

Jill Kingston

New Leadership for Churchville Elementary

Mrs. Jill Kingston, Churchville Elementary School's new Principal, has proven to be flexible and resourceful. This summer, due to construction beginning at Churchville Elementary, she found herself in a modular classroom instead of setting up her new office in the main building. She took this in stride and even felt that it made for a good way to meet the staff!

Mrs. Kingston came to Council Rock with a varied background. She grew up in Buffalo, New York and graduated from Daemen College in Amherst, New York. After getting married, she moved every couple of years due to her husband's career. She was a substitute teacher in Sandusky, Ohio for a time, while she was working for Mattel Toys as a sales representative. She quipped that she had the perfect job; she was able to play with Barbie's and Matchbox cars for a living. From Ohio, Mrs. Kingston moved to Dearborn, Michigan where she decided she missed and wanted to go back to teaching full time. Luckily, her husband changed careers and they moved to Pennsylvania permanently, where she has lived for 11 years. She currently resides in the area with her husband and 5 English Bulldogs.

Prior to coming to Council Rock, Mrs. Kingston held positions in the Central Bucks School District. She taught for 7 years in 6th, 5th and 1st grade classrooms at Kutz Elementary. Her principal at the time suggested she pursue an administrative certification. While she attended Delaware Valley College, gaining an Educational Leadership degree, the Kutz Principal provided administrative leadership opportunities for her.

This experience allowed Mrs. Kingston to move to an Assistant Principal position at Cold Spring Elementary. After a year, the Kutz Principal left on a one year sabbatical and Mrs. Kingston returned to Kutz as the Acting Principal, with the caveat that she would return to Cold Spring after that year. Once she returned to Cold Spring she realized that she enjoyed having her own building, and sought the Principal position at Churchville Elementary.

As a new administrator in Council Rock she has been assigned a mentor, Rolling Hills Principal, Mr. Joe MacClay, who, interestingly, had the same Assistant Principal position at Cold Spring while Mrs. Kingston was Acting Principal at Kutz for a year. She also has the opportunity to attend workshops covering the staff supervision plan and building budgeting. She finds the district to be a "fantastic resource" and all questions she has had have been addressed very quickly and thoroughly.

Mrs. Kingston has found the Churchville population, from students to parents and staff, to be like a family. She says that they have welcomed her and that "everyone is so positive." Mrs. Kingston says that the relationships are "family-like" and the school district puts family and community first.

She is happy with the paperless communication initiative in the district and said that Churchville's PTO uses not only the E-Friday folder, but also a listserv to alert families to new information as it is posted. Mrs. Kingston is building her own listserv, and feels that this, in conjunction with the E-Friday folder and the Global Connect phone system, will go a long way toward better communication.

Mrs. Kingston thinks the biggest challenge she faces is the next phase of renovations at Churchville, which will run from Spring 2009 until September 2010. Since construction will occur while school is in session, she wants to ensure student safety and a smooth process. She is very pleased that staff have been integral in the planning for the renovations, ensuring the educational soundness of the construction plan.

Her short term goal is to establish herself in the community, getting to know staff, students and parents. To that end, Mrs. Kingston has been going into each classroom and reading to students. She chooses books that are appropriate to establishing proper school values. Her long term goals, in addition to the construction and safety concerns, are to improve communications and to see an increase in student achievement.

Citizens For Education welcomes Mrs. Kingston and wishes her the best of luck as she builds on Churchville's successes and navigates the construction process.