



*Carp Named Principal!!! See Pg. 2*

# THE BOLD EAGLE

**The Mount Everett Student Newspaper**

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## Is 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Growing Up Too Fast?

By Justice Mazeralle and Brandon Wilson

Next year the 6<sup>th</sup> grade is expected to move up to the high school. This fact brings up the obvious questions: Why? Who will teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade? Where will the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students reside? How will this move affect existing middle and high school activities? When is this really going to happen, since an August 2019 launch seems aggressive under current circumstances. Each question generates even more questions. The Bold Eagle sought to answer these questions by conferring with the architects of the move: outgoing Principal Glenn Devoti, incoming Principal Jesse Carpenter, and Curriculum Director Peter Dufresne. As readers can see, we were met with only partial success.

The main question that we have all been wondering is, why is the 6<sup>th</sup> grade moving up? Many students and teachers still have no answer for this question. Principal Devoti stated "It's a helpful effort to articulate curriculum." This seems to indicate a need to improve the learning environment of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. But with every answer comes more question, such as will the 6<sup>th</sup> grade be comfortable and

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## Rote Remembers

By Joshua Long and Alek Zdziarski

Over the past 22 years, nobody has worked closer to or developed greater admiration for retiring Mount Everett Principal Glenn Devoti than his administrative assistant, Ms. Angel Rote. "Mr. Devoti is a great man and a great principal and we will all miss him very much," she said. She later added that Devoti "was great to work with and I think we worked well together as a team."



*Rote and Devoti: BFFs*

Considering some of her best memories of their partnership in running the school, Ms. Rote said one of her favorites was when one of his friends sought to pay Devoti back for a previous prank by bringing a live turkey into the building to put it in his office. He

Cont. Pg #6

## Goodbye Ms. Melino

By Spencer Broderick

Farewell Ms. Melino! For the past 9 years, the Mt. Everett student body and faculty have been honored to work with 10<sup>th</sup> grade biology teacher and FFA adviser Danielle Melino. Ms. Melino has worked closely with students at Mt. Everett to grow a once small FFA to a reputable and impressive FFA program, and has greatly expanded the menagerie in the barn. Ms. Melino came to Mt. Everett in 2009 replacing Cassie Urricchio, who left to teach equine science at UMass Amherst.

Since Ms. Melino's arrival, she has had a major positive impact on many students' lives, and with her FFA and agriculture programs, sparked many students' interests regarding those fields. Senior and FFA member Vanessa Wald has worked for a long time alongside Ms. Melino. She explained "Ms. Melino is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. She always puts her family, friends, and students before herself... She is always there for us and always pushes us to become better people." Starting next year, Melino will continue her journey at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Ct, helping to lead their larger and well-established agricultural educa-

Cont. Pg #6

## Students Honor Devoti

Savanna Tinker-Cruikshank and Sarah Markham

It's hard to imagine a more popular principal than Mr. Devoti. He has become known in the community for his caring nature and his supportive attitude towards staff and students alike. We asked our fellow high school students if they would like to submit a farewell message to Mr. Devoti. We got an astonishing amount of responses wishing him well and thanking him for all he has done. Whether it was a message of gratitude or a simple goodbye, it is obvious that the students value Mr. Devoti to a high degree. They show that he will be missed not just by his staff, but also by his students. Below are a representative sample of the many messages we received:

“Thank you for being such a wonderful, understanding and fair principal. You have made a wonderful impact on the school and it's going to be hard to fill your shoes.”  
~ Sophomore Hailey Thierot

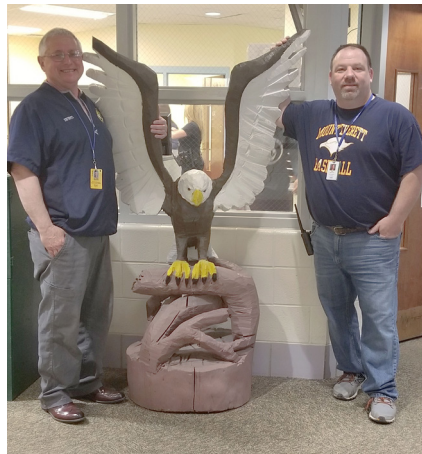
“Thank you Mr. Devoti for giving your time and effort to this school and supporting each and every one of us. Good luck in your future; you will be missed by all.”  
~ Junior Kenny Zucco

“Thank you for everything you've done for this school. You've been so supportive of me and my brother since we came to this school and I really appreciate it.”  
~ Junior Allison Brazie

## Bromance of the Century: DeGrenier & Devoti

By Sierra Blodgett

Principal Glenn Devoti and Dean of Students Kurt DeGrenier have enjoyed a long-standing friendship that has deeply connected both them and their families. Even after Devoti retires, DeGrenier believes they'll both make sure to stay connected. He is confident in their professional relationship as well, going on to say, “It's the best 15 years I've ever had...and [Devoti is] the absolutely most supportive boss you could ever ask for; he'll absolutely tell you when you're doing something wrong; ... he'll support you making changes and he'll pat you on the back when you're doing something right.”



Yo Bro!

For 26 years, Mr. Devoti has been the principal at our school. For the last 15, Mr. DeGrenier has been his trusted lieutenant and close friend. Speaking of the Mt. Everett community, DeGrenier went so far as to say that, “... if he doesn't feel like they're being treated right or something's being taken from them, he will fight to the nth degree to make sure that doesn't happen to his faculty or the students at this school.” He empha-

## Carp Takes the Helm

By Sarah Markham and Spencer Broderick

When it was announced that Principal Glenn Devoti was leaving, the big question everyone had was “Who is going to replace him?” As of May 19th, we have an answer. Jesse Carpenter has been chosen by Superintendent Beth Regulbuto to be Mt. Everett's new principal. “At the beginning of this school year, I appointed Jesse to the position of .4 Assistant to the Principal which he enthusiastically accepted,” said Regulbuto. “Little did either of us know, he would be tapped to fill in as the Acting Principal as needed this year, and I have found him to surpass all expectations that were set for him.”

Mr. Carpenter, a Mt. Everett alumnus himself, has been employed by the district since 1998, and has taken up a variety of roles such as teacher, coach, athletic director, and assistant principal. He has bachelors and masters degrees in English, and is a graduate of both Wesleyan University and Westfield State College. He is also a certified educational administrator. During the 21 years he has been here, he has been an extremely enthusiastic and dedicated contributor to our school. His responsibility and commitment to Mt. Everett, along with his experience from acting as the assisting/acting principal, are most likely why he was chosen to take Devoti's place.

We're happy that our new principal is someone that we are comfortable with and know. In the words of our superintendent, let's congratulate Mr. Carpenter on his new role!

By Jack Seward-Dailey

What's it like to have your dad as the principal at your high school? For Marion, Michael and Julia Devoti, sometimes great, other times not so much. Nevertheless, it is clear that his presence in the building enriched the school experience for all of them.

According to Marion, "If you ever need a permission slip signed it can get done pretty quickly." On the other hand, if you're not on your best behavior at all times you could end up in an instant parent-teacher conference.

Marion remembers finding herself in one of these ad-hoc parent-teacher conferences. "I didn't do a project for Mr. Chrznowski's class. My dad found out and



*More Family Time!*

brought me into his conference room with Mr. C and himself and started asking me questions. Before I could even say anything I fainted and fell out of my chair," she recalled.

It's not all parent teacher conferences though. There is often time for fun. While stuck in the school on summer days eighth grader Michael Devoti gets to spend a lot of time in the gym. "I

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"Thank you for being so supportive to Mount Everett. You were very thoughtful."

~ Anonymous

"To Mr. Devoti, you were a great principal at our school. The school is going to be so different without you and therefore, farewell."

~ Sophomore Jace Sewart

"You are a great principal. Best of luck to your future."

~ Anonymous

"Mr. Devoti I hope you find future success and you will be sorely missed at Mt. Everett. Thank you for all the time you have spent dedicated to Mt. Everett."

~ Junior Jacob Duquette

"Farewell Mr. Devoti, you will be missed. You're time here was valued greatly."

~ Anonymous

"Bye Mr. Devoti. It was a true honor to attend the majority of my time here at Mt. Everett while you were principal."

~ Anonymous

"My mom and I have always had great things to say about you. I had to adjust to a new life after being adopted and I was bullied, but you didn't stand for it. You made the adjustment way easier than I'd thought."

~ Junior Bella Dawson

"Thank you so much for always caring about the students and staff of Mt. Everett. It truly means

the world. You showed your support many ways but the one I really loved was seeing you support every team at all their games."

~ Junior Brooke Wells

"Thank you for everything you've done for the school, you will be missed!" ~ Anonymous

"Thank you for what you have done for the school. We'll miss you."

~ Junior Colby Stevens

"You are a great principal. Best of luck with your future."

~ Anonymous

## Staff Reflections

By Bella Dawson

There is bittersweet news that Glenn Devoti, Principal of Mt. Everett, will be retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Devoti has made an impact on many members of his staff.

Some of Mr. Devoti's staff members have written farewells to him to show him how much they will miss him, but also how happy they are for him. Assistant Principal Jesse Carpenter has fond memories of "coaching little kids basketball with him." Art teacher Kari Giordano says, "Mr. Devoti practices what he preaches. He encourages his faculty to care for our students as though they were part of our families, and he does the same with us. He is a great advocate for education as a whole."

Mr. Devoti has been seen as someone who goes above and beyond for his staff. History teacher Andrew Rapport says it doesn't take long to realize that "Glenn

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## Editorial: Farewell Seniors

It's that wonderful time of year. Seniors are preparing to embark on the next, and perhaps most important progression in their lives, whether it be college, military, career or other. They have completed their senior year, topping off 13 years of non-stop, apparently never-ending, sometimes dreary schooling. There were fun times and hard times. Maybe some unsavory characters along the way. However, for most, the time spent was positive, even if it might not seem like it now. Over the many years there were some great teachers, and maybe a few duds. Many funny things happened along the way, including: a pair of tweezers stuck in an outlet [hope you learned your lesson, Parick], quite a few computers playing videos "randomly", and a 1st-grader knocked out cold [sorry Nick]. We've learned, lost, and forgotten many things. The seniors now set their eyes on a new unpredictable horizon. Farewell seniors, and good luck!



*Connor Speaks on Behalf of Seniors*

## Editorial: Goodbye to Mr. Devoti and Ms. Melino

The seniors aren't the only ones graduating this year. Mt Everett is saying goodbye to 2 beloved members of our community. Combined, they have been a presence at our school for roughly 33 years. For too many reasons to list here, they will be missed dearly.

First, we are saying farewell to our long-time principal Glenn Devoti. He has been principal here for 26 years and has done a great job leading Mt. Everett into a new century, new times, new challenges and new opportunities. Many schools have a principal who dictates, but we have one who listens and supports. By all accounts, Devoti values teachers having a degree of freedom, and lets them create the best instructional environment they can envision as long as there is communication with him and mutually pre-set goals are achieved. Notable examples include wall artwork, Art Honor Society, global education programs, hiking classes, FFA, Poetry Out Loud, numerous foreign and domestic trips, Ted Talks, model UN, student newspaper and radio show, tutorial periods, etc.

His attitude towards change in the school is positive, and he loves to help make that change happen. He strives to have a strong productive relationships with all members of the Mt. Everett community, including students, parents, faculty, administrators, alumni and SBRSD residents. It's safe to say that our school will feel very different with a different leader.

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## **B**old Eagle's Reader's Opinions

The Bold Eagle wants to know what's on your mind so send us your opinions at [Boldeagle@sbrsd.org](mailto:boldeagle@sbrsd.org)

"Pursuant to state law, no expression made by students in the exercise of such rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy and no school officials shall be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by the students"

Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to our incomparable biology teacher Danielle Melino. The staff, administration, and students here will dearly miss her. She has been very involved in the school community, running the FFA club and managing trips for it and trips to the Galapagos. She has been a great teacher and mentor, and has been like a second mother to her agriculture students. Saying goodbye to her is going to be hard on many students and staff. It is going to be hard to see her leave, especially for our future farmers, not to mention the animals. While we hope she enjoys life outside of our school, we hope that she does not forget her many friends here at Mt. Everett.

Though we are sad to see them go, we will remember them fondly. Both Mr. Devoti and Ms. Melino are loved throughout the school and are known for their kind attitudes and their compassion for what they do. Our school won't be the same without them. Mr. Devoti, we hope that you enjoy retirement. Ms. Melino, we hope that your new school is full of fun and happiness. To the incoming principal and bio teacher, you both should know you have some seriously big shoes to fill.

safe while walking in the middle and high school hallways? Devoti says, "The worst problem he's had to deal with in the hallways is students showing inappropriate displays of affection." It's safe to say that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade should be just fine in the hallways.

Who will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the middle school? Will elementary teachers move up, will existing middle and high school teachers have to cover, or will one or more new teachers be hired? This question brings concerns such as where the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will reside. Regarding classroom assignments, Devoti advises, "It still hasn't been decided but at least two" classrooms will be dedicated to the new grade. This indicates a possibility that other teachers might be disrupted by having their classrooms reassigned, a daunting summertime prospect for teachers with densely packed classrooms.

How are the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents responding to this change? Are any concerned because their kids are going to be around older students who may or may not be doing things that they don't want their child seeing at such a young age. Devoti stated "We had a meeting of incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents. Which was attended

by about half of the parents in that cohort and one raised any concerns about the move," indicating they either had not heard of the change or have no concerns that they need to voice. If many parents had issues with the move, wouldn't they have made their concerns public?

Incoming Principal Jesse Carpenter has played a big role in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade move. He said "We want to provide a more robust middle school experience for grades 6, 7, & 8. We are adopting a middle school model that best fits the needs of the students. One of our primary goals is more interdisciplinary units in the middle school level." Regarding the potential move of Undermountain staff to Mt. Everett, Carpenter said it was likely, but, "we are still discussing who will be a part of that move." Carpenter added, "We are still discussing the room locations."

With so many unanswered questions, this move appears to still be very much a work in progress. Curriculum Director Peter Dufresne may have some of the answers, but he was unavailable for comment. For those monitoring the 6<sup>th</sup> grade move, the best advice available is to stay tuned for further news on this issue. As we all can get an idea this still has its' kinks that need to be worked out.



*Moving On Up*

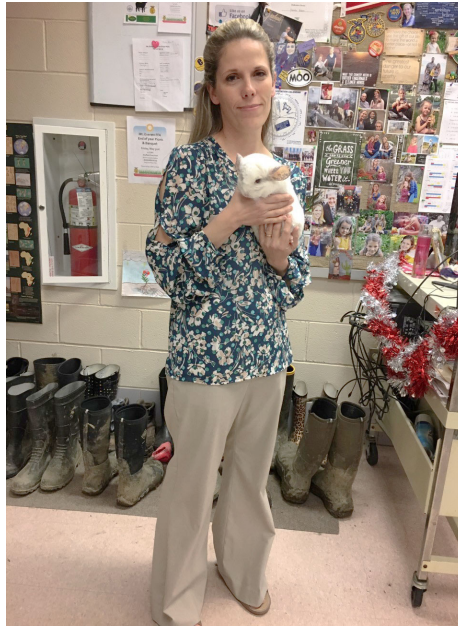
## Goodbye Melino Cont.

tion program.

Over the years, Ms. Melino has worked very hard in order to grow Mt. Everett's FFA to what it is today. The FFA goes on frequent field trips to local farms, agricultural events, conferences and conventions. Mt. Everett junior and FFA member Ben Stevens says "getting to know Ms. Melino was awesome. If you go on the different field trips, she treats you like a mom, and I am glad I was able to work and learn from her." Stevens also commented, "it is sad to see her go, but I am happy she got a better job and I am happy for her." Ms. Melino has also orchestrated different long-distance field trips that students may choose to attend. Trips include going to Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands and Indiana. These trips have all proven to be amazing learning experiences.

The FFA program at Mt. Everett has grown to become perhaps the most reputable such program in Berkshire County. Since the barn was built behind the soccer field, there have been many different animals that have been housed and raised right on campus. In an article from The Bold Eagle in 2014 reports on the 7 baby sheep and 4 baby goats that were born in the barn. That article quotes Melino: "the animals were for sale and people could come see them whenever at the school."

Congratulations to Ms. Melino for her new job and new opportunity that awaits. Mt. Everett will miss her but will always celebrate her enduring contributions.



*Students, staff and animals say:  
"We'll miss you Ms. Melino!"*

## Rote Cont.

simply responded that he would surely get revenge. In fact, Devoti, a dedicated prankster himself, has been the victim of dozens of friendly pranks over the years, including an office full of hundreds of water-filled paper cups.

Along with getting pranked himself, Ms. Rote recalls times Devoti pranked others. "Students were going to the Rotary Scholarship Luncheon and Glenn called Susie Carlotto in and told her they had asked her to sing The Star Spangled Banner at the beginning of the luncheon," she said. "Susie practiced and practiced and was so stressed about singing this. Glenn had her come into his office the day before the luncheon so he could hear it to make sure it was good enough. When she finished he fessed up that it was just a principal prank. She was SO MAD. She still talks about it."

Mr. Devoti is possibly most well-known for his ability to get

up and speak to students, parents, and the community. His skill at extemporaneous speech is legendary, usually with no further support than his ever-present yellow legal pad. He is also known for his ability to be informational on any occasion, happy or sad. Ms. Rote said that Devoti always speaks from his heart and he has a lot of compassion.

Perhaps more than anyone in the district, Angel Rote's workday will be impacted by his departure. She said she will miss him just being here and guiding us all through each day, good, bad, and ugly. Staff will also miss his unerring support and wise counsel.

Ms. Rote believes that his greatest legacy to the district would be safety. He devoted countless hours of work developing a safety manual for the school, drilling the school population on safety measures, and updating the manual as our world changes. This is not a component of most of our lives here that is highly visible. But it is reassuring to know that the work has been done to help protect us from all kinds of possibilities. All students and staff have benefited from knowing that there is always someone at school who cares and is willing to step in, say hi and always offer help. Mr. Devoti has done so much for this school, as well as the community. He has left an indelible mark on this district, and we cannot thank him enough for the work he has done to make the school environment a safe and happy one. Thank you, Mr. Devoti.

## Bromance Cont.

sized Devoti's stubborn devotion and loyalty to the faculty and students.

Of the times DeGrenier has witnessed Devoti upset, he couldn't recall specific incidents. However, one long-running event came to mind, "...the most upset I've ever seen him was when I wasn't present at the start of the school year. And that's a good example [of] how he sticks by his staff. He stuck by my side through the whole thing. And it all worked out..." As for concerns, he refers to what Devoti has built as a blueprint, and that hopefully, whomever the new principal is, will build off it and won't try to change the culture of the school.

Of the special memories DeGrenier has had here with Devoti was the summers they'd spent coaching softball and having the opportunity to watch their kids grow up together. DeGrenier has enjoyed coming to work at Mount Everett for 15 years, believing it's worth the hour and a half drive to work, sometimes bringing students with him so they can attend school in this district.

With this change quickly approaching, we can only say our goodbyes and thank Mr. Devoti for his 26 years as our principal and everything he's done for our school.

In the face of this change, DeGrenier said, "It's a change. It's not about somebody new coming, it's about losing someone who's so vital to the school district. We have to try to find a way to celebrate his 26 years here at this school, but yet, don't want him to go."

## Devoti Kids Cont.

will miss my dad a lot because of how convenient it is having him [around]; but the biggest thing is his key to get in the gym during the summer and mess around" he said. Some of Michael's fondest memories with his dad at the school don't involve him being the principal. He appreciates all the times that Mr. Devoti has coached his youth sports teams. "Some of my favorite memories are of my dad coaching my friends and I in soccer; we had a lot of fun at many tournaments over the years" he said.

The Devoti's have lots to celebrate at the end of this school year with Marion's graduation and Mr. Devoti's retirement. The rest of the family is very happy for them but will nonetheless be sad to see them exit Mt. Everett, clearly the family's home-away-from-home. As for the future, Michael said, "I'm really going to miss having my dad at school every day."



The 2019 Peru Trip kids at Macchu Picchu.

### Wise Words:

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."  
~Aldous Huxley

You can't escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."  
Abraham Lincoln

## Future Farmers Salute Melino

Ms. Melino is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. She always puts her family, friends, and students before herself. The FFA program is one of many favorite things to do. She loves being able to teach her students how to judge horses and get the great experience she had with her FFA chapter. I don't know what any of us would do without her. She helps us through everything, she is always there for us and helping push us to become better people. We love and miss you Ms. Melino.



## Staff Cont.

Devoti is an actions speak louder than words kind of person who will be missed." Special Ed and history teacher Lewis Randall is another one of Mr. Devoti's staff members who will miss Devoti's presence in the school. "He's a great man, I remember the old days and he will be missed" Randall said.

Glenn Devoti has made many friends with his staff members and even though they are sad, they know this is good for

him. History teacher Jeffrey Lang described Mr. Devoti as, "responsible, caring, and kind. He will do absolutely anything to benefit this school. His typical approach to teachers with new ideas is 'tell me what you need'". He remembers watching Devoti In his glory the day UN General Assembly President Vuc Jeremic's helicopter landed on our baseball field. Special education teacher Senta Reis describes Mr. Devoti as a "compassionate and generous person who is devoted to his kids." Reis' favorite characteristic of Mr. Devoti is "his love for our students."

English Teacher Wendy Casey says, "The most important thing I will remember about him is that he is a true leader. To say I will miss him does not begin to cover the depth of respect and affection I have for him."



*Vuk Jeremić on the Baseball Field*

# H O R O S C O P E S

By Connor Blodgett

**ARIES (March 21 - April 19) – Take the time to prepare yourself for the unexpected and do everything you can to stay rational, grounded and focused.**

**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) – It is good to know your options for the future, even if they don't seem reachable at the moment.**

**GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) – Your attention turns inward, as well as to close personal relationships on a deeper level.**

**CANCER (June 22 - July 22) – Hardship you were in are finally dialing down and this week is reserved for time to yourself. Use the opportunity and relax.**

**LEO (July 23 - Aug 22) – Try to stay in the moment, holding on to beliefs that the future will turn out just as you wish for it to, instead of doubting.**

**VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22) – Let go of what holds you back, and release ties to the past now that you have a chance.**

**LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23) – You are proud of your ideas, and very good at expressing them to others smoothly now. Your thinking is more creative than usual.**

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21) – You will achieve highly in all aspects of your life, good fortune and luck is with you during this time. Good luck friends.**

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21) – Work will get done faster than usual and your energy will rise now that you've dealt with issues that have been weighing you down.**

**CAPICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19) – Your biggest dreams will come true this month, just keep believing in yourself and ignore the negativity. Where there's a will, there's a way!**

**AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18) – This is the time to listen to your intuition, to take a break from the hectic pace of your life, and to reflect on what you have learned in the past year.**

**PISCES (Feb 19 - March 20) – Your mind is bright, alert, and active during this cycle, and you have the ability to come up with unusual and inventive ideas.**