

Co-Principals' Report

December 1, 2021

Scott Blood PreK - 6th Grade Principal

John L Barone, Sr. - 7th - 12th Grade Principal

New to BMU 2021-2022

Christina Arnold

I am the grade 2-3 special educator. I have my bachelors degree in K-8 Special Education and attended Lyndon State College. Prior to this year, I spent 6 years at Stone Path Academy, an alternative school for students with trauma in Moretown, VT. My husband and I moved to Wells River this summer. I am one of the co-owners of both Big Cones and Hatchbox. I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and traveling with my husband.

Sheri Ashford-Crown

I live in South Ryegate VT. This is my first year as a full time employee at BMU.(I did some subbing on Fridays for a couple of years in elementary) I came here from St. Johnsbury Dental Associates, where I had worked for 20 years as head of the dental assistants. I worked most of those years in pediatrics. The pediatric dentist whom I worked with moved to Montana this fall, so I looked at it as an opportunity to find work closer to home, yet still be with children. I am a paraeducator with a 1:1 student in kindergarten, and I am enjoying it so much!

Liz Baillargeon

I teach 2nd grade at BMU. This is my 20th year as a teacher. My first teaching job was a 3rd grade classroom at Good Shepherd Catholic school in St. Johnsbury, VT. I moved to Lyndon Town School after 3 years at GSCS and held several positions including Kindergarten, 1st grade, Literacy and Math intervention. I have been married for 2 years and I have a 28 year old daughter who is a park ranger in South Carolina and a 31 year old step-son who is a chemist in New York. I moved to Newbury with my husband this summer and we are currently living in a camper while we tear down an 1840 farmhouse and work to rebuild a new home. I am thrilled to be teaching here at BMU!

Patricia Casey-Rafter (Trish Rafter)

your position here at BMU:High School Math Teacher

your education background: Teacher since 2001

- Grade 5 - 8 Science
- Grade 6-12 Math
- Grade 9-12 Social Studies

Christ the King(Burlington), Windsor HS, Spaulding HS,
Missisquoi Valley Union, Black River MS/HS, Mount St. Joseph, BMU

include a little bit about yourself:

Spouse: Norbert Rafter

Children: Ryan Rafter, Tracy Rafter, Daniel Rafter

Service Dog: Cricket

Pet Dogs: Guinness and Sami

My name is **Jennifer DeBois** and I am currently a High School Science Teacher here at BMU.

I attended school at the University of New England in Maine where I earned a degree in Biology with minors in Education and Health, Law, & Policy. I worked for a year at a Public/Private school in Maine - also teaching science - before coming to BMU. I am originally from the area (attended Rivendell Academy) so I am happy to be back.

Paul Pellegrino

I am the Director of Food Service here at BMU. I attended the University of Maine at Farmington and received my Bachelors in Community Health. Prior to BMU, I worked for the Vermont Agency of Education, Child Nutrition Programs and have been the Director of Food Services for the Lyme School in Lyme New Hampshire as well as the Newbury Elementary School in Newbury Vermont. I have been with my amazing wife Erin for 19 years and I reside in Newbury Vermont with our 4 children Max, Rhys, Brody and Hazel. Hello BMU Board!

My name is **Jessica Schaffer** and I am the Coordinator of Student Services for BMU, WRVS, and TES.

Prior to this position I was a special educator for over 20 years, spending the last 16 years serving the students of WRVS. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Stockton University in NJ and a Master's Degree in Reading and Special Education from Dowling College in Long Island, NY. I am currently taking leadership classes at Saint Michael's College. In my spare time my 11 year old daughter Laura, my husband Ken and I enjoy taking long walks with our dog Bentley, cooking and baking new recipes, and spending time at the beach in Maine.

I have enjoyed getting to know the wonderful and welcoming staff and students at BMU.

Sarah Storjohann, MA, CMHC

Behavioral Health Clinician with Little Rivers Health Care (BMU School Clinician)

This is my first year working in a school, as well as with Little Rivers Health Care. I moved to Vermont in September of 2020 with my husband. In August of 2019, I received my MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Expressive Arts Therapies from Lesley

University in Cambridge, MA. I am currently working towards my LCMHC licensure. For more detailed bio, please see <https://www.littlerivers.org/east-corinth>

Jessica Tuttle

is a floating behavior interventionist for OESU who is currently spending mornings providing support within the BMU community. Jessica has worked specifically as a Newbury Elementary School employee for the past twelve years while living as a long-time community member in the town of Newbury.

She enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, when she's not busy studying, as she pursues a future psychology degree. Jessica's passion is to provide unconditional love and support to our children with an emphasis on their social emotional needs.

Anna Westbrook, High School English Teacher and Interventionist

I am originally from Australia, and moved to New York with my partner in 2016 as he attended Columbia University. Now that he has moved to Dartmouth College, this is our first year living in the Upper Valley. I have been teaching English for eight years, in both private, public and charter institutions. In my last role, I served as English Department Chair, and spent most of my time coaching other teachers and leading professional development. I'm excited to have this current role to spend more time in the classroom working on my teaching practice.

Roxanna Zampieri, Music Teacher grades 3-6 Instrumental BMU and Music Teacher Newbury Elementary School grades K-6

A proud native Vermonter and life-long resident of South Ryegate, I am a proud BMU alum class of '88. I graduated from the University of Vermont with a BS in Music Education majoring in piano. I have been teaching for 30 years! My first position was in Chestnut Hill, MA at a K-12 private school where I taught band, chorus, as well as Administered the After School Music Program. I was then fortunate enough to teach at a private school in Greenwich, CT where I taught music, band and chorus to grades K-8. This school was unique in that it was triple-certified school in Montessori, International Baccalaureate PYP, and International Baccalaureate, MYP. This gave me the opportunity to foster my love of World Music and different Cultures having such a diverse population at the International School. At this school, I was proud to be chosen as the Arts Curriculum Coordinator. After this, I was fortunate enough to teach a truly unique private school in Darien, CT that was certified in the Core Knowledge and Core Virtue programs. This for-profit school was located on a beautiful waterfront property in Darien and I was fortunate enough to teach music to grades K-6 until the school closed in 2016, due to being sold to build oceanfront condos. After this, I taught at a private school in Lyme, NH. Now I am finally able to be in the home where I grew up with my own pianos! I am excited to be able to teach at BMU where my love of music was fostered, encouraged. Fun facts: I have had students sing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, at The United Nations with Pete Seeger, host Grammy Award winning artists Christ Botti and others for record release performances at my school, my chorus sang with Diana Ross at her Holiday Party and have

hosted many master classes with famous artists from all different genres including: BT, Richard Fortus, Ron Thal. I hope to bring new and exciting opportunities to help foster the love and joy of music to the students at BMU and NES.