relationships necessary to realize the vision we believe is important for our students' education.

In 2007, an abbreviated team met to make modifications and updates to the current Strategic Plan through the 2008-09 school year. This year, Region 15 will continue to work toward the accomplishment of the remaining action plans from the 2006-09 Plan. These include promoting teacher collaboration with colleagues to ensure quality instruction, developing cost-effective incentives to attract and retain high quality staff, and devising a system

*continued on page 3*

# INSTRUCTIONAL TEACHER LEADERS

Although school administrators are the primary leaders in a school system and the “buck stops with them,” administrators cannot improve schools by themselves. The need for teacher leadership is gaining increased recognition in Region 15 and in research on effective schools. Teachers are close to the work and have the expertise and relationships to capture the energy and talent of others.

Approximately 40 full-time classroom teachers in the Region 15

school district now carry the title, Instructional Teacher Leader (ITL). Building-based ITLs are the resident champions of different disciplines: English-Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Mathematics, and Library Media. These teacher leaders work shoulder-to-shoulder with their colleagues and administrators to improve teaching and learning. ITLs go beyond their classroom responsibilities and take the lead in curriculum decisions, research of best practices, analysis of programs and student performance,

and the selection of instructional resources. Often the building ITLs facilitate professional development activities and grade-level meetings.

“Instructional Teacher Leaders are the point-people to whom teachers can turn. They have an important and valued voice in district curriculum decisions,” said Dr. Lois Lanning, Region 15 Assistant Superintendent. “I believe that the ITL teachers are an integral part of our ongoing success.”

## POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL LAUNCHES — *continued from page 1*

Parents and guardians can access PowerSchool at the Region 15 website ([www.region15.org](http://www.region15.org)) by clicking on the PowerSchool Parent Portal link in the Parent Information Corner.

Letters explaining the portal and log-in codes were mailed to parents of students at Memorial and Rochambeau Middle Schools, and Pomperaug High School.

A unique username and password is assigned to each student record. Keep your password(s) confidential so only you can access the information. Please refrain from sharing the log-in account with your child. Discussing grades and study habits, however, with your child is a good way to keep the lines of communication open between parents and students about academic progress.

Grades will be posted on the Parent Portal by the teachers. Remember, the teacher’s grade book is a “snapshot in time” and not necessarily an accurate reflection of the student’s overall progress or performance. Similarly, the student’s grade average may change depending on the weight or value of graded work.

If at any time you feel your password has been compromised, do not want access to your child’s records through the Parent Portal, or have any issues accessing the portal, please call your school office.

Exp	Last Week					This Week					Course	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Y1	Absences	Tardies
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F								
HR(1-6)						RH					Homeroom Williams, Richard L.	--	--	--	--	--	1	0
P1(1-6)											Extended Learning Williams, Richard L.	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
P1(2,4)											Band Choomack, Joseph	B 84	--	--	--	B 84	0	0
P2(1-6)											English Rountos, Katherine	B+ 87	--	--	--	B+ 87	0	0
P3(1-6)											French IA Vitale, Jo-Ann	A 94	--	--	--	A 94	0	0
P4(1-6)											U.S. History Williams, Richard L.	B- 80	--	--	--	B- 80	0	0
P5(1,3,5)											Physical Education Ristor, Geri	B+ 88	--	--	--	B+ 88	0	0
P5(2,6)											Guidance Massari-Steele, Robin	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
P5(4)											Study Hall Sheeran, Michele	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
P6(1-6)											Life Science Gillett-Lamond, Carol	B+ 88	--	--	--	B+ 88	0	0
P7(1-6)											7Lunch Para., RMS	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
P8(1-6)											Mathematics Collins, Denise	B 84	--	--	--	B 84	0	0
P9(1-6)											Music Brewer, Corinne	A 95	--	--	--	--	0	0
P9(2)											Band Sectional Choomack, Joseph	--	--	--	--	--	0	0
<b>Attendance Totals</b>																<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	

Current weighted GPA (Q1): 0.000  
Show dropped classes also

*The PowerSchool Parent Portal is now available at the middle and high school levels, allowing parents and guardians online access to all facets of their student’s profile, including current grades, attendance records and other pertinent information.*

# GAINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER MARION BOUFFARD – NAMED REGION 15's 2009 TEACHER OF THE YEAR



*2009 Teacher of the Year, Marion Bouffard.*

Region 15 students, colleagues, parents, and administrators named Gainfield Elementary School Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Marion Bouffard, the 2009 District Teacher of the Year.

A 34-year veteran of teaching, Marion Bouffard was honored to represent all Kindergarten teachers as Teacher of the Year because she feels that Kindergarten teachers strive to give students the roots they need, while “you give them their wings to fly!”

Parental support and involvement as well as her teachers over the years made a profound impact on Mrs. Bouffard’s decision to become a teacher and her love for learning. “First and foremost was the value that my parents placed on education for me,” said Marion. “They instilled a desire in me to achieve and be successful, and supported it by making learning fun!”

Mrs. Bouffard, a resident of Wolcott, works as a Kindergarten team with Nicole Kulis. “I am blessed to have Marion Bouffard as my grade partner,” said Mrs. Kulis. “She is gentle, kind, and always finds the positive in everyone. Marion is strong and she is an inspiration to me always.”

In her role as Early Literacy Coordinator, Mrs. Bouffard has facilitated discussions with grades K-2 teams on early literacy topics such as phonemic awareness, writing activities and guided reading. Marion has also presented workshops on reading comprehension strategies and the use of art and music to enhance language arts instruction.

“Marion offers her expertise to any teacher seeking her advice and support,” said Dr. Len Tomasello, Gainfield Interim Principal. “Marion is the kind of gift all parents would hope their children would receive. She is a source of inspiration to all her colleagues at Gainfield and within the entire region.”

According to the State Department of Education, the Teacher of the Year Program recognizes and honors teacher excellence by recognizing teachers who have inspired a love for learning in their students and who have distinguished themselves in the profession.

“My greatest contributions and accomplishments as a teacher have always been the success and growth of my students,” said Marion. “I try to build a foundation where each student is held accountable for their personal best. My job is to help them reach that goal!”

*“My greatest contributions and accomplishments as a teacher have always been the success and growth of my students.”*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING –

*continued from page 1*

to assist students in setting, pursuing and achieving educational goals.

Once again, under the direction of Dr. Howard Feddema from The Cambridge Group, the team reviewed the progress of the Strategic Plan and discussed key issues concerning the direction of the district. The Strategic Planning Team reviewed materials including electronic staff and community surveys, state and national test scores, curriculum, and financial records. Next, action teams will develop plans for the new strategies and present their work to the Strategic Planning Team.

The Strategic Planning Team will then present their recommendations to the Board of Education. Upon their approval, the new Strategic Plan will serve as the guiding force in district decision-making until 2014.

## NEW PHS ADMINISTRATORS



*From left to right: Catherine Szerzen, Assistant Principal; Lorrie Rodrigue, Principal; and Ellen Spark, Director of Guidance join Assistant Principal Mike Orefice (not pictured) in leading Pomperaug High School.*

**“COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS”  
KEEPS COMMUNITY &  
SCHOOLS IN TOUCH**

“Community Connections,” the district’s e-newsletter, provides information to parents and other members of the community about our school district. This online resource provides information to parents and guardians about their children’s education and also informs the community about our goals, programs and accomplishments.

“Community Connections” is delivered free to residents monthly via e-mail. Nearly 1,400 parents and residents subscribe. The mailing list is confidential and used only for sending out “Community Connections.”

We invite you to subscribe to our e-newsletter by going to [www.region15.org/ccsignup.htm](http://www.region15.org/ccsignup.htm). You can also go to [www.region15.org](http://www.region15.org) and click on the “Community Connections” link to see past issues.

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

Message From the Board of Education ..... 1  
 Strategic Planning..... 1 & 3  
 PowerSchool Parent Portal Launches..... 1 & 2  
 Instructional Teacher Leaders.....2  
 2009 Teacher of the Year.....3  
 New PHS Administrators .....3

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