

# Python Post

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The monthly newsletter of the **Coventry Village School**  
348 Route 5, Coventry, Vermont 05825 (802) 754-6464

## July/Aug. Calendar

July 4: Independence Day

July 5: Coventry Day

**August 20:** SU Level Professional Development (for teachers). 6:30 pm School Board Meeting.

**August 20-21:** School Level Professional Development (for teachers)

**August 25:** Teacher Prep Day

**August 26:** First Day of School

DON'T FORGET...



Green Mountain Farm-to-School's fabulous and delicious mobile food cart, The Lunchbox, is serving up FREE healthy lunches to all kids 18 and under this summer! Join them every Thursday through August 20th in Newport's Gardner Park. Food is also available for those over 18 to purchase; all proceeds help support programs throughout the year.

## Mini Relay for Life

PHOTOS BY RANDI MORSE  
<http://www.randileephotography.com>

Organized by Jaime Comtois, this year's CVS Mini Relay for Life honored staff member April Bapp, who is fighting colon cancer.



## Python Post Subscriptions

CVS Parents/Guardians automatically receive a newsletter each month.

Community members may request a free subscription.

Newsletters are available in print or by e-mail: [cvsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cvsnewsletter@gmail.com).

**RESPECTFUL. RESPONSIBLE. READY TO LEARN.**

**Mary Kay Amidon**  
Administrative Assistant



**Retiring after 33 years at CVS**

“I’ll miss the kids; that will be the hardest thing for me. I don’t want to lose them-- I want to keep tabs on you guys! Seriously, I don’t mean to sound mushy, but this staff is like my family.”

*Mr. B. says: “Mrs. Amidon is an amazing woman who served CVS for 33 years—I hope I have her level of intelligence and energy when I’m 74! We will miss her dearly!”*

**Alicia Spates-Messier**  
English Teacher



**Moving to New Hampshire**

“I’ll miss this community and getting to know the kids so well.”

*Mr. B. says: “Mrs. Spates-Messier was an excellent addition to our school this year; she’s an organized, engaging teacher and I’m sorry to see her go.”*

**Carinthia Grayson**  
Science Teacher



**Moving to southern Vermont to be closer to her mother**

“I will miss the kids and the staff. I have been at CVS for ten years, so it definitely feels like my second home. [Moving] was an extremely hard decision to make because it meant leaving a place and people I love.”

*Mr. B. says: “Ms. Grayson is an energetic teacher who is never afraid to try new things, and her future students are lucky.”*

**John White**  
Math Teacher



**Retiring after 10 years at CVS**

“I’ve really enjoyed all of the kids. I like working together with kids on good, hard math. I’m also excited about the people who were hired to replace [those of us who are leaving] and I wish I could work with them.”

*Mr. B. says: “Mr. White positively influenced the lives of many children—I will miss him.”*

*Goodbye...*

...to these treasured staff members. Thanks for your service; CVS won’t be the same without you!

**NOT PICTURED:**

**Brenda Sattelberger (Special Education, moving to Florida)**  
*Mr. B. says: “Mrs. Sattelberger’s calmness and warmth was clear to all who interacted with her. She will be missed.”*

**Elise Hancock (Speech and Language Pathologist, moving to Morrisville)**  
*Mr. B. says: “I have never met a more knowledgeable Speech and Language Pathologist than Ms. Hancock—the district has lost a great resource in her.”*

**Phillis Mosher**  
Guidance Counselor



**Retiring after 30 + 1 years at CVS**

“I’ll miss every single thing about this school. It’s even more difficult to leave the second time.”

*Mr. B. says: “Though I only worked with Mrs. Mosher for one year, it became obvious quickly that here was a wise, generous, and funny soul indeed.”*

# ...and Hello

We welcome our new staff members to CVS! The wealth of experience and talent they bring will enrich our school:

- Mrs. Prue worked as an Administrative Assistant at Maple Lane Nursing Home (12 years) and River of Life (2 years). She's working on her A.A. at CCV.
- Mrs. Hardt (M.A., Johnson State College; B.A., Sterling College) worked at the Hazon Union School in Hardwick, VT.
- Mrs. Rumsey (M.A., University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Temple University; B.A., Bryn Mawr College) worked at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School in Bethlehem, PA.
- Mr. Valentine (B.A., Keene State College) worked at the Great Brook School in Antrim, NH (2014 NH Middle School of the Year!).
- Mr. Estes (M.S., San Diego State University; B.A., Franklin Pierce College) worked in the Albuquerque Public Schools in New Mexico.

## Christine Rumsey English Teacher



"I look forward to getting to know the kids in Vermont. I like seeing [academics] through kids' eyes."

**HOBBIES:** Walking her dog (a Husky) and riding her bike with her husband. "I want to learn how to cross-country ski."

## Jessica Prue Administrative Assistant



"I most look forward to watching the kids grow and meeting new people. Feel free to stop in!"

**HOBBIES:** Spending time with her family (she has a husband and two daughters, aged 12 and 4). They like sports-- softball in summer, ice skating and sledding in winter. "We make the best of what the weather's doing." She also enjoys vegetable gardening. "Our garden gets bigger every year-- now it's 100 x 150 feet. We plant extra to give to people."

## Corey Valentine Math Teacher



"I'm excited to join a staff that's as excited about teaching as I am. I love those lightbulb moments [in the classroom]-- when kids have an "Aha!" moment and understand something new."

**HOBBIES:** Gardening, fishing, kayaking-- "anything outdoors." He also just adopted his first cat!

## Katrina Hardt Science Teacher



"I look forward to getting to know all of the students at CVS and to working with the other teachers to design and facilitate engaging, challenging learning experiences for my students. I also look forward to sharing my love of learning and my passion for science and the natural world."

**HOBBIES:** Spending time with her husband and son, reading, cooking, canoeing, exploring nature, gardening, jogging, hiking, biking, and XC skiing.

## Josh Estes Guidance Counselor



"So far the staff seems really nice. I look forward to working with kids from a young age, and to the relationships I can build over time."

**HOBBIES:** Spending time with family (he has a wife and 16-year-old daughter), traveling (favorite destination so far: Salzburg, Austria), and music: "play, listen, and see." He plays bass drums and the guitar, and enjoys heavy metal.

# 2014 CVS Distinguished Educator Award: *Kathy Taplin*

*An collection of thoughts from staff members on Kathy Taplin's influence:*

Kathy Taplin was born to teach kindergarten and knew it from a very young age. She loves the sound of chalk tapping on the chalkboard, she loves the organization needed to perform this profession efficiently and effectively, and most importantly and quite evident, she ABSOLUTELY LOVES her students.

This deep caring that she shows her students every single day lets them know that they are safe, valued and loved while they are in her classroom and even years later once they have moved on. Year after year, she remembers nearly every students' middle names, birthdays and personal details about their lives, showing her true compassion and desire to connect with her students that lasts well beyond their time within her classroom walls.

Although Kathy has been teaching for a very long time, she strives to learn more and grow as an educator every day. She does not settle for mediocrity in any lesson she delivers, and she reflects on what she could do differently next time to make an even bigger impact on her students' learning. She is always learning, but has so much expertise that she brings to her classroom and to other teachers in our building.

I have learned so much from Kathy about what it means to be a teacher and I consider her not only a mentor but a second mother because of all she has done for me that has helped me to grow both professionally and emotionally. She is, already, what we should all strive to be not only as teachers but as people.



*Mrs. Taplin's response to receiving the award, which is granted by colleagues:*  
 "I felt honored to be chosen by colleagues for whom I have the greatest respect. We share the same vision, and everyone [at CVS] puts their hearts and souls into teaching. When I was receiving the award, I did think - even at my age - my Mom and Dad would be proud of me."

## TEACHER WORD SEARCH

F R T T E E N A I T O M M P R  
 F A E E O O L T M Q L P Y U K  
 I S U G S R R I E I L B M V I  
 G R E Y R G O N N Y D S W V L  
 P Y A T R E G B I W E O W X L  
 R R T W S F B Y T Y L K N U S  
 G B D E E E Z L N R E Y T M L  
 C M K K K E J N E J N X D O P  
 H A N C O C K K L T T N R S D  
 Y E E T I H W P A B T V A R O  
 Z Y I D W F V X V Z V A H E I  
 R E I S S E M S E T A P S R M  
 Y A Y I V M M H G N T U I U M  
 W E D F U L M T O J L I A R O  
 W Z H L L T O R D T U E Y M L

*Find the last names of our new and departing teachers!*

## Summer Kickoff

*The last day of school finished with plenty of sunshine and fun for all!*



## CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES!



Brendon Blouin, Nicholas Bowen, Bret Butler, Aidan Garipey, Manisha Gratton, Michael Leaker, Bailey McManus, Abigail Paulauskas, Corey Provoncha, Timothy Prue, Joshua Roberts, and Kylie Wright