

# Education Update

June 2017

## Tinc Road principal to retire

*Under his building leadership, Tinc Road became one of NJ's best schools*

**D**R. RICHARD FAIR, principal of Tinc Road Elementary School, will retire at the end of the month, bringing to a close a 31-year educational career – 21 years spent at the helm of Tinc Road.

**“It’s the job of the principal to bring out everyone’s best, their ‘A’ game, on a daily basis.”**

**Dr. Richard Fair**  
Tinc Road principal

Under his leadership, the school became one of the best elementary schools in Morris County, with standardized test scores that soared it into the top 10%. In 2016, Tinc Road was also ranked in the top 5% of the highest-achieving elementary schools in all of New Jersey – the highest state ranking ever of a Mount Olive school.

### Career and leadership

Dr. Fair, who grew up right next door in Roxbury, began his career in Virginia teaching elementary-level physical education. He later moved back to New Jersey to serve as athletic director in Boonton and then spent two years there as a principal of two schools in the middle of a consolidation. In the summer of 1996 he saw the ad for the Tinc Road principal position, which he keeps in his office to this day, and soon found his home away from home for the next two + decades.

Early in his tenure at Tinc Road, he earned his doctorate in education from Seton Hall. His research and thesis on educational leadership helped shape him and his principalship, as did the skills he developed as an athletic coach. That’s very much how the veteran educator sees himself: as a coach inspiring people to learn and grow.

“It’s the job of the principal to bring out

everyone’s best, their ‘A’ game, on a daily basis,” said Dr. Fair. “And to develop a true sense of community where we’re all in this together working for kids. You do that by cultivating trust. Bosses control, leaders inspire trust. In any relationship, once you have that level of trust you can do anything.”

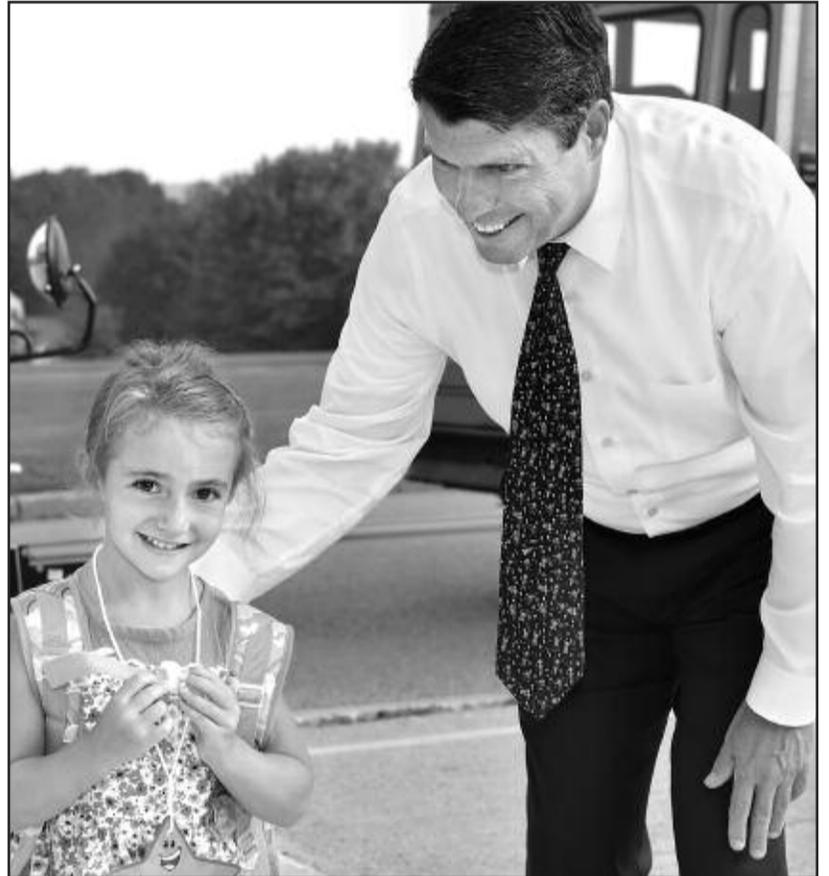
### Working with his colleagues

That philosophy has been passed on to Nicole Musarra, principal of Sandshore Elementary School. Ms. Musarra worked for four years as Tinc Road’s instructional supervisor and second in command before becoming Sandshore’s principal in 2014.

“He’s my mentor and my best friend,” said Ms. Musarra. “He taught me everything about leadership, not just to be a principal of a school with tasks to complete but how to lead a school with a vision. He’s the heart and soul of Tinc Road and truly believes every person working there is important to the building’s success, no matter what their role is.”

The school culture of mutual respect and collegiality that Dr. Fair has built is heralded by teachers, along with his personal warmth and professionalism.

“His support and confidence has allowed



Dr. Richard Fair welcomes Logan Wright to her first day of school in 2015

each teacher here the opportunity to reach their highest potential,” said Pam Sexton, fifth grade teacher. “He’s given us the freedom to be creative and empowered us to be the best that we can be.”

### Legacy

Dr. Fair’s legacy will continue for years to come. He started programs that have become Tinc Road traditions such as the Family Fall Festival, Friday Folders, a reading program for struggling first-graders, the end of the

*continued on back page*

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## AIR DOME FOR RENT

**Air dome will cover MOHS field in winter**

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# Air dome will cover HS field in winter

*Dome allows physical education use in cold weather; available for rental by community*

An air dome will be installed on the soccer field at Mount Olive High School during the winter months, beginning this year on December 1. The Marauder Dome, which will be lit and heated to room temperature, will make the field usable in the cold and inclement weather. This not only allows for extended athletic and physical education use, but also use by the community on non-school days and during non-school hours.

Because the cost will be financed over several years, the dome will not raise taxes; facilities rental fees are expected to not only cover the cost of the dome, but to also be a significant source of recurring revenue for the district once it has been completely paid off.

The Marauder Dome will come down every year during the district's annual spring break.

Covering more than 100,000 square feet of field (a full collegiate soccer field), the dome will be one of the largest in Northern New Jersey and has been priced to be one of the least expensive to rent. The field is newly turfed and is well-suited for baseball, softball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, tournaments, and special events.

The district is currently taking reservations for space (held with a 20% deposit). The Marauder Dome will be available in one-hour blocks Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

An early sign-up discount of **20% off** is being offered for all reservations made before

**August 1, 2017** (contingent on a 20% deposit and at least 10 hours of rental). A **20% discount** for Mount Olive Township teams is also being offered.

Below is the pricing information and sizes. When comparing costs with other venues, please make note of the actual physical dimensions of the spaces. Since our high school soccer field is so large, you may, for example, need only half of our field while

you may need an entire field somewhere else.

If your team, recreational program, or league is interested in reserving space or learning more, please contact David Corso, business administrator, at [dcorso@mtoliveboe.org](mailto:dcorso@mtoliveboe.org).

More information is also available on the district's home page at [www.mtoliveboe.org](http://www.mtoliveboe.org). Look for the Marauder Dome link.



**Book Now!**  
Opening  
December 1



**MARAUDER DOME**  
at Mount Olive High School

Configuration	Weekdays (6–9 p.m.) 1 hour blocks	Weekends (8 a.m.–9 p.m.) 1 hour blocks	
<b>Full Field</b> (260 ft W x 395 ft L)	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<p><b>20% OFF</b> if reserved before <b>August 1, 2017</b> (20% deposit and at least 10 hours of rental required)</p> <p><b>20% OFF</b> for Mount Olive Township teams</p> <p>To reserve or for more info, contact David Corso at <a href="mailto:dcorso@mtoliveboe.org">dcorso@mtoliveboe.org</a> or go to <a href="http://www.mtoliveboe.org">www.mtoliveboe.org</a> and follow the Marauder Dome link.</p>
<b>1/2 Field</b> (198 ft W x 260 ft L)	<b>\$375</b>	<b>\$400</b>	
<b>1/3 Field</b> (130 ft W x 260 ft L)	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$267</b>	
<b>1/6 Field</b> (100 ft W x 130 ft L)	<b>\$125</b>	<b>\$133</b>	

## A successful spring season

**T**HE spring athletics season saw the baseball team and boys tennis team become NJAC Conference Champions and two dozen students recognized for individual achievements:

### Girls track

*1st Team All NJAC - American Division*  
Bridget Olson and Sydney Bradle

### Boys track

*1st Team All NJAC - American Division*  
Marcquis Smallwood (also 2nd Team All Morris County), Carrington Retzios, and Levi Williams

### Softball

*1st Team All NJAC - American Division*  
Annalee Smith and Alyssa Borozan (also 1st Team All Morris County)

### Girls lacrosse

*1st Team All Conference - Freedom North*  
Madison Bednarik (also Honorable Mention - All Morris County) and Gina Verrone (also 3rd Team - All Morris County)

### Boys lacrosse

*1st Team All Conference - National Division and 1st Team - Rizk Division*  
Griffin Shira and DJ Baranuik

### Baseball (NJAC Conference Champs)

*1st Team All NJAC - American Division*  
Liam Anderson, Jack Calandra, and Alec Talanca

### 2nd Team All NJAC - American Division

Zach Fike, Joe McNally, Jason Harris, and Zach Richardson

### HM All NJAC - American Division

Ryan Nealon

Other members: Steven Czyzyk, Ken DuChemin, Mike Lynch, Ryan Harris, Garrett Kolbusch, Colin Clancy, Nick Bartell, Michael Buzzelli, Cameron Mandler, and Chase Belcak

### Boys tennis (NJAC Conference Champs)

*1st Team All NJAC - American Division*  
Ali Elsamahi, Anshul Dalua, Abhinav Bussetty, Michael Kzak, and Sahitya Kulkarni

### 2nd Team All NJAC - American Division

Noah Rich

### HM All NJAC - American Division

Jason Wallen

Other members: Ashish Bhat, Naveen Kamath, and Rishwanth Raghu

## Host families needed in summer & in school year

The district will begin an international education program this summer. Tuition-paying students from China will attend the summer science camp and a special August workshop, and others will complete their final year of high school here.

Families, preferably those with children currently in the district, are needed to host middle school students for 2-3 weeks during the summer and high school students for up to 40 weeks during the school year. A monthly stipend of \$250 per week per student will be provided.

If you are interested in hosting **middle school students** this summer, please contact Susan Miranda, Mount Olive Middle School principal, at [smiranda@mtoliveboe.org](mailto:smiranda@mtoliveboe.org).

If you are interested in hosting **high school students** during the school year, please contact Kevin Stansberry, Mount Olive High School principal, at [kstansberry@mtoliveboe.org](mailto:kstansberry@mtoliveboe.org).



# TOP OF THE CLASS

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# 2017



## Erica Lengyel – Valedictorian

Valedictorian Erica Lengyel remembers the time when she was in elementary school and checked out an astronomy book from the library, dreaming about one day flying to the stars. That was the first moment that she remembers being excited about science. While her outer space aspirations have waned, her interest in science has not. Next year, Erica will study physics at one of the East Coast's most elite science schools: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.



The valedictorian of the Class of 2017 defines quiet brilliance; she's very low-key and oh so humble.

"Erica's a genius but doesn't like to show it," said Dan Grzywacz, MOHS social studies teacher. "She's compassionate and giving, and always there for her friends and classmates. During one review week, she was always bringing in Girl Scout cookies. And Erica's so nice, you can't possibly say no to her, you don't want to say no."

Erica has excelled in every area. She's a member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and Science National Honor Society. According to teachers, the ability to blend her knowledge of different subjects is one of her biggest strengths.

"She wrote a paper for extra credit about Isaac Newton," Mr. Grzywacz said. "I was really not particularly interested to read it, but when I started I found it was written with so much passion that, by the end, she had me loving Newton."

Like salutatorian Ashish Bhat, the more you get to know Erica the more layers you discover. She loves horseback riding, science fiction, playing the violin, is active in the Girl Scouts, and can't cook a lick yet likes competitive cooking television shows.

While she's a serious hardworking scholar, there's a fun side too. You can find a video on YouTube that shows Erica hamming it up as a news reporter out in the field for "FOXy News." And no one who was there can forget when she donned robes and crown for "Dress Like Your Favorite Monarch Day."

Erica Lengyel, the stars may see you yet.

## Ashish Bhat – Salutatorian

Salutatorian Ashish Bhat probably wouldn't admit he's a great deal like his sister, Akshatha, MOHS' valedictorian of the Class of 2013. Sure, he watches way more t.v. and is more reserved; he doesn't wear his emotions on his sleeve as much. But brother and sister both have the same razor sharp intellect, clever sarcastic wit, and an ability to connect with absolutely everyone.

Both Ashish and Akshatha are also math whizzes, played varsity tennis, were members of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society and Key Club and Future Business Leaders of America, and Ashish will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall – Akshatha's prestigious alma mater. Either their parents are doing something very right or Mr. and Mrs. Bhat should start selling their water.

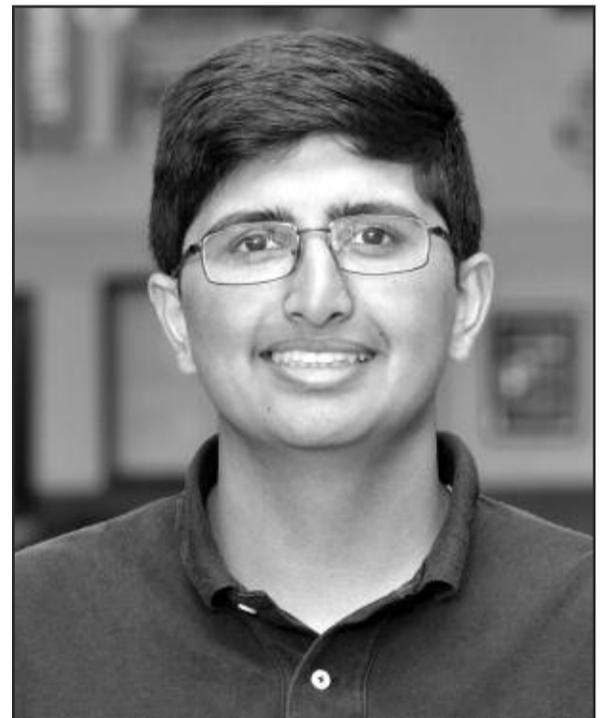
There's an easy-going charm about Ashish that comes out the more you get to know him. You can see the playful sparkle in his eyes and an uncommon confidence.

"He always had a way of interjecting into discussions that would make us all laugh," said MOHS math teacher Keith Lucid, who had Ashish in class last year. "We would just be doing regular classwork and he'd come up with a quick-witted response. And because he's normally rather reserved, it became even funnier."

The more time you spend with Ashish, the more depth you see – such as his encyclopedic knowledge about basketball (Kobe and the Lakers!) and football.

"In class early in the school year, two kids were coming up with these obscure sports statistics," Mr. Lucid said. "Suddenly out of nowhere Ashish corrects them and they were taken aback. Soon we're throwing questions out at him and he's blowing everyone away with his knowledge. Every time you think you know him, he throws you a curve ball."

Ashish, who is also a member of the Science National Honor Society, will study computer engineering next year. He's looking forward to spending time with family and friends this summer before beginning the next chapter in his life.



## NEW PROGRAM

# MOHS begins Air Force junior ROTC

**M**OUNT Olive High School will begin a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program in September. Sponsored by the United States Air Force, JROTC

develops leadership, self-confidence, self-discipline, and character, and teaches military history and customs. Physical fitness training and drill instruction is an important part of the program as well.

JROTC will be offered in grades 9-12. Participating students are not obligated in any way to serve in the military after graduation; however, officials estimate between 30%-50% of JROTC cadets

nationwide choose to either enlist, attend one of the military academies, or join collegiate ROTC.

## Decorated airman chosen to lead program

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Bedell has been chosen to lead MOHS' JROTC program. Chief Bedell currently oversees 1,750 enlisted

men and women as the Command Chief for the 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Located in central California, Vandenberg is the nation's West Coast space hub, delivering payloads into orbit and testing aircraft.

A member of the Air Force for 29 years, Chief Bedell will retire at the end of this month. The decorated airman has been awarded a host of commendations for excellence and service.

He brings to Mount Olive High School years of experience mentoring young adults. In addition, his technical background in rocketry and space flight will provide students with unique real-world knowledge of aerospace science, one of the core components of the Air Force JROTC program.

Chief Bedell grew up in Toms River, New Jersey and joined the Air Force right out of high school. Serving in the military is a family tradition that started with Chief Bedell's grandfather and great uncle who both served in the Army Air Corps in WWII. His father, uncle, brother, and cousin are all Air Force veterans, and his son is currently serving.

"Being an airman is what I wanted to be since I was 11," the chief said. "Now that this chapter is coming to a close, I can't believe how quickly the time has flown by. I have



Chief Master Sgt. Robert Bedell in the MOHS commons

loved every bit of my time on active duty. JROTC affords me the opportunity to continue to represent the Air Force in uniform while investing in our next generation. I believe my life experiences have been preparing me for this very position and I can't express how excited I am to be starting up this world-class program at Mount Olive High School."

## ...Dr. Fair retires

*continued from front page*

year "clap out" for fifth-graders, and Moving Up Day where students meet their teachers for the next school year. He also established the school's first parent teacher organization in 1998.

"I feel a wonderful sense of completeness, I've done what I set out to do," Dr. Fair said. "I'll miss popping in on classes and hanging out in the cafeteria talking to kids. They always blow me away with what they know. Of course, I'll miss everyone who works here. The credit for this school's success is 99.98% due to these incredible staff members who work so hard for our kids."

Dr. Fair and his wife, Stephanie, a former Mount Olive Middle School teacher, plan to relocate to the Carolinas to be nearer to their daughter, Rebecca, who begins college at the University of South Carolina in the fall.

## Keeping students safe

**T**HE SCHOOL DISTRICT follows a comprehensive safety and security plan that was written by the New Jersey Department of Education, endorsed by state law enforcement groups, and adopted by the Mount Olive Board of Education. This plan dictates that all threats, credible and non-credible, must be taken seriously. As a first step, the building administration notifies local police and implements heightened security measures. Further action is dependent on the nature of each threat, keeping the safety of students, staff, and school foremost.

The district's communication policy is to notify parents and family members of all credible threats after the necessary action has been taken, the facility locked down and secured if needed, and the threat concluded. This allows us to work expeditiously with local law enforcement to resolve the issue without disorder.

Communicating while a threat exists would trigger action that would create complications

and impede the investigation and resolution. Understandably, the first reaction of many parents would be to immediately get to the scene to pick up their children. This would overwhelm staff members (who are required to follow procedure and see proper identification before releasing children to adults) and actually divert them from helping resolve the threat. Second, it would create traffic along access roads, school driveways, parking lots, and bus loops, possibly delaying the arrival of any needed emergency vehicles. If an actual crisis did exist, having more people on site would also put more lives in danger.

Parents entrust their children to us during the school day, and the responsibility of keeping them safe and secure is our primary concern; policies and procedures are in place to help us do just that.

If parents have concerns or questions at any time, they may contact the school or central office administration by phone or email.

Michael Cravotta - editor

**Education Update**  
June 2017

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