



March 22, 2012
Sheraton Framingham

Supporting Framingham High School Activities, Athletics and the Arts

Salute Honorees

1993

*Pam Jezukawicz
Connie Sullivan
George Wheeler*

1996

*Francis Galvani
Joseph Perini III
William Summers*

1999

*Steve Ryder
Ann Stacie
Dr. Eugene Thayer*

2002

*Ann Lamb
Chris Petrini
Elaine Robert*

2005

*Patrick Dunne
Bob Jachowicz
Joan Rastani*

2008

*Roni Cronin
Lowell Mazie
Pat Walker*

1994

*Dr. Jean Avery
Kennedy Clark
Jack O'Rourke*

1997

*Si Babineau
Barry Bograd
Sherwin Greenblatt*

2000

*Rob Healey
John Poles
Phil Read*

2003

*Joan Kelley
Betty Mattarazzo
Sally Smith*

2006

*Jim Carney
Margo Deane
Pam Hulme*

2009

*Rev. Dr. J Anthony Lloyd
Lou Merloni
Joseph Shields*

2011

*Michael Grilli
Joey Sementelli*

1995

*Ron Burton
Tom Click
Tony Colonna*

1998

*Robert Champion
Barbara Gray
Charles Long*

2001

*Mark Goldman
John Hart
Kathy Herrman*

2004

*Robert Brown
Jim Carey
Pat Zucchi*

2007

*Joe Casperowitz
Mike Phipps
Jim O'Connor*

2010

*Richard Chesmore
Arthur DelPrete
George Hulme*

The Salute to Framingham

20th Annual

Welcome to the Salute to Framingham, one of Framingham's most anticipated annual events! Every year, we celebrate up to three individuals for their outstanding commitment and service to the youth of Framingham. This year's honorees join a select group of people who have made a real difference in the lives of our children.

Over the past 20 years, the Salute program has been expanded to also show appreciation to teachers, school support personnel and volunteers who make each day "special" in the Framingham Public Schools. We also recognize graduating FHS students who have shown leadership in a variety of ways.

Since 2004, The Jim O'Connor Service Award has been awarded to individuals, organizations or families who have worked as a team to serve the youth of Framingham. Recipients exhibit the same passion, vision, commitment and leadership that Jim O'Connor, the Salute's founder, exemplified throughout his career as Framingham High School's Athletic Director.

Tonight, we will continue the multi-media presentations including pre-recorded remarks from our honorees, a slide show of programs and activities that have benefited from the Salute's fund-raising and highlights of each recognized student's accomplishments. The much-anticipated "You Are Special" awards will continue in their popular form, and we will have a few live surprises!

The Salute to Framingham is the largest single fund-raiser for Framingham High School. All proceeds from tonight will be used to support activities, the arts and athletics which benefit FHS students.

Many thanks to all of you for being here tonight and to our community hosts and sponsors for making this evening a tremendous success.



Reflections from Past Honorees

"I was in the fifth class of honorees. Not only was I humbled by my selection, but the frosting on the cake was that my two sons, Jeff and Mark (both Framingham North graduates), were able to introduce me to the audience. After their introduction, I was so taken emotionally that it was all I could do to muster up enough composure to give my speech. That special night was shared with family and a great many life-long friends."
Barry Bograd (1997)

"I was honored to receive the award on behalf of the soccer club. All these years later, I still receive communications from former players." Thank you, John Poles (2000).

"Since I was honored by Salute to Framingham in 2001, it has been my pleasure to continue working with the Framingham Youth Hockey Beginners' Program. I never cease to be impressed by all the time and care put into this program by all the volunteers I have come to know over the years. This program could not survive without these volunteers. They give countless hours of time to make Framingham Youth Hockey an organization esteemed throughout the state. I know it is the same situation in all the other youth organizations in Framingham, and it is all done for our boys and girls and a few from surrounding towns. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the honor you have bestowed on me, and also to thank all the many other volunteers from our great town." John C. Hart (2001)

As a past honoree, I remember that I had the honor of representing all the members of Framingham United Soccer Club and the great work that they were doing. Along with coaching, I continue to volunteer at the Potter Road School working with 4th and 5th graders in their literature program. Also, this June culminates in my last 2 ½ years of mentoring a high school student through the Mazie Program. Volunteering my time with the youth of Framingham has always been an enjoyable endeavor. I urge all of you to share your time and talent with the young people of our Town." Joe Casperowitz (2007)

"Being honored as a 2008 Salute to Framingham Award recipient came as a complete and wonderful surprise. The Mazie Mentoring Program, which pairs volunteer adult mentors with Framingham High School students recommended by school staff as at-risk of not realizing their full potential, had been in operation since 1998, accepting 30 sophomores per year into the program. Salute to Framingham's recognition of our efforts was a significant contributor to our ability to raise additional funds to increase the program's impact at the school. Starting in 2009, we increased our intake by 33% to 40/year. Since inception, over 450 Framingham youth have entered our program. 95% have graduated from high school. 44 alumni are now in college, receiving their annual \$500 scholarship installments. 79 alumni have graduated from a 2 yr. community college or 4 year university. We reached a significant milestone last year when a mentee, who became the first in her family to attend college, graduated with a Bachelors Degree and returned to the foundation to become a mentor in our program. Everyone at the John Andrew Mazie Memorial Foundation will always be grateful for Salute to Framingham's recognition of our work with Framingham youth." Lowell Mazie (2008)

Reflections from Past Honorees

“Congratulations to Mark and Karen Curtis and Dave Gudejko on being recognized this year as the Salute to Framingham honorees. I remember being overwhelmed to receive this honor in 2010 and still find myself wondering how my simple contributions to the summer track events at Bowditch field could possibly measure up to the unselfish commitments of Mark, Karen, Dave and all of the past Salutes. I am so grateful to the Salute to Framingham Committee for all of the hard work and dedication that goes into planning an event of this magnitude. As a graduate of Framingham (South) High School, the father of a Framingham High graduate and now grandfather of a Framingham High Freshman, I have seen firsthand how budgetary constraints have challenged athletics and the arts. The Salute is a wonderful way to help finance all of the incredible programs and events that are offered to our students as well to gather a community together in the spirit of pride and honor for the Town of Framingham. Best wishes on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Salute to Framingham.” Rich Chesmore (2010)

“When the Salute to Framingham celebration was started by Jim O’Connor and a dedicated group of residents and faculty, our community was struggling with the merger of our two high schools. It was a difficult time for students, parents and teachers but rivalries gave way to cooperation and teamwork and Framingham High School took its place among the best high schools in the state. At each dinner, in addition to the honorees, teachers and students are recognized for their outstanding academic work and community service. The Salute to Framingham Dinner is the premiere community event of the year. It brings the whole town together and demonstrates the diversity and excellence of Framingham High School. From a personal standpoint, I will always remember being honored two years ago. It was a wonderful night for my extended family and many friends to get together at the dinner and enjoy the good food and wonderful program. Thank you again for selecting me to join this inspiring group of community leaders. I do want to congratulate the Committee for continuing this great tradition as it reaches its 20th year. Your work, and your event, contribute greatly to community solidarity and high school excellence. Best wishes for another successful event.” Arthur DelPrete (2010)

“As a lifelong resident of Framingham, a product of the Framingham Public Schools and local insurance broker it has been great to be involved with The Salute Dinner. It is always heartwarming to hear all about the good work people are doing to support the town, our school system and our children. I hope the tradition lives on for many years.” George Hulme (2010)



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Salutes

Mark and Karen Curtis

Dave Gudejko

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Mark and Karen Curtis

Dave Gudejko

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honorees.*

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2012 Jim O'Connor Community Service Award Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation

The Jim O'Connor Community Service Award is given in honor of those who hold the passion, vision, commitment and leadership skills of the Salute to Framingham founder, Jim O'Connor. Recipients are individuals, organizations, or families who work as a team to serve the youth of Framingham.

The 2012 recipient of the Jim O'Connor Community Service Award is the Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation. The Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation has been a consistent and staunch supporter of Framingham and neighboring communities for over 100 years. In 1998, The Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation was established by the Bank to support charitable, education and civic purposes within the greater Framingham area. Since its inception the Charitable Foundation has devoted more than 2.1 million dollars to improve and enhance the quality of life for local residents.

The Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation has supported the youth of Framingham in many ways. Through two separate scholarship initiatives, the Foundation supports the young people of our community as they pursue their academic Goals. The Roland J. Bunnell II Memorial Scholarship awards three \$5,000 scholarships each year to a student from each of the three high schools in Framingham: Framingham High School, Marian High School and Keefe Technical High School. In addition, the Charitable Foundation has provided funding for the Edwin Alexis Marin Memorial Scholarship program at FHS, which provides three \$1000 scholarships to Latino students continuing on to college.

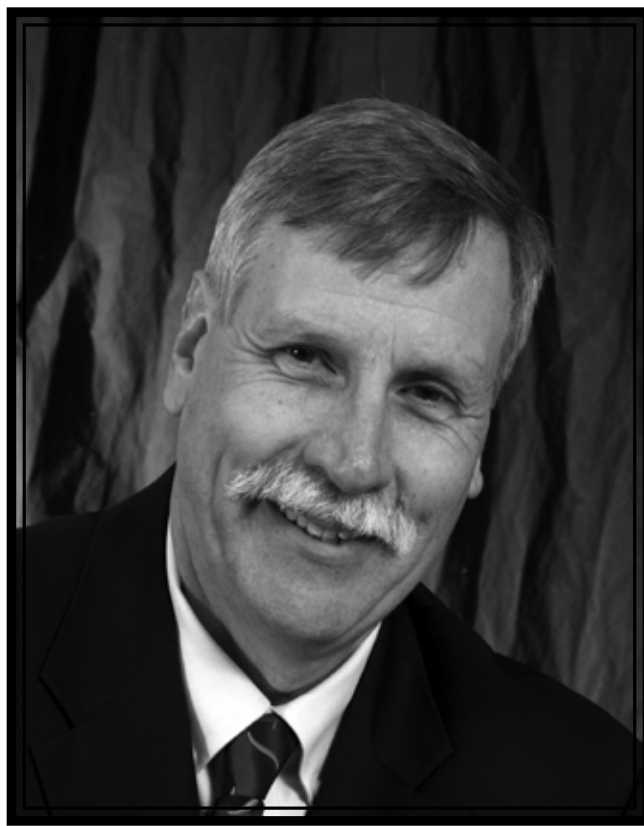
In addition to yearly scholarships, the Charitable Foundation has supported numerous programs, projects and activities for youth, designed to help provide them with a solid foundation for future success. Over the years, the Foundation has supported many teams and groups at Framingham High School, including the athletic video production, John Andrew Mazie Mentoring, award cases and flat screens for the Theatre and for the Performing arts, football 100th year video, the dance team, the Yearbook, the hockey teams, and much more.



Mark and Karen Curtis

In 1989, Mark and Karen Curtis were celebrating Thanksgiving with friends at the Dugout in Framingham and decided to invite some tenants of the boarding house located upstairs to join them. “We had such a good time, we decided to do it again the next year.” The following year, the Curtis’ decided to put up signs inviting people to join them for a free hot Thanksgiving meal. The rest is history. For the first 20 years, Mark and Karen fed between 600 to 800 people every Thanksgiving. Last year, at the “Curtis Family Feed”, nearly 1,700 people had a free, hot Thanksgiving dinner either delivered to their door or served to them at Eagles Hall in Framingham. Preparations for the Thanksgiving meal begin in August when Mark & Karen begin gathering volunteers. According to Mark, it has been Karen who has gotten local kids involved in the event. “They show up to help because they want to...and they keep coming back.”

The annual Curtis Family Thanksgiving dinner brings together more than 400 members of the community including local business owners, Framingham Girl Scouts, students from Fuller Middle School and Framingham High School and members of Framingham Youth Hockey, who donate supplies, money or their time to follow the example that Mark and Karen Curtis have set for the last 23 years. Karen Curtis was born and raised in Framingham and three of their children are graduates of the Framingham public schools. Even today, at age 81, Karen’s mother works as a Framingham crossing guard. “You’ll never have to convince us how great Framingham is”, said Mark. “We are humbled to receive this recognition.”



Dave Gudejko

When Dave Gudejko and his wife Dale moved to Framingham with their three sons in 1978, Dave decided that he would not just call Framingham a place to live, he would call it his community. For nearly three decades, Dave Gudejko has given unselfishly of his time and experience to the young people of Framingham. Initially, Dave's involvement started with Framingham Baseball. "When my son started playing t-ball, I showed up at one of his practices and within a year found myself on the advisory board." Volunteering with Framingham baseball has included a number of positions including coaching at all levels and ultimately serving as president of both Little League and Framingham Babe Ruth. At one point, Dave served as Field Liaison, where he matched fields and teams for more than 1,000 Framingham players.

Working with Parks and Recreation, Dave used his leadership skills to work with other local organizations like Framingham United Soccer to share valuable field space. Through the years, Dave has spearheaded facility improvements, and contributed his practical experience to the redesign of existing fields. When his boys became interested in skiing, Dave volunteered with the Framingham Parks and Recreation Department, serving as a chaperone for the weekly ski and snowboard program. "I have always been a skier, so I was happy to get involved when my sons wanted to learn to ski." His involvement still continues far beyond the years of his childrens' participation. "Why would anyone miss the opportunity to work with these kids...it creates such great memories." Dave has brought that same spirit as a CYO Basketball coach and past president of the Marian Boosters. Dave works in Billerica and enjoys skiing and camping. His involvement with the youth of Framingham continues even now. "As long as there are things to be done, I'm happy to help...it keeps me young."

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*Our heartfelt
thanks to honorees*

Mark and Karen Curtis

Dave Gudejko

*for their dedication
to the Framingham
community.*

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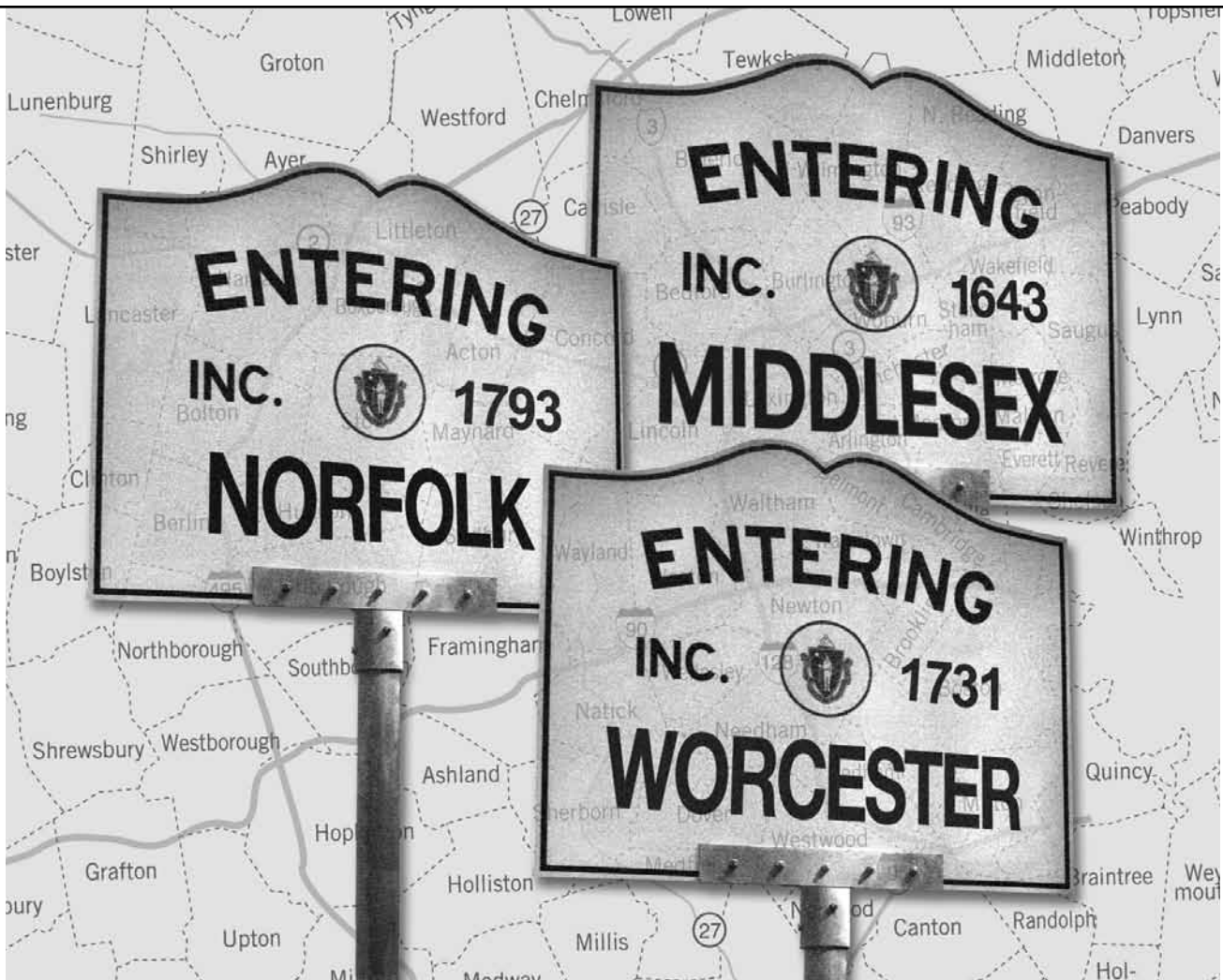
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Program

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Cocktail Reception & Strolling Supper

The dinner buffet will be open at 6:15 and stay open until 8:15 with desserts and coffee being served 8:15 thru 9:00. Feel free to go to the buffet at any time.

7:00 PM

Presentations Begin

National Anthem

Ringmasters for the Evening: Barry Bograd & Mike Reiss

Welcome by Superintendent of Framingham Public Schools

Dr. Steven Hiersche

7:15 PM

Class of 2012 Student Recognition

Michael J. Welch, FHS Principal

and

Elyse T. Torbert, FHS Sr. Class Vice Principal

Nichanan Agrasuta

Nathan Alvord

Matthew Bell

Parmeet Bhullar

Sophia DeAraujo

Renan De Oliveira

Donald Goff

Katherine Grindeland

Matt Hugo

Rachel Hulsman

Mia Lin

Adam Magier

Brendan Moran

Courtney Mryglot

Shamira Nambafu

Hoang Nguyen

Parth Patel

Emma Sales

Patricia Salmeron

Selena Santiago

Tahleen Seifel

Mackenzie Shay

Jennifer Wagner

Jonathan West

Program

7:30 PM

*2012 Jim O'Connor Community Service Award
Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation*

7:35 PM

*2012 Salute to Framingham Award Presentations
Salute to Framingham, Co-Chairs Mark R. Albright and Gary Doherty*

Mark and Karen Curtis

Dave Gudejko

8:05 PM

You Are Special

Faculty and Staff Recognitions

Dr. Steven Hiersche

Jayne Carney - Special Ed

Jill Coates - Potter Road

Lisa Columbo - Fuller

Heather Degan - McCarthy

Susan DeSimone - FHS

Vanda Figueiredo - Fuller

Deb Hobin - Brophy

Nancy Hulme - Walsh

Elizabeth Jeffery - Dunning

Otto Johnson - Walsh

Janice Laakko - FHS

Miriam Lapa Silva - Potter

Rebecca Morrison - Barbieri

Kerri O'Brien - Stapleton

Deb Phillips - Cameron

Sharon Silverman - Brophy

Literacy Program - Woodrow

8:40 PM

Raffle Drawings

Closing Comments

Michael J. Welch, FHS Principal

Framingham High School Foundation

Supporting the Arts, Activities and Athletics

In the spring of 2002, the Framingham Public Schools were facing substantial financial challenges. A group of Framingham High School parents organized the Framingham High School Foundation (FHSF) to ensure continuation of extracurricular activities, the arts and athletics regardless of imposed budgetary restrictions. Since its inception, the FHSF has successfully accomplished this mission through a variety of efforts, including building stronger alliances with the Metrowest community, reaching out to FHS alumni, and applying for grants. Since 2003, FHSF has organized the Salute to Framingham Dinner. The Salute is the largest single annual fund-raiser for Framingham High School. As always, all proceeds from the event are used to benefit activities, the arts, and athletics which benefit FHS students.

www.salute-to-framingham.com



*Best Wishes to the
Class of 2012*

We know you have what it takes to go far!

Warm Regards

Mrs. Torbert & Mrs. Hendry

*The Framingham School Committee
Congratulates
all of those being recognized at the
2012 Salute to Framingham!*

Honorees

Mark & Karen Curtis

David Gudejko

Jim O'Connor Community Service Award Recipient

Framingham Co-operative Bank Charitable Foundation

2012 "You Are Special" Staff Award Recipients

Rebecca Morrison,
Sharon Silverman
Deb Hobin
Elizabeth Jeffery
Heather Degnan
Miriam Lapa Silva

Jill Coates
Kerri O'Brien
Deb Phillips
Lisa Columbo
Vanda Figueiredo
Otto Johnson

Nancy Hulme
Susan DeSimone
Janice Laakko
Jayne Carney
Wilson Literacy Program

2012 "You Are Special" Student Award Recipients

Nichanan Agrasuta
Nathan Alvord
Matthew Bell
Parmeet Bhullar
Sophia DeAraujo
Renan De Oliveira
Donald Goff
Katherine Grindeland

Matt Hugo
Rachel Hulsman
Mia Lin
Adam Magier
Brendan Moran
Courtney Mryglot
Shamira Nambafu
Hoang Nguyen

Parth Patel
Emma Sales
Patricia Salmeron
Selena Santiago
Tahleen Seifel
Mackenzie Shay
Jennifer Wagner
Jonathan West

Framingham School Committee

Beverly K. Hugo
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David F. Miles
Vice Chair



Adam Blumer
Michael J. Bower
Andy Limeri
Carol Phalen

Salute To Framingham



Nomination Information

What once started as a vision twenty years ago has grown into one of Framingham's most cherished annual events. Each year the Salute to Framingham Dinner Committee will honor up to three individuals who have done much for Framingham's youth.

We encourage everyone from Framingham to consider nominating an individual, from any sector of the community, who has made a difference in the lives of the youth of our town.

The basic criteria for this nomination are that the individual has given selflessly to the youth of Framingham. All nominations received will be kept on file and reviewed in January of each year.

To be considered as a recipient for the 2013 Salute to Framingham, written and online nominations must be submitted by December 3, 2012. The committee will be meeting the following week to select the recipients.

Letters of nomination may be mailed to Salute to Framingham, Box 2367, Framingham, MA 01703.

You Are Special

Jayne Carney - Special Education Department

Jayne has been the comptroller in the Special Education Department for Framingham Public Schools for almost 10 years. She works predominantly with figures and the budget. In her spare time, Jayne is a multi-level Zumba instructor. Movement and exercise are part of the cornerstones of creating a healthy lifestyle. Jayne incorporates these with enthusiasm into her Zumba classes. She instructs Special Needs Zumba classes for the youth and young adults in the Framingham area.

Her face lights up when she talks about her students! She holds these classes in neighboring communities where many Framingham families with children with special needs utilize her classes. She also leads special needs classes in some of the local private Special Ed schools that some of our Framingham students currently attend.

The students are able to participate in an afterschool/weekend activity without being in a judgmental zone. In Jayne's class, each student is encouraged to be themselves 100% of the time which is comforting to their parents. No judgment...just joy. We have always thought that Jayne was special based on her dedication to her family, job and community. It is now evident by the smiles on the faces of those students that participate in her classes as well. Jayne Carney – You Are Special!

Jill Coates - Potter Road Elementary School

Jill Coates is an outstanding guidance counselor. She is a resource for over 500 students and their families, as well as the staff at Potter Road School. Jill is a team player and is very creative in her attempts to work with everyone with whom she comes in contact. She always knows what to do or say to make a child feel better about themselves and their situations. Whether it's a child who doesn't want to separate from a parent or a child who is dealing with an adverse family situation, Jill seems to know intuitively how to make the world a little better for them each day. Jill Coates defines what it means to be an elementary school guidance counselor.

Mrs. Coates is kind, nurturing and empathetic in her work with our students and their families. She works hard each day to ensure that students are connecting with their school community. Jill Coates has worked at the Potter Road Elementary School as the Guidance Counselor since 2007. Jill is a graduate of Cambridge College. She and husband, Russ live in Grafton and are new parents to a beautiful, baby girl named Keira. Jill Coates – You Are Special!

Lisa Columbo - Fuller Middle School

Lisa has been an outstanding Physical education teacher at Fuller Middle School. She continues to provide high quality instruction for three grades adding new dimensions and programs every year. She is also constant advocate for the health and wellness of our students. The Wellness Center, the Turkey Trot, the Push up Challenge, the Climbing wall and many after school programs are just a few of Lisa's notable accomplishments.

Lisa is an active participant in all other school activities. She manages the intramural programs and spends long hours afterschool working with students. Lisa is now utilizing technology in her classes to enhance the health and wellness of her students. She is innovative, a problem solver but most importantly, Lisa cares about kids. Lisa Columbo – You Are Special!

You Are Special

Heather Degnan - McCarthy Elementary School

We feel that our whole staff is special at the McCarthy School. However, this year we are pleased to recognize Heather Degnan for her continuing commitment to creating quality educational experiences at McCarthy. As a member of our kindergarten team for the past eleven years, Heather has played an integral part in developing those positive first impressions for our kindergarten students as they start their school careers. She is an accomplished educator who has fostered great relationships with her students, parents, and other staff members.

She has also been at the forefront of one of our more successful after school programs – Girls on the Move; introducing many of our students to a variety of different fitness opportunities and healthy alternatives. With Heather as a role model, our students will continue to thrive. Heather Degnan – You Are Special!

Susan DeSimone- Framingham High School

Susan DeSimone has been a guidance counselor at Framingham High School for the past eleven years. Susan spends all of her day, every day, working on behalf of others. Every minute in the office, she's with a student, on the phone with a parent, or listening to a colleague. When students or others are in Sue's presence, they know they're being listened to, and she always makes people feel that they are the sole focus of her thoughts and actions. She models this and those other most fundamental and critical counseling skills, unconditional positive regard, accurate empathic understanding, and active listening. Sue combines these skills with a powerful intellect that remembers every syllable of every conversation, and she has a heart of gold. If one were to define the practice, compassion, and art of counseling, Susan DeSimone is it.

Sue has also volunteered her time as a Step-Up mentor to student at FHS, taking on this responsibility while always making sure her own two children's needs are more than taken care of. Sue does all of this with a smile, a wink of her eye, and with a seemingly boundless energy supply. As a colleague, she's a role model on whom her department relies for her studied viewpoints, for her capacity to speak to the heart of the matter at hand, and to generate solutions. Without intending to do so, Sue represents the best qualities of a counselor. She shuns attention and passes off praise. Those very qualities set a great example and represent the very best of FHS. Susan DeSimone – You Are Special!

Vanda Figueiredo - Fuller Middle School

Vanda has been a wonderful advocate for the Portuguese speaking parents and for the students in the ELL program in grades 6, 7 and 8. She is the devoted teacher who spends long hours after school communicating with parents, helping students or participating in professional development. Her commitment to the teaching profession signals her deep care and devotion to her students.

Ms. Figueiredo's special qualities extend into all areas of the middle school program. She is a Team Leader, has been published in a professional journal, coordinates programs for the ELL parents, she attends all school functions, she is a workshop presenter, she is constantly assisting other teachers, and is a wonderful citizen of the school. Her involvement in all areas of school life is done without ever asking for anything in return. Please join us in celebrating this special teacher. Vanda Figueiredo – You Are Special!

You Are Special

Deborah Hobin – Brophy Elementary School

Deborah is a perfect example of what an outstanding teacher should be. Deb has been in the field of education for 37 years. From administration in early childhood education, to teaching at the elementary level, Deb has been an excellent role model for both her students and colleagues. Her hard work and dedication to her students' academic growth and well-being is truly inspiring to see. She has been on many committees, since she began in the district 25 years ago and she has worked tirelessly to create units of study and other helpful tools, to help elementary teachers in their classrooms, on a daily basis. As head teacher, Deb has many additional responsibilities and her impeccable work ethic allows her to meet all expectations with calmness, grace and the true ability to balance many items at one time, without it impacting her ability to teach her students efficiently.

Deb also worked to create a partnership with the Genzyme Corporation, to give first graders the opportunity to read with a volunteer once a week, for six months. This program ran for ten years and truly helped to build reading fluency, comprehension, and, most of all, a love of reading, for all first grade participants.

Deb's hard work and passion for the field of education is a true inspiration to those around her. Her positive outlook and strong work ethic are characteristics that others emulate and aspire towards. She is an unbelievable educator, leader and mentor and is truly deserving of this honor. It is for these reasons, and many more, we say today... Deb Hobin – You Are Special!

Nancy Hulme - Walsh Middle School

*Nancy has dedicated her teaching career for the betterment of Walsh Middle School. Since coming to Walsh in 1998, she has transformed her classrooms into spectacular galleries of student learning. Nancy's passion for Social Studies is revealed through hands-on student projects related to life in the Middle Ages, the teachings of Islam, and the wonders of the Renaissance. She has also made great works of literature come to life as a Language Arts teacher. Whether it's reciting Shakespeare's sonnets or discussing Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, all of Mrs. Hulme's students discover connections between their lives and the curriculum. Nancy works tirelessly to reach ALL of her students. She is a true believer that ALL students can achieve and find success in school.*

Nancy has also done amazing things for the Walsh community throughout her years. A few years ago, Nancy completed the Commonwealth Leadership Program and was certified in Educational Leadership. She is a trained mentor for the district and has mentored many new teachers. She is a team leader, and an active member of the Walsh School Council.

Nancy also runs and coordinates an exceptional Special Olympics event at Walsh. This is a remarkable day for many students and teachers in the Framingham community. Close to one hundred 8th grade students help students with significant special needs from our elementary schools participate in various athletic events. It is a remarkable day where friendships are formed, challenges are overcome through cooperation, and success is celebrated by all who attend. In addition, Nancy runs the Project Welcome program which provides trained eighth grade students the opportunity to encourage and assist fifth grade students with the transition to middle school. When students were asked to describe Mrs. Hulme just one word, the responses were, "creative, awesome, fair, interesting, encouraging and special." Nancy Hulme – You Are Special!

You Are Special

Elizabeth Jeffery – Dunning Elementary School

Ms. Jeffery is the social worker at Charlotte Dunning School. Elizabeth is an amazing and dedicated staff member, who puts forth a conscientious and child-centered effort each and every day! Her willingness to consistently put students and their families at the forefront of her priorities goes above and beyond any human service professional that many of our staff has ever worked with.

Elizabeth has championed a number of initiatives that have emphasized the importance of social and emotional growth and development, as well as supporting families with their various needs. If one entered Elizabeth's office during lunch time on most days, she can be seen actively engaging with students during lunch groups. The special thing about these lunch groups is that each of them has a unique topic or area of social skill development for students. Elizabeth assists the students with setting goals and expectations for their weekly groups, and actively involves the students in meeting these needs. Ms. Jeffery has also successfully collaborated with our Speech and Language Pathologist in the development of some of these groups, in order to integrate service delivery with social skills development based on student needs. It is a joy to observe the interactions and comfort that the students have with Mrs. Jeffery and each other.

Additionally, Ms. Jeffery has implemented a "Girls Empowerment Lunch Group", where she has collaborated with the art teacher to enhance the self-esteem, motivation, and understanding of a selected group of fifth graders. Through the collaboration with the art teacher, the group discusses such topic as women in leadership roles, the characteristics of strong women, and social issues of girls as they prepare for middle school and adolescence. Having the opportunity to be involved with this group on one specific occasion, I was amazed at the confidence the girls exhibited as they participated in art activities along with their peers that were related to the topic at hand. What a powerful experience!!! Their final project of a Woman's Leadership Totem Pole was completed with enthusiasm and pride!

Her approach is calm, student-centered, and solution oriented. She has been proactive with so many of our families in order to gain resources for them within and outside the school community. A day doesn't go by when Elizabeth isn't researching all the possible alternatives in the community to make school and home work as partners. There is never a problem that Elizabeth views as too challenging. As one thinks about Elizabeth Jeffery and all that she means to the families, students, and staff at Charlotte Dunning, it is hard to find the words to describe the truly dedicated, compassionate, and amazing woman that we are putting forth for this nomination. It just goes without saying what an integral part of our staff she is, and although she would never expect to be nominated for such a prestigious honor, she is completely and fully deserving of it. Elizabeth Jeffery – You Are Special!

You Are Special

Otto Johnson - Walsh Middle School

Otto began his career in Framingham as a school psychologist intern at Fuller Middle School in 2005 after teaching at the elementary level for 12 years. He interned there for 1 year and was hired as the school psychologist at Walsh Middle School in 2006. Otto is everything one would want in a school psychologist and more. He is extremely visible and volunteers much of his time to support the Walsh community. He often visits classrooms to assist teachers on how to work best with particular students and they all appreciate his expertise, professionalism and dedication to each and every student's success. Otto is also an incredible resource for parents and often forges relationships between the parents and staff to benefit the students. He makes remarkable connections with students and many rely on him greatly.

Otto involves himself in every facet of the school. He is a PTO teacher representative; and he serves on the Walsh School Council, and Data Team. Otto was also the student council advisor for several years and continues to chaperone all of the school dances and is known to "bust a move" from time to time. In addition, Otto assists with the Walsh 5k road race event each year which is to raise money for a local charity.

He also works on the school musicals by helping backstage. Otto has volunteered with the Walsh Thanksgiving Food Drive and is often found wearing a Turkey costume on the day before the holiday to bring spirit and laughter to the Walsh community. He teaches all three grade levels of our social competency program and is a Mazie mentor for a former Walsh student. Otto also currently serves on the district's supervision and evaluation committee and is a vital team member.

Otto is an amazing educator and has made a tremendous impact in the Walsh community. Walsh is extremely fortunate to have him and we thank him for his continuous hard work and devotion to each student each and every day. Otto Johnson – You Are Special!

Janice Laakko – Framingham High School

Janice Laakko is a special education assistant and tutor at FHS. Janice's role at FHS includes working with students who have shown difficulty with the state's MCAS exams. She is assigned the task of assessing individual students' needs and provides one-on-one tutoring to address their needs so that they can achieve passing scores on this exam that is a graduation requirement for all students.

Janice's incredible patience, caring, and belief in all students have resulted in remarkable increases in their achievement, and have allowed many students to receive their high school diplomas when they NEVER thought it was possible. She has tutored individual students in many subjects and meets them where they are and lifts them up from there. Her steady support and constant encouragement have single-handedly helped special education achieve this life-long dream and rite of passage for all students. She is an absolute gem for the students of Framingham. Janice Laakko - You Are Special!

You Are Special

Miriam Lapa Silva - Potter Road Elementary School

Potter Road wants to honor Miriam Lapa Silva for the depth of care that she shows to her students each and every day.

Mrs. Lapa Silva is a valued member of the Potter Road School Community. She works with some of youngest students. Each day she provides these first grade students with love, nurturing and academic challenges. She connects with each student making them feel special, loved and successful. Miriam works hard each day to forge relationships with the families of each of her students. She educates them about the importance of being involved with their child's education and works hard in partnership with them. All of her hard work and dedication brings about significant, positive changes for the better in these children's lives. After having Mrs. Lapa Silva for a teacher, all of her students really do believe that dreams can come true.

Ms. Lapa Silva has been a Portuguese bilingual teacher in Framingham for the past eleven years. Prior to that Miriam taught in the Sao Paulo Public School System in Brazil for seven years. She also worked for Freios Varga as an educational coordinator for adult literacy. We are also very proud to acknowledge that Miriam recently became a citizen of the United States of America.

Miriam Lapa Silva – You Are Special!

Rebecca Morrison - Barbieri Elementary School

Rebecca Morrison has been an integral member of Barbieri's support team for the past 11 years. As Barbieri's guidance counselor, Rebecca is charged with monitoring the academic and social-emotional progress of all 570 students in our school. Rebecca excels in completing the normal responsibilities of her position; monitoring student progress, scheduling and running student support meetings, supporting staff in the implementation of Open Circle, running groups for students needing support in developing social skills, consulting with staff around classroom management and individual student needs, interfacing with parents around a multitude of issues from attendance, to academic progress, to working with them to meet the social-emotional needs of their children. But Rebecca's contributions to our school community hardly stop there!

Rebecca has been the moving force behind the development and implementation of our new school-wide, positive behavior plan – CARE. She is an expert in student behavior management and not only possesses incredible knowledge, but also knows how to communicate this knowledge to teachers and other building staff. Our CARE program is a comprehensive system of shared expectations, incentives and consequences. Through CARE, students learn what it means to care for their classroom and school, care about their academic work, respect themselves and the people in their school community and give their best effort every day. They learn how CARE plays out in every area of the school and they are positively reinforced for showing their CARE values through classroom raffles for privileges, CARE assemblies and celebrations, and parent CARE notes to name just a few.

Rebecca led the committee which worked all last year and during the summer to create this school-wide plan. She researched outside support and brought university resources to guide us through the process. Barbieri is a more caring, united community of learners who also know what it means to truly "care" about others because of the outstanding work of Rebecca! Rebecca Morrison – You Are Special!

You Are Special

Kerri O'Brien – Stapleton Elementary School

Ms. O'Brien is a wonderful, kind and patient teacher who is great with students and parents. She shows great attention to minor details and tries to link the child's behavior in class to the child's environment outside of class. She demonstrates the professionalism of a seasoned teacher during her first two years in Framingham. She controls her classroom with positive reinforcement and consistent follow through.

Kerri is always thoughtful and kind to students, parents and staff. She has achieved a balance between nurturing and limit setting and has won the respect of all her students. Her students thrive socially, emotionally and academically under her care. She goes above and beyond to help her students reach their full potential. She is a role model for her students and for staff. Kerri is always looking for ways to help her Kindergarten Team, her students and the school. Kerri O'Brien - You Are Special!

Deb Phillips - Cameron Middle School

Debra Phillips is an advocate for every child in the school. She not only works with those students who have issues in decoding and fluency, but she has high expectations for all students. Teachers in the school know she is a great colleague who helps the staff motivate struggling readers by taking an active role in improving each student's skills. Deb helps all educators teach reading and they are thankful for her dedication to improving students' language and reading. Students, across all three grade levels, must read independent books at their just right level every night in addition to doing their other homework.

Deb also vetted numerous texts for some literacy lab groups both this and last year. She works diligently with her students using the Wilson Reading Program and the Read Naturally Program. Students transfer strategies learned in her room to their content area classes. When students try their best at reading they are rewarded with trips to area colleges which encourages them to set lofty goals for their future. She has taken busloads of children to Boston College and Harvard University. Debra has encouraged teachers to explore leveled-reading texts. She has been instrumental in assisting with the Framingham literacy initiative as well as continuing some great traditions at Cameron Middle School. Deb is a Literacy Leader!

In addition, she oversaw our last two Veterans' Day school-wide assemblies. She volunteers at after-school activities such as the spaghetti dinner, the annual book fair, family fun day, the 8th grade basketball game, and of course, the yearly community service project, Halloween Haven. Debra Phillips – You Are Special!

You Are Special

Sharon Silverman – Brophy Elementary School

Sharon Silverman, with her professional, caring and child friendly demeanor, warmly greets all who enter Brophy School. Whether you are a student, parent, faculty member, or the all too familiar “frequent flyer”, when you enter our office you can sense the caring attitude and take comfort in Sharon’s knowledgeable assistance and response! No one could wish for a better “first face”! Sharon epitomizes the welcoming, child-centered and caring culture that is Brophy School.

Sharon is able to juggle the myriad of responsibilities along with the unpredictable nature of an elementary school office with the grace and skill of the true professional she is. Her quiet and calm manner, coupled with her precision and organization, makes her daily responsibilities and routines look effortless and unchallenging. However, if you were to take the time to shadow Sharon on any given day and watch her tackle the endless responsibilities of her job, you would see and admire the expertise that she brings to her position.

Sharon has worked in several positions during her tenure at Brophy School. Initially, Sharon was a cafeteria/office aide. When a secretarial position became available, Sharon was offered and accepted that position. And, for the past 8 years, Sharon has been our office manager.

On any given day, any office manager or secretary in the Framingham school district could be recognized for an award for going above and beyond their “job description.” Sharon consistently meets and exceeds the expectations of her position EACH and EVERY day. It is for these reasons, and for the countless other reasons not mentioned here, that we say: Sharon Silverman – You Are Special!

Literacy Program – Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

Compassion, perseverance, confidence, respect, and generosity. At Woodrow Wilson, these words “motivate” all of our teachers and students. Vocabulary was chosen as a result of a careful study of our student data as well as research on best practices for all students – including English language learners. For the past two years, Wilson teachers and students have engaged in a school-wide vocabulary initiative, of which the aforementioned words are included. At Woodrow Wilson, we recognize that by getting our students excited about words and carefully teaching them words that they will encounter in literature and their subject areas, we are setting them up for academic and lifelong success.

When you come in our building, the vocabulary initiative comes to life. For example, students include new words in their writing, play games with words, talk about word relationships, learn word parts, and set up word competitions to see which word their class uses the most. Parents and visitors to our school have often commented on the vocabulary of our students, especially when first graders so eloquently explain that they hope lunchtime is soon because they are “famished.” Woodrow Wilson Literacy Team – You Are Special!

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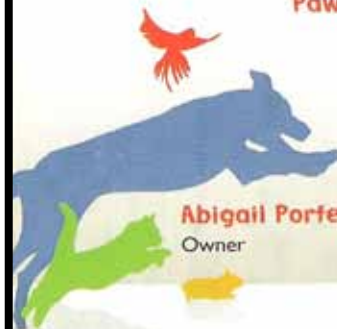
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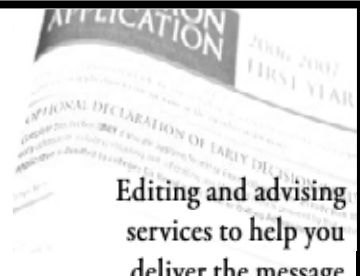
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A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell, where his influence stops.

Henry Brooks Adams

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