

December 4, 2015

Julie Bablin



Position: Teaching Assistant, Wood Road Elementary School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? 15 years

How do you spend your free time? I love to read, spend time with my family and watch my son compete in swim meets.

Tell us about your non-human family: I have a zoo at home. I have three cats: two Siamese named Milo and Otis and a Munchkin named Kady. I also have two dogs: a Blue Merle Sheltie named Nina and a Retriever/Lab mutt named Scotty.

What is the weirdest job you ever had? I worked as a chambermaid at a hotel for three years when I was a teenager. It wasn't a weird job, but I saw many interesting things.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? I would be happy with anything someone else cooked for me!

A teacher who inspired you as a child: My high school band teacher, Mr. Boschi was my inspiration. I loved playing my flute in concert band and marching band. I even played saxophone in jazz band and took drum lessons with him! Mr. Boschi helped me to get out of my comfort zone by encouraging me to attend NYSSMA every year and to go to all-county



band. These are things I never would have pursued on my own as I was extremely shy. He also inspired my love of music that I carry with me every day.

People would be surprised to know: I married my husband Chris when I was 19 years old and was in labor for my first child on my 21st birthday! We have three sons. Nicolas is 23, Joshua is 21 and Matthew is 10.

Your dream place to live: In an oceanfront house anywhere warm.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self: You won't always be this shy and awkward!

What is at the top of your bucket list? Traveling to Hawaii and Australia.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? If I could have any job for a day it would be to be a social worker or counselor.

Christine Chetwynd

Position: Teaching Assistant, Wood Road Elementary School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? 13 years

How do you spend your free time? Walking my dog Murphy, swimming, hiking, reading and spending time with my family.

Tell us about your non-human family: Murphy is a rat terrier mix that we rescued from the streets of Tennessee! He is like a toddler. He makes us laugh, but I wish his breath was better!

What is the weirdest job you ever had? The weirdest job I ever had was a sales position for a dental supply company.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Filet mignon and whatever the chef wants to cook up, but I'm



not cleaning the chef's mess!

A teacher who inspired you as a child: Mr. Tedeski was always full of great laughs. He would often finish on the chalkboard and promptly place the eraser in his mass of curly hair so he wouldn't lose it. The eraser would make it look like a reverse Mohawk!



People would be surprised to know: I attended three different colleges and changed my major four times! From the streets of Boston, to the farm country in Fulton County to the suburbs of Plattsburgh. I majored in fashion, business management, liberal studies and finally communication arts. Somehow I only graduated one semester late!

Your dream place to live: Somewhere warm with palm trees.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self: Be brave, speak up and be yourself!

What is at the top of your bucket list? Going to a Green Bay Packers game in Wisconsin with my husband.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? I would be a professional football player. I've always wanted to play ball!

Anything else you would like to share? My children are amazing! Cat is a student at SUNY Plattsburgh and is an artist. Cam is currently working full-time and saving up funds for a big move to California!

Lisa Closson



Position: Special Education aide, Gordon Creek Elementary School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? I started at Gordon Creek this fall, but have subbed in the district since 2009.

How do you spend your free time? I enjoy puzzles, spending time with my children and practicing my math facts!

Tell us about your non-human family: My family currently has a fat black and white tuxedo cat named Martin. He weighs

20 pounds!

What is the weirdest job you ever had? Volunteering at a haunted house!

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Anything. I love food!

A teacher who inspired you as a child: I would have to say my fourth grade teacher for seeing the positive energy in every student. He knew how to teach on so many different levels.

People would be surprised to know: I dislike snow and winter.

Your dream place to live: Disney World

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self?
Don't be afraid to have a voice in the classroom.

What is at the top of your bucket list? A trip to California.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? I would love to teach an algebra class.

Anything else you would like to share: I have three daughters, ages 8, 14 and 16.



Laurie Kennedy



Position: Speech Therapist, Milton Terrace Elementary

How long have you worked at BSCSD? 33 years

How do you spend your free time? I like to kayak, golf, read, swim, DIY projects and spend time with my pets.

Tell us about your non-human family: I have three cats- Cubby, Skunkers and Oreo. I have two dogs- a 10 year old Corgi named Bella and a one year old American Bulldog named Whiskey.

What is the weirdest job you ever had? Probably being a waitress. It wasn't so much weird as it was crazy!

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Something Mexican.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: My mom was a kindergarten teacher which

inspired me. She was terrific at her job.

People would be surprised to know: I taught cardio-kickboxing classes.

Your dream place to live: Anywhere looking out on the ocean.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self? Middle school age is very difficult, but it is such a miniscule part of the rest of your life. Be true to yourself and make good choices. You will be a better adult for it. Others may not be.

What is at the top of your bucket list? Having my own business.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? The host of a DIY TV show.

Anything else you want to share? I have two wonderful children who make me very proud to be their mother. Brendan is 24 and a nurse in a hospital emergency room. Perry is 21 and will graduate from SUNY Oswego this year with a major in Zoology.



Laurie Larson



Position: Theatre and Music teacher, High School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? 16 years

How do you spend your free time? Directing shows in the area, gardening, traveling, visiting museums and playing Frisbee with my Australian Shepard, Jack.

Tell us about your non-human family: Three dogs: Angel is a Sheba Inu (and she is no angel) Roxie is a wolf sable Pomeranian and Captain "Jack" Sparrow Larson is my Frisbee obsessed Australian Shepard.

What is the weirdest job you ever had? It's not that weird, but I was a salesperson and buyer for a bridal gift store.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you?

Celebrity Chef Rocco DiSpirito's mother's meatballs or anything cooked by Gordon Ramsey.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: Barbara Caucci was my elementary music teacher and private voice teacher. She was very passionate about music and fought hard to keep music in my school.

People would be surprised to know: That sometimes I workout while watching Maury.

Your dream place to live? NYC or Florence, Italy.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self: Worry less!

What is at the top of your bucket list? To visit all 50 US states and go to Italy again.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? Cheese monger or fortune cookie writer.

Amy Laurin



Position: Math Interventionist, Milton Terrace

How long have you worked at BSCSD? Since 2001

How do you spend your free time? I love spending time with my family, but when I have "free" time I enjoy photography, decorating and SHOPPING!

Tell us about your non-human family: Zip. Zero. ZILCH! And I love it!

What is the weirdest job you ever had? Once summer I worked at the SPAC box office. My specialty was the will-call window. Before big concerts we would occasionally need to bring tickets to the performers. I got to go behind stage and on tour busses. It was an interesting job!

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Something delicious with short ribs, mushrooms, wine and risotto!

A teacher who inspired you as a child: I loved many of my school experiences growing up. Mr. Havens, my 6th grade teacher, was the coolest teacher in the world. He inspired me to love learning and he made things "click". I think of him often and I always tell my math students about him.

People would be surprised to know: My great, great, great grandfather Charles Grafton Page was a famous inventor. He was considered the father of the modern circuit breaker in 1836 and some of his work contributed to Alexander Graham Bell inventing the telephone. My grandfather, Charles Page Evans was named after him and I named my daughter Parker Page after both of them.

Your dream place to live: Downtown Saratoga Springs FOREVER.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self? To never lose confidence because as soon as you do, you start believing you can't do things.

What is at the top of your bucket list? I am totally not a bucket list type of person, but my dream would be to buy the house I grew up in. On the property is my fathers old business, which is currently a store just outside of Saratoga called Schuyler Pond. My ultimate dream would be to buy it, open a store (like JoJo on HGTV's Fixer Upper) and raise my family there!

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? I would want to work side by side with JoJo on Fixer Upper from HGTV! We would buy old houses, gut them, redesign them and decorate them.

Anna Nickson



Position: Third grade teacher, Gordon Creek Elementary School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? This is my 16th year.

How do you spend your free time? I love playing with my two boys, Curtis (4) and Ben (2). I also love to create jewelry and knit. I exercise/run when I can find time.

Tell us about your non-human family: Rosie is our hound we rescued this past summer. She is 7 months old and keeps us busy. She is my new running buddy.

What is the weirdest job you ever had? During a summer in college at Plattsburgh, I was a waitress for the "graveyard" shift which was 11pm-7am. It was very interesting, but I try to block that experience from my memory! Luckily I was promoted to the morning shift.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Lunches or dinners for the school year. I wouldn't be pick about the type of food as long as it was mostly healthy.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: Two high school teachers were my inspiration. The first because she genuinely cared about each student. She knew about each student's family, his/her extra curricular activities, paid attention to each students emotional well-being and was a great leader. My other inspiration was my chemistry teacher. She helped us learn chemistry concepts by singing silly songs and personifying the scientific elements. She also had a deep understanding of the content and presented it in an organized, well prepared and thoughtful manner.

People would be surprised to know: That I speak Polish fluently, but have never traveled to Poland. Also that I ran two marathons ten years ago and plan to train for another one for my 40th birthday next year.

Your dream place to live: Poland, but not forever. Just for a summer.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self? Believe in yourself. It doesn't matter what others think. you may not be the fastest runner in gym class for the mile run, but you'll go faster after four miles.

What is at the top of your bucket list? To travel to Poland.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? Swim coach or fitness coach. I swam competitively for 13 years and my coaches were very motivating.

