

The Clark-Wilkins Villager
August 17, 2018



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[Clark-Wilkins Website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS – [Click here for the 2018-2019 SAU39 Calendar](#)

- August 27 – New Student Orientation Grades 1-4 (For Families/Students new to Wilkins)
- September 4 – First Day of Instruction – Grades 1-4
- September 4 - Kindergarten Orientation
- September 5 - First Day of instruction Pre-K and Kindergarten
- September 8 – [Amherst Old Home Day Festival](#)
- September 11 – Late Start
- **September 14 – Community Flyer Day (Please contact school offices for distribution details)**
- September 24 & 25 – Clark-Wilkins Open House
- October 8 – Columbus Day – no School
- November 5 – Teacher In-Service Day – no school
- November 6 – Election Day – no school

CHECK OUT OUR [COMMUNITY NEWS PAGE](#) FOR INFORMATION ON:

- Amherst Old Home Week, September 8
- Amherst Soccer Club

In the early spring of the last school year, Clark-Wilkins piloted a Breakfast Program with great success. We are pleased to inform you that we will be offering breakfast each day for the full school year. Breakfast will be served from 8:10-8:30 at Clark and Wilkins. Breakfast will cost \$1.50 per day. Children that would like to have breakfast at school can come to the MPR/cafeteria to pick up and eat their meal. They do not need to order ahead, but their account will be charged for each meal that they purchase. Breakfast and lunch menus will be posted and shared with families before the start of school.

New Student Orientation for children entering grades 1-4 is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 10:00 AM at Wilkins. Children and families will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet the administrators, and connect with members of our student support team. While there may be some classroom teachers in the building working in their classrooms, there is no guarantee that your child's teacher will be at Wilkins during the Orientation. We are very excited to welcome new families and students to our school community.

Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for all incoming Kindergarten students on Tuesday, September 4, 9:30-11:30 AM. A detailed schedule has been sent out to all families via email, and a hard copy will be sent to all families via the postal service on Monday. This mailing will also include teacher placement letters.

Next week's edition of The Villager will include information about the first days of school, introduce more of our fabulous teams, and give you an update on the Clark Playground – which is scheduled to be built by our community volunteers late next week.

Respectfully submitted by Nicola Fraley, Principal

All About Your First Grade Team

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” — [Helen Keller](#)

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Top Row, left to right: Amanda Eaton, Brenda McHugh
Second Row, left to right: Cheryl Greany, Kim Ballantyne, Liz Alexakos
Third Row, left to right: Mary Ireland, Victoria Boothroyd

Mrs. Eaton is thrilled to kick off her 15th year at Clark-Wilkins. When she's not teaching, she spends her time in Mason with her husband David and their lab Laila. Mrs. Eaton loves cheering on the Boston sports teams, going to concerts, taking road trips, and drinking great coffee. She can't wait to welcome her new first graders this September!

My name is **Brenda McHugh**, and I have been a teacher at Clark-Wilkins School for the past 21 years. I have two children and this fall I will be anxiously awaiting the birth of my first grandchild. I love spending time with my family and the students I teach. My greatest joy is making strong connections with my students, so they feel loved, respected, and valued members of my "First Grade Family! I am very excited to begin a wonderful year of fun and learning this September.

Cheryl Greany is a first-grade teacher who is excited to be entering her 10th year of teaching at Clark-Wilkins Elementary School. During these years, she has also taught Special Education, Kindergarten, and Second Grade. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the magical spark on students' faces when they realize what they have achieved. Cheryl is married, with
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two sons. She will be entering a new phase in her life this fall as a first-time “empty-nester,” as her youngest heads off to college.

This is **Kim Ballantyne's** 11th year teaching at Clark-Wilkins School. She is eager to teach first grade again after teaching kindergarten and preschool in Amherst. Kim likes to incorporate elements of nature in her teaching and encourages students to ask questions and explore new interests. She believes that creating a welcoming environment encourages student involvement and an excitement for learning. Kim is married with three daughters. She and her family love to travel and visit new places!

Liz (Mrs. A) can't wait to come back to school this fall and be in the classroom for her 23rd year in Amherst! (Do you know the first day of school is Mrs.A's favorite day of the year?). Liz keeps busy outside of school with her three kids (17,15 and 9), her two dogs and husband. She loves going to the beach. Liz loves learning as much as teaching and is excited to instill a love of learning in her students.

Mrs. Ireland is excited to work with her first-grade class this September! It will be her fifteenth year at Wilkins School. She enjoys cooking, hiking with her family and redecorating her house. Mrs. Ireland believes all children can succeed in school when given a safe, accepting environment to learn and grow.

Mrs. Boothroyd will be entering her 22nd year teaching in Amherst. She has taught multi-age, 1st and 2nd grade. Spending time with her two little boys keeps her busy. She loves living in the town she teaches in!