

MEET
the
ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL
STAFF



“FULL STEAM AHEAD”

2021-2022



DOROTEA BANEK

Mrs. Dorotea Banek has been teaching at Essex Fells School for 24 years and enjoys each and every day. Currently, she teaches fourth-grade language arts and sixth-grade social studies. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in History and is certified in elementary education. She has been awarded two Fulbright Scholarships which have enabled her to travel to Japan and New Zealand. Her continuous journeys around the world contribute to her passion for history and culture. Mrs. Banek enjoys watching her students flourish as they become writers and recognize their full potential in language arts. She teaches mindfulness in the classroom and will be incorporating these skills on a daily basis. Furthermore, Mrs. Banek has a background in acting which has enabled her to combine her talents and skills to direct and choreograph the school musical for the past thirteen years. She has two beautiful children, Luca, who is 14 years old, and Elia, who is 11. During her spare time, Mrs. Banek enjoys spending time with her family, venturing to the beach, visiting museums, and practicing meditation. Her motto in life is, "Don't be afraid your life will end; be afraid that it will never begin." In a nurturing environment, she encourages her students to take chances, explore their creativity, and challenge themselves.



MICHELLE BARSHAY

Mrs. Barshay is excited to be back on campus at Essex Fells School this year and will be working as a Basic Skills Instructor as well as a Wilson Reading instructor. Mrs. Barshay has worn many hats during her exciting 15 years of teaching at Essex Fells School. She has taught 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades and is also a certified Level 1 Wilson Reading Instructor/Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner. Mrs. Barshay received a Bachelor of Arts in History and American Studies from Boston University. After graduating, she worked in finance for several years before receiving her Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification from Caldwell College. The Barshay's live in Verona, and Mrs. Barshay loves being a mommy to her two children, Marissa (10) and Connor (14). The Barshay's thrive to celebrate life and make the most of each and every day.



LAURA BRUTMAN

This is Mrs. Brutman's 7th year as a first grade teacher and her 17th year teaching at Essex Fells School. Mrs. Brutman received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications at Villanova University. She went on to attain a Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Certificate from Caldwell College. Since then, she has earned a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, also from Caldwell College. Last year, Mrs. Brutman became Wilson Level 1 Certified. Mrs. Brutman is happily married and has three children, Charlotte (13), Rebecca (11), and Jack (7). In her free time, she enjoys cooking, reading, visiting the beach and spending time with family and friends. Mrs. Brutman is looking forward to another fulfilling year at Essex Fells School.



LAUREN BRZOSTOWSKI

This is Mrs. Brzostowski's fifth year teaching in Essex Fells. She graduated summa cum laude from the College of Saint Elizabeth. During her student teaching experience, she received the New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award. Last year, she completed her certification as a Wilson Level I instructor. Prior to Essex Fells, she taught in Hoboken as a seventh-grade English Language Arts teacher. In their free time, Mrs. Brzostowski and her husband love to travel. One of their most memorable experiences was when they toured South Africa's famous Cape Town, Stellenbosch, and went on safari in Kruger National Park. Last Christmas Eve, they adopted their first dog together, Brewster. This summer, she read voraciously, enjoyed her time on the beach, stayed in a tiny house on a farm, and prepared to become the new fifth-grade inclusion teacher! Mrs. Brzostowski is ecstatic about joining the fifth-grade team and looks forward to another wonderful year here in Essex Fells.



MARISA BURGER

Ms. Burger is excited for the new school year! This will be Ms. Burger's tenth year at Essex Fells School. She started as a personal aide and then moved on to teach preschool. Ms. Burger also had the privilege of teaching her former students in 2nd grade for two years. She attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she received her B.A. in Psychology, M.A.T. in Elementary Education and Special Education Certification. Ms. Burger is a Certified Level 1 Wilson Reading Instructor and Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner. She is a current and active member within the New Jersey chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Outside of school, Ms. Burger enjoys learning Italian, relaxing at the shore, and walking her rescue dog, Penny. Ms. Burger is looking forward to another amazing year at Essex Fells School!



DANIELLE BUTLER

Ms. Danielle Butler is thrilled to return to EFS this year! She will be working with the fourth grade team as the inclusion teacher. She graduated from Marywood University in 2016 with her B.A. in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. This is Ms. Butler's 5th year teaching, having previously taught first and second grade. Her favorite part of teaching is watching a student accomplish something they thought they couldn't do. She is excited to watch her students flourish this school year, watch them gain confidence, and discover their potential! In her spare time, Ms. Butler enjoys reading, crafting, spending time outside with her dog, and planning for her upcoming wedding! She is looking forward to another amazing school year with her EFS family!



NANCY CANNON

Mrs. Cannon is a paraprofessional. She graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She previously worked here as a substitute teacher and both of her children attended EFS. Her oldest son, TJ, graduated from West Virginia University and is a Police Officer for The Essex County Sheriff Dept. and her youngest son, Rob, graduated Florida Gulf Coast University. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and is thrilled to be back at Essex Fells School.



JACLYN CARROLL

Mrs. Carroll is so excited to be back for her 7th year at EFS! She will be joining the 6th grade team and wants to make it a memorable year for the oldest Bengal's! She is truly looking forward to working with her new team and students. She attended Monmouth University where she majored in Elementary Education, Anthropology and is certified in Teaching of Students with Disabilities. In addition to this, she is certified in teaching mindfulness in the classroom and will use the strategies learned with her students across the curriculum. She is also working towards her Master's Degree in the Literacy program at Caldwell University. When she is not in the classroom, you can find her coaching soccer, lacrosse, or baking something sweet for her family and friends. You may remember her wedding last year, however, round 2 is coming on March 17th! She cannot wait for all the good things to come in 2022.



JACKIE CASTELLANO

Mrs. Castellano is the technology enrichment teacher and Technology Coordinator at Essex Fells School. She has a Master's Degree in Technology in Education and continues to take courses and workshops on the integration of technology and current trends in the field. She is on the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative. Mrs. Castellano also heads up the Gifted & Talented activities for our district. Under her guidance, Essex Fells School hosts several of the countywide events for other schools in the county and she is a member of the Essex County Gifted & Talented Consortium. On a personal note, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, Cora and Carli, who bring much joy and happiness to her life.



MONICA CRAVEIRO

Ms. Craveiro is the 5th Grade Math and Science teacher. This is her twelfth year teaching at Essex Fells School. She graduated from Kean University with her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Highly Qualified in Math. Ms. Craveiro also received her Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification from Kean and has a Master's Degree in Instruction and Curriculum of Math, Science, and Computer Education. In her spare time, Ms. Craveiro enjoys being outdoors, spending time with her family and friends, and traveling to new places. She is looking forward to another fun and successful year at EFS!



NICOLE CRISCIONE

Mrs. Criscione is excited for her ninth year at Essex Fells School, during which she will now be a sixth grade language arts and fifth grade social studies teacher. Mrs. Criscione holds Bachelor's Degrees in Collaborative Education, Elementary Education, and American Studies from Rowan University. While at Rowan, she also received a Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification and earned her Master of Science in Collaborative Teaching Degree. In addition, she holds certifications in Wilson Language and Children's Yoga Instruction. Regardless of the challenges we're facing, she knows the 2022 class of EFS will do great things this year by using open minds and open hearts!



JAMES DAVIS

Mr. Davis joined EFS this year as a School Custodian.



RORY DUARTE

Ms. Duarte is looking forward to her fourth year at Essex Fells School. She is excited to be joining the second grade team this year. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. Through her student teaching, she has worked with students from birth to second grade in both general and special educational settings. In her free time, Ms. Duarte enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family.



LISA EVANGELISTA

Mrs. Evangelista is the Administrative Assistant in the Business/Main Office. She graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in Psychology. She and her husband have three children, two in college and one who has graduated. She is looking forward to an exciting year!



LAURIE FISCHER

Mrs. Fischer completed her undergraduate work at the University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in Hearing and Speech Sciences and then went on to complete a Master's degree at Kean University in Union, NJ in Speech Pathology. In 2009, she became a Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) certified assistive technology practitioner (ATP), specializing in assistive technology and augmentative communication. Mrs. Fischer worked for many years in a special needs private school serving students with multiple handicaps and disabilities. In her off time, she enjoys being a wife, to her husband Jason of 14 years, and her 2 children Micayla (11) and Ethan (9), and they reside in Livingston. Mrs. Fischer is very active in her children's PTA at their school and loves cooking and baking, going down the shore, traveling, playing mahjong, and spending time with family and friends.



CANDICE FITZGERALD

Mrs. Fitzgerald is so excited to be back at EFS for her 10th year of teaching after being on maternity leave. She is thrilled to be teaching 3rd grade this year! In 2009 she earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary/Special Education and English from Seton Hall University. Mrs. Fitzgerald is very proud that this spring she completed her Master's Degree in Special Education at Caldwell University. She has her teaching certificates for both Elementary and Special Education and is a Certified Level 1 Wilson Reading Instructor/Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner. She enjoys spending time with her husband and their two children, Anna (3) and Michael (1). Mrs. Fitzgerald is looking forward to a wonderful year at Essex Fells School!



SUSAN FITZGIBBON

Ms. FitzGibbon is a paraprofessional at Essex Fells School. She holds a BA in English from Union College in Schenectady, NY, and an MBA from Columbia University. After a career in business, Ms. FitzGibbon earned her credentials from Caldwell University to become a teacher and taught for many years at MKA. She is the mother of two grown sons and loves to travel with her husband. Ms. FitzGibbon enjoys participating in many sports, especially biking and hiking.



MICHELLE GDALETA

Dr. Gadaleta will have been in district for 12 years in February. She serves as our Superintendent/Principal. Prior to Essex Fells, Mrs. Gadaleta was a Principal in Hawthorne and before that a Principal/Child Study Team Coordinator in Washington Boro. She began in education as a teacher including 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade experiences. Mrs. Gadaleta earned her Bachelor's Degree at Radford University in Virginia and her Master's at Montclair State University as well as her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Centenary University. She lives in Kinnelon, NJ with her husband Maurizio and two daughters, Mikayla (10 years-old) and Mauritzia (6 years-old). Mrs. Gadaleta enjoys spending time with her family and participating in health and fitness activities.



SANTIAGO GALINDO

Mr. Galindo is the School Custodian and has been with EFS for 19 years.



KRISTIN GANN

Mrs. Gann is proud to be entering her 29th year as an educator and her 19th year at Essex Fells School as a kindergarten teacher. She attended West Chester University where she received a B.A. in Early Childhood Education. Before working at Essex Fells School, she taught first and second grade in Pequannock Township School District. Mrs. Gann resides in North Caldwell with her husband Michael and her two daughters Alexandra (20) and Ava (15). In her spare time she enjoys watching her daughters play field hockey, spending summers at the shore, boating, and traveling with family and friends. She is looking forward to another great school year!



SUSAN HACKER

This year will be Mrs. Hacker's 17th in Essex Fells School where she teaches fourth grade math and science. Before beginning her career in education here in 2005, Mrs. Hacker was a CPA and Accountant for a private insurance company in NYC. She made the decision to pursue her Master's Degree in Education when her two children began school full time. Mrs. Hacker and her family moved to New Jersey in 2005 and currently reside in Lincoln Park. Her son currently lives in NYC and works for a major technology company. Her daughter is pursuing a Masters Degree in Speech Pathology at James Madison University. In her spare time, Mrs. Hacker likes to walk, read, and spend time with her family. She is looking forward to another wonderful year at EFS.



HEATHER HOWARD

Mrs. Howard is a paraprofessional and is looking forward to working with preschoolers this year. This is her third year at EFS. Prior to taking this role, she was a substitute at Essex Fells Elementary and in the North Caldwell school district. She has a BS in Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Medicine from the University of Delaware. Prior to her work at EFS, she enjoyed a career in Pharmaceuticals in both NYC and New Jersey. Mrs. Howard is married and has two boys, Dylan, age 10 and Logan, age 8. Mrs. Howard enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, cooking and crafting. She also loves anything to do with animals and you can find her at Jeff Lake Camp in the summer as the Nature Director.



DEANA HROMOKO

Mrs. Hromoko is the 1st grade inclusion teacher. This is her 20th year teaching at Essex Fells School. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Psychology. She has a Master's Degree in Reading. Mrs. Hromoko is a certified Reading Specialist and has a certificate in Special Education. She is also certified in Wilson Reading and is the Student Council Advisor. Mrs. Hromoko is married and has 3 children: Jack, age 12, Julia age 12, and James age 9. In her free time she likes to spend time with her family, read and travel to Disney World. She looks forward to a wonderful year ahead!



CAROLINE KING

This is Ms. King's first year at Essex Fells School as a paraprofessional. She is looking forward to a great school year working with the kindergarten team! She graduated from The College of New Jersey with her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Psychology. When she is not at school, Ms. King enjoys spending time with her friends and family, playing with her dogs outside, and exercising.



KRISTEN KOWALSKI

Ms. Kowalski is delighted to begin her fifth year at Essex Fells School as a third-grade general education teacher. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Caldwell University, she earned a B.A. Degree in Elementary Education and a B.A. Degree in Psychology. Her NJ State Endorsements include Early Childhood, Teacher of Students with Disabilities, and Middle School Mathematics. Ms. Kowalski completed both her field placement in kindergarten and student teaching experience in grade three at EFS. Recognized for her conscientious efforts at EFS, she was nominated by her university to receive the New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award. Ms. Kowalski is currently enrolled in Caldwell University's M.A. Literacy Instruction Program where she is working towards Reading Specialist Certification. In her free time, she enjoys being with family and friends, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and is an avid supporter of Breast Cancer Awareness. Ms. Kowalski is looking forward to another rewarding year of teaching at Essex Fells School. Go Bengals!



STEVEN LELLA

Mr. Lella serves as the district's School Business Administrator and Board Secretary. This is his ninth year with Essex Fells School. Mr. Lella's primary function is to manage the day to day operations of the Business Office. He holds an MA in Management from the College of St. Elizabeth and BA in Accounting from Moravian College. In his free time, Mr. Lella enjoys playing golf, watching the Yankees and Giants, and spending time with family.



MOLLY LIVIO

Miss Livio is thrilled to be starting her sixth year at Essex Fells School as a Kindergarten teacher! This will be her eighth year teaching Kindergarten. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a B.A. in Elementary Education K-6 and ESOL Endorsement in 2013. Miss Livio is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Literacy Instruction at Caldwell University, where she is working towards her Reading Specialist Certification. In her spare time, Miss Livio enjoys traveling, cooking, dancing, spending time with her friends and family, and playing with her Maltese, Bella. Miss Livio is honored to be a part of the Essex Fells team and is looking forward to another fantastic year!



KATIE MACKENZIE

This will be Mrs. MacKenzie's 12th year at Essex Fells School, and she is very excited for this new school year to begin! Mrs. MacKenzie is the 3rd grade inclusion teacher. She graduated from Rowan University with Bachelor's Degrees in Collaborative Education, Elementary Education, and American Studies, a Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification, and earned her Master of Science in Collaborative Teaching from Rowan as well. Mrs. MacKenzie became Wilson Level 1 Certified in 2011 and earned her Middle School Math Certification through Montclair State University in 2013. Mrs. MacKenzie loves spending time with her husband, friends, family, and two sister pups, Georgia & Sadie.



ENRIQUE MANLAPID

Mr. Manlapid is excited to join Essex Fells School as a 6th Grade Inclusion Teacher. For the past 6 years, Mr. Manlapid was a Special Education Teacher for Paterson Public Schools serving students with severe language and learning exceptionalities in the early primary grades. He also served as the middle school soccer coach and assistant coach for the Science Olympiad team. Mr. Manlapid was awarded science curriculum development grants and teacher-leader opportunities during his tenure in Paterson. Mr. Manlapid earned a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Scranton and M.A.T. in Special Education with a specialization in Autism from New Jersey City University. Currently, he is completing his M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from William Paterson University. During his free time, Mr. Manlapid likes running, biking, and railroad photography.



LISA MASSARO

Mrs. Massaro is excited to take on a new role this year as the Basic Skills Instructor. This is her 24th year teaching at Essex Fells School. In that time she has taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. Mrs. Massaro has a B.A. in Early Childhood Education, and an M.A. in Reading from Montclair State University. Mrs. Massaro is a certified Reading Specialist and has completed Wilson Level 1 Certification and Foundations Level 2 Facilitator Certification. Mrs. Massaro is married and has two daughters; Nicole, 17 and Danielle, 15. In her free time she keeps busy watching her girls play softball, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse. Mrs. Massaro enjoys spending summers at the shore with her family. She is looking forward to a great year!



KATIE MCNISH

Ms. McNish has been at Essex Fells for nine years and teaches Art and STEAM to preschool through sixth grade. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Arcadia University and received her Post Baccalaureate teaching certification for K-12 art and K-5 elementary from Caldwell College. Before entering into the teaching profession, Ms. McNish was an interior designer. Currently, along with teaching, Ms. McNish is a floral designer as well as an active artist. She has two children, Haley (19) and Nicholas (18). In her free time, Ms. McNish enjoys painting, refinishing furniture, reading and spending time with her children.



KELLY MITCHELL

Ms. Mitchell is delighted to begin her 17th year at Essex Fells School. During her time at EFS, Ms. Mitchell has taught at many grade levels. However, she is very excited to be back in first grade this year! Ms. Mitchell has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education as well as a Master's Degree in Reading. She is also a certified Reading Specialist. In her free time, Ms. Mitchell enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going to concerts, watching the NY Giants, and relaxing on the beach. Ms. Mitchell is looking forward to another fantastic school year at Essex Fells School!



ALLISON MYERS

Ms. Myers is excited to begin her fourth year at Essex Fells School as the 6th grade math and science teacher. As a member of the teacher education program at Montclair State University, she graduated with a BA in Family and Child Studies with certifications in Elementary Education and Middle School Mathematics. She also received her MAT in Teacher of Students with Disabilities. In addition to teaching, Ms. Myers also enjoys singing, learning new languages, spending time with family, and taking care of her three adorable cats. Ms. Myers is looking forward to another wonderful school year at Essex Fells School.



PATRICIA PAKONIS

Ms. Pakonis is the World Language teacher and a paraprofessional. She graduated from Villanova University earning a Bachelor's Degree in Comprehensive Science with a minor in Biology. She received her teaching certification at Caldwell College. Ms. Pakonis studied Spanish in Guatemala as well as here in the U.S. She holds an ACTFL Spanish certification in both oral and written proficiency. She was a substitute teacher here at Essex Fells School for two years and this is her ninth year as a full-time staff member. She is excited to be back again this year.



MARCO PANNULLO

Mr. Pannullo is our IT Service Technician. He is a graduate of Kean University. Along with working at EFS, he does website design and computer repairs. In his spare time, he likes to travel and play the guitar.



ERIKA PILATO

Mrs. Pilato is very excited to be joining the Essex Fells School community this year as a part-time counselor. She has been a school counselor for 14 years. Prior to her tenure as a school counselor, Mrs. Pilato worked in financial services. Making the decision to change careers to pursue her passion was simple. After working with students in the school setting, she decided to further her education. She received her license as an associate counselor and provides therapeutic counseling services to children and adults. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from The City University of New York and a Master's Degree in Counseling from Rider University. She received her Post Master's Licensed Associate Counselor Certification from Kean University. Mrs. Pilato is a National Certified Counselor as well a Certified Positive Discipline Parent and Classroom Educator. She is grateful for the opportunity to be able to continue working with students in the school setting while providing services privately. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her two children, Darien (18) and Jesse (15). Her favorite hobbies are mountain biking, road riding and downhill biking as well as taking her mini-goldendoodle Charlie to the dog park.



LAURA QUINN

Mrs. Quinn is excited to move to second grade this year! Before teaching Pre-k, Mrs. Quinn taught second grade in Verona at the FN Brown School. Mrs. Quinn is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College. She has an MBA from Fordham University and received her Post Baccalaureate Teaching Degree from Caldwell University. Mrs. Quinn is married and currently lives in North Caldwell with her three children; Caroline (19), Rachel (18) and Michael (14).



MARY RENZ

Mrs. Renz looks forward to beginning her third year as a Certified School Nurse and K- 2nd Grade Health Teacher at Essex Fells School. She received a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Fairfield University and a Master's of Science in Nursing from Rutgers University. After years of hospital and research-based nursing, she returned to school and received a postgraduate Instructional School Nurse Certification from Caldwell College and Rutgers University. Mrs. Renz has been practicing as a Certified School Nurse for 16 years in both the public and private sector. She looks forward to caring for the staff and students at Essex Fells School!



JUDI REYNOLDS

Mrs. Reynolds is looking forward to her 23rd year at Essex Fells School. She began her professional teaching career at EFS upon graduating with a degree in Early Childhood Education and Sociology from The College of New Jersey in 1999. After 17 years as a classroom teacher in the 1st, 4th, and 3rd Grades, she now acts as the Lead Teacher/Coordinator of I&RS/504. Mrs. Reynolds can be found in any classroom depending on the day! She has a Master's Degree in both Reading from Rutgers University and Educational Leadership from Montclair State University. Outside of school, Mrs. Reynolds loves spending time with her husband, Hugh, and their third grader, Cole. Whether they are fishing, biking, snowboarding, or relaxing on a beach, they enjoy being in the great outdoors.



TINA RIVERA

Mrs. Rivera is the assistant in the main office at Essex Fells School. After spending 20+ years in the fashion industry in NYC she decided to make a career change and came to be part of our special school in the Fall of 2020. Mrs. Rivera lives close by in West Caldwell and loves spending time with her two dogs, husband and son. She loves to cook and entertain her large extended family and friends.



REBECCA SANTIN

Ms. Santin is thrilled to start her 4th year at Essex Fells School as the full-time Art Therapist. She conducts “Art Class Meeting” to provide art-infused, character education lessons for all grade levels. She also meets with students both individually and in small groups to address their social and emotional needs using art as a tool to facilitate communication. Ms. Santin attended Caldwell University for a combined B.A./M.A. program where she obtained her Master’s Degree in Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Art Therapy. She is credentialed as a Licensed Associate Counselor, National Certified Counselor, and Registered/Board Certified Art Therapist. She lives at home with her boyfriend, Ben, and their two cats named Husky and Hanson. Outside of school, she enjoys cooking vegetarian meals, volunteering as a running guide for Achilles NJ, and traveling to new places. “Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”



LEEANN SMITH

This will be Mrs. Smith’s second year as the Child Study Team Coordinator/ Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC) at Essex Fells School District. This will be Mrs. Smith’s 14th year in education. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Centenary University where she also received both her Elementary & Special Education certifications. She has both a Master’s Degree from Centenary University in Educational Leadership and from Caldwell University in Special Education with the LDTC certification. As a former graphic designer, Mrs. Smith loves opportunities to use her creativity. Mrs. Smith and her husband, Dennis are parents to two children, Christian, currently engaged to his fiancé, Rose & Isabel, a third year photography major at TCNJ. Dennis and LeeAnn enjoy spending their free time traveling in their new RV with their dogs and relaxing at their home in Sussex County.



JENNIFER SULLIVAN

Jennifer Sullivan is a Paraprofessional. She graduated from Ramapo College with a BS degree double majoring in Business Administration and Environmental Studies. After working in the Commercial Insurance Industry for several years, she started as a Substitute Teacher at Essex Fells. Her three children (Tim, Brad and Katie) all attended Essex Fells School and have recently graduated from their various colleges. Always active at EFS, she was an officer and President of the PTA and often as a class mom. EFS has always been close to her heart and she is very happy to be here! Outside of school she enjoys her family, her rescue dogs, being down the shore, and NHL hockey, especially the NJ Devils.



ROSALIE TAKKEL

Mrs. Takkel is the kindergarten inclusion teacher. This is her 14th year teaching at Essex Fells School. She has a BA in Psychology from Montclair State University. She received her Post Baccalaureate teaching certificate and special education certificate from Caldwell College. Mrs. Takkel is a Certified Level 1 Wilson Reading Instructor. Mrs. Takkel is married and has two sons; Logan, 9 and Luke, 6. She enjoys spending time with her family and going down the shore.



JOHN THOMAS

Mr. Thomas has joined EFS as our new Facilities Supervisor.



KIMBERLY TRAFFORD

Kimberly Trafford is excited about starting her 9th year as the media specialist at Essex Fells School. Mrs. Trafford received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting at Indiana University. She went on to attain a Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Certificate and Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Caldwell College. Since then, she has earned her Media Specialist Certification from William Paterson University. Mrs. Trafford has four boys, Trey (18) Ryan (15) William (14) and John (12). In her free time, she enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Mrs. Trafford is looking forward to a wonderful year at Essex Fells School.



JOHN TROGANI

Mr. Trogani has been teaching music at Essex Fells School for 17 years and has a BA with a concentration in music and a MA in Educational Leadership. He has taught in the Newark Public School district and was the scenery director for the “All Children’s Theatre Summer Camp” programs. He also has a background in the graphic arts and hand drawn animation. Mr. Trogani teaches general/instrumental music, and chorus. He helps organize the school’s annual variety show, concerts, musicals, and graduations. He has two beautiful children, Lilia, who is 17 years old, and Jayden, who is 13 years old. In his spare time he likes to create and perform music, paint, relax at the beach and spend time with his family.



MICHELLE TRUCHEL

Mrs. Truchel is very enthusiastic to start her sixth year at Essex Fells School. She will be serving as both the 5th Grade Language Arts and 4th Grade Social Studies teacher this school year. Mrs. Truchel graduated from The University of Delaware with a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and certifications in Special Education and Middle School Science. She taught Third Grade at EFS for two years, and this will be her fourth year working in Fifth Grade. Previously Mrs. Truchel taught Fourth Grade and Kindergarten in Bloomfield Public Schools. Mrs. Truchel loves to travel with her husband, go running with her dog Chloe, and uses much of her free time to run her photography business. She looks forward to a wonderful year ahead!



JOHN VIGGIANO

Mr. Viggiano teaches health & physical education at Essex Fells Elementary School. Prior to teaching here, Mr. V worked at Montclair State University, East Hanover and West Caldwell. He attended Montclair State University for undergraduate and graduate school receiving a degree in Exercise Science & Health. In addition, he received his graduate degree in Educational Leadership from MSU. In his free time he likes to spend time with his wife, Jennifer and two children, Adelina and Adam. Some of his hobbies are reading history novels, chess, crossword puzzles and organized sports. Mr. V is an avid supporter of the NY Rangers, NY Mets, NY Knicks, Dallas Cowboys and the Michigan Wolverines.



TRACIE WIECZOREK

Miss Wiczorek is excited to begin her fourth year at Essex Fells School as the preschool inclusion teacher. Miss Wiczorek has a dual Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and Elementary/Early Childhood Education from Lock Haven University. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Reading and Reading Specialist Certification from East Stroudsburg University. Prior to teaching in Essex Fells, Ms. Wiczorek spent 4 years in a preschool classroom. In her free time, Miss Wiczorek is involved in animal rescue and enjoys traveling, playing softball, skiing and kayaking. Ms. Wiczorek has two rescue cats named, Sir and Meredith Gray, and a crazy corgi named Penche. She looks forward to another exciting year in Essex Fells.