

*Waltham Public Schools
Retirees' Corner Newsletter
Winter/Spring 2021*



The Retirees Newsletter was begun to allow all of us to keep in contact as former colleagues and employees. However, it can be, and is, a time-consuming process and a number of our people are getting overwhelmed and would appreciate some assistance. No special skills are required - just a willingness to assist if you feel the endeavor is worthwhile. Simply contact us through our email, retireescorner@gmail.com, and we will get back to you.

We also request that if you have any interesting stories about your experience in schools about former colleagues, students or administrators, please send them along. There was a multitude of good deeds done over the years and we are sure just as many humorous stories that could be shared.



Congratulations to our Retirees

The following have either retired as of late 2020 or have submitted the paperwork to retire at the end of this school year.

Susan Delahunt	SAC	MacArthur
Edmund Finnell	Art	WHS
Richard Fratto	Science	Kennedy
Elizabeth Hamalainen	Food Services	WHS
Nathan Johnson	Science	McDevitt
Paul Maiorano	Principal	WHS
Dianne McDermott	ESL	Fitzgerald
Wendy Moore	Grade 5	Fitzgerald
Denise Nugent	PE	WHS
Simone Orlando	CTE	WHS
M. Negron Perez	Custodian	Plympton
Priscilla Picardi-Haswell	Stanley	SAC
Mary Sprogell	Library/Technology	Plympton
Mila Tarallo	Social Studies	Kennedy



On a sad note, over the past few months,
we have lost more former friends and colleagues –

Donna Bastarache	Food Services	South and McDevitt
Grace Carney	Grade 3	Plympton
Lorraine Muizulis	Food Services	WHS
Clinton Rumrill	CTE	WHS
Betty Russo	Food Services	Whittemore
Joseph Reynolds	Grade 6	Fitch, Robbins, Central
Helen Wentworth	Health Services/Nurse	Whittemore



In our very first newsletter, we asked for you to share a wonderful memory or an insight about colleagues who have passed but who are remembered fondly. Here is one from Norm MacDonald about Thomas “Tucker” Taranto.

As a website dedicate to retirees of the Waltham Public Schools, sometimes it is easy to forget the contributions of the non-professional staff to the efficient running of our schools, to our students, and to the social development of our young clients.

One of the most difficult concepts for today’s very well-educated teachers to grasp is that “all adults young people interact with are role model” for them. Sometimes this is an advantage, often-times not. Our schools have much more staff today than in past generations. Students watch non-teaching staff and take away certain perceptions. Be it a dress code, behavior code, equity issues or simple common courtesy- young people are watching!

One such individual, Thomas “Tucker” Taranto, was recently mentioned in a conversation among our members. Tucker was spoken about by a student’s mother recognizing the positive impact he had on her son’s development. When this young student athlete was in high school, Tucker took him under his wing and showed him how dedication and a strong work ethics can be learned by participating in athletics. Tom saw him going astray and got him back on the ballfield. And that man is now an outstanding member of the community.

He was an inspiration to many, especially student athletes. He taught them the value of planning, hard work, practice and perseverance. The same values that helped them pass a test on quadratic equations helped them be successful on the ballfield.

Tom was an assistant football coach at WHS who died much too early. He coached for many, many years. He always had the best interests of the players as his personal motivation. He was also a custodian at the high school who showed his players every day in school the value of doing your best and being proud of your accomplishments. He was also involved in youth activities for many years and was a proud graduate of Waltham High. Every year there is a Thomas Taranto Scholarship given to a WHS grad by grateful citizens who remember Tom/Tucker well.

Thank you, Tom



Graduates in the News



Anya Battaglini Packer

Waltham native Anya Packer (formerly Battaglini) helped increase salaries and grow women's hockey as the director of the National Women's Hockey League Players' Association (NWHLPA).

For her advocacy, Anya was named as one of Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30, alongside top pro athletes, sports agents and sports media figures.

"This is the greatest honor, and I will not stop driving for real change in women's hockey!" Anya tweeted.

"I'm beyond hyped for what the future holds, and proud of what got us here!"

Anya is a former Waltham Youth Hockey player and WHS Lady Hawk (photo). She was a standout defender at Boston University, then went pro with the Boston Blades (CWLHL) and the Connecticut Whale (NWLHL).

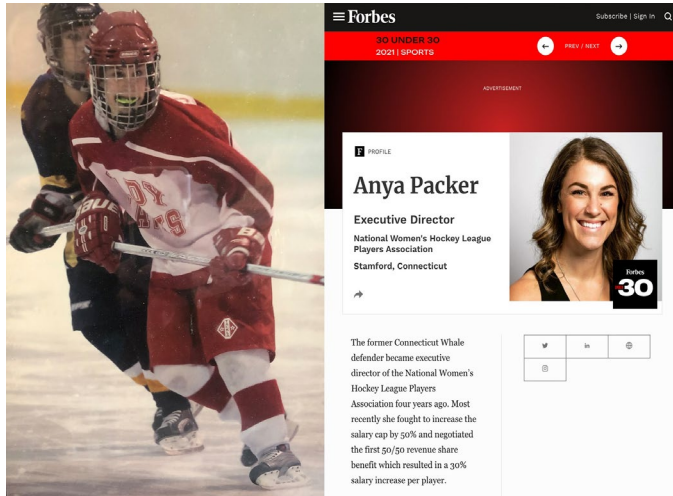
As women's pro leagues have emerged, Anya has advocated for change through her leadership with the players' association. In 2019, the NWHLPA negotiated a 50/50 revenue split between the league and players, leading to a 30% increase in player salaries.

Anya is stepdaughter of former Waltham city councilor Bob Kelly, who is also the previous executive director of the Waltham Channel. "We are beyond proud of what Anya has accomplished in the changing landscape of women's hockey," he said.

Anya's mom Lori spoke warmly of the Waltham hockey culture that nurtured her. "She got a great start back in the early '90s with incredible coaches and opportunity at Waltham Youth Hockey," she said. "This love of the sport fuels her efforts to grow the game for all girls. It is quite an honor to be recognized for following her dream, and we are very proud of her," Lori added.

The Forbes recognition wasn't her first. Earlier this year, she was named one of the 25 most powerful women in hockey by Sportsnet, a Canadian sports media company.

It's been a busy year for Anya and her wife Madison Packer, a fellow professional hockey player. After marrying last year, the couple recently welcomed a baby boy. They live in Stamford, Connecticut. Congrats!



As appeared on The Waltham Channel, December 3, 2020

Rob Chiarelli



Rob Chiarelli is an American record producer, mix engineer, musician, published author and multiple Grammy Award winner. Widely recognized as a music producer for Will Smith and *Men in Black II* (2002), Chiarelli's work appears on numerous gold and platinum albums and motion picture soundtracks, including fourteen Grammy winners.

In his youth, he was performing in school bands and participating in the Massachusetts All-State Jazz Ensemble and the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. By age 17, he had received the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award (twice) and numerous awards from the International Association of Jazz Educators (formerly the National Association for Jazz Education, NAJE). Chiarelli graduated from Waltham High School in 1981 and attended the University of Miami School of Music on a scholarship.

(information from Wikipedia)

Maryann McKenna Littlejohn



We often look at accomplishments of former students in terms of awards, honors, and wide recognition. Yet all of us worked in the arena of education with much recognition because we valued the importance of learning and we wanted to help young people succeed.

One such former student is Maryann McKenna Littlejohn who graduated from Waltham High in 1990. After leaving high school, she matriculated at Brandeis University majoring in math and education.

Recently she was recognized as Teacher of the Month in her school district of Daleville, Alabama. Her supervisor was quoted as saying the choice was a “‘hands down no brainer’. She does everything we asked her to do and more. She had never dropped a single responsibility.’

Our students certainly stretch beyond Waltham. One of her friends stated that “she is personally vested in the whole child, every child, every day, every year. Congratulations to Maryann and her former teachers in Waltham. She has carried your legacy a long way.

(submitted by Norm MacDonald)



In mid-March, **Brenda Ortiz Pena** (Class of 1998) was selected as the next Principal of Waltham High School. For the past several years, Brenda has been an Associate Principal (formerly known as a Housemaster) at WHS.



Carolyn Leavitt published her latest book, With or Without You, in August 2020.

Joanna Schaffhausen published her latest book, Every Walking Hour, the fourth in the Ellery Hathaway series in January 2021.

Lisa Genova has been on a virtual book tour for her newest, Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting, published in March 2021.

Congratulations, Coach!

400 WINS FOR COACH MAGUIRE
WHS boys' varsity hockey coach John Maguire recently earned his 400th win against Concord-Carlisle.



During the past year, it has been particularly difficult to work on the newsletter to keep you up-to-date because of not being able to get together, just as it has been so hard on everyone not to see family and friends. Hopefully all of that will end soon. In the meantime, get vaccinated as soon as you can, wear a mask, be well, and stay safe.

Notice from Retired Educators Association of MA
(Edith Stewart Chase was an art teacher at Kennedy and retired in the mid '70s.)

The purpose of the Edith Stewart Chase Foundation is to grant emergency financial assistance to retired educators who confront an economic crisis.

The quarterly meeting of the Edith Stewart Chase Foundation was held, by Zoom, on Friday, February 6th. One request was granted in the sum of \$1320 now, with the same amount to be granted in six months, if the situation is warranted.



The foundation is very concerned that those who are in need of emergency assistance are not applying. It appears that members must be diligent in identifying friends, chapter members and those who may have dropped membership, who are in need. In this computer age, perhaps many of the older members who are most in need of help, are not aware of the funds available to them.

Help Spread the Word

For this reason, we ask that members send for applications for those they determine may need help and even assist them, in completing the application form. It was the wish of Edith Stewart Chase that no educator should be in dire straits, after retiring, as she was. But, applications need to be received if help is to be given. **Help is available for such needs as: rental or mortgage assistance, real estate taxes, hearing aids, other medical devices, roofs, windows, and many other needs.**

Donations, of course are also appreciated and can be sent to: Edith Stewart Chase Foundation, 258 Main St. Suite 114, Milford, MA 01757

Questions? Reach out at: Phone: 508-422-0109 Email: edithchase751@aol.com