

## **NEW PRINCIPAL FOR HINDLEY SCHOOL APPOINTED**

The Darien Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Donald P. Fiftal are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Rita Ferri to be the next Principal for the Hindley School. She will replace Dr. Anthony Timpanelli, who is retiring after 35 years with the Darien Public Schools, the past ten as Principal of Hindley School.

Rita Ferri has been on the staff of the Darien Public Schools for the past thirteen years. She began as an elementary teacher, specializing in primary grade education. In 2001 she was appointed as an assistant principal serving each of our elementary schools. As the role of assistant principal developed, Mrs. Ferri was instrumental, since her work defined how meaningful the work of an elementary assistant principal could be. In her position, she was among the pioneers who helped establish the Columbia University reader's and writer's workshop approach in our elementary schools. She also was a key developer and writer of Darien's STAR Character Education Program. In 2006 she was appointed a fulltime assistant principal at Hindley School where she strengthened her reputation as a presenter of staff development and promoter of school community life.

During the period from spring, 2008 to winter, 2009, Rita Ferri served as Acting Principal at Hindley School. Her effectiveness during this time proved her abilities as an overall instructional leader and school manager. Her capacity to successfully lead Hindley School for the better part of a year was both a unique and an essential proving ground on which the Board of Education based its decision.

Rita Ferri's undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree is from Sacred Heart University. She received a graduate Master of Science degree through the University of Bridgeport. She was awarded a Sixth Year Diploma of study in Educational Administration and Supervision, also from the University of Bridgeport. She holds additional certification as a BEST Mentor and has consulted on Early Childhood Education for the Connecticut State Department of Education. Further, she has been trained in the Tri-State Consortium Assessment model, and she has participated on a number of visiting assessment teams.

She has received a number of awards and distinctions, including a Celebration of Excellence Award from the Connecticut Department of Education, A Citizenship Teacher Award from the Connecticut Veterans of Foreign War, an Outstanding Teacher nomination for the National Council of the Down Syndrome Foundation, and an Assistant Principal of the Year Nomination to the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Rita Ferri, who resides in New Canaan with her husband, begins her official duties on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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