



## Highlights

- New Special Education Staff
- Inclusion Facilitator Corner
- Professional Learning
- SEPTA News

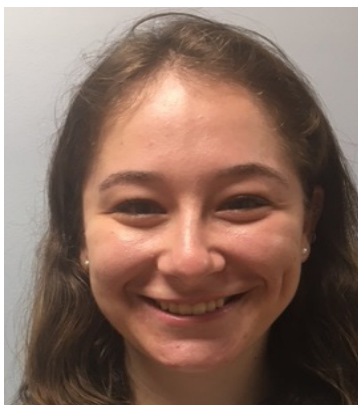


Lior Fishman - Speech and Language Pathologist (Farragut Middle School & Hillside Elementary School)

Dear Hastings Families,

I am so excited to join Hastings on Hudson School District as a speech and language pathologist. After completing my masters program in 2019, I began my work as a therapist working with students receiving early intervention and preschool services. I was fortunate enough to join Hastings as a leave replacement during the 2020-2021 school year. I am even more excited to be joining the Hillside and FMS buildings this year as a full-time therapist. I love my job as a speech and language pathologist and place a large emphasis on using evidence-based practice in combination with motivating tasks to support student's development. When I am not planning for my student's sessions I am happily browsing the aisles of Trader Joe's and Target! I look forward to building strong professional relationships with the community during this school year!

Sincerely,  
Lior Fishman



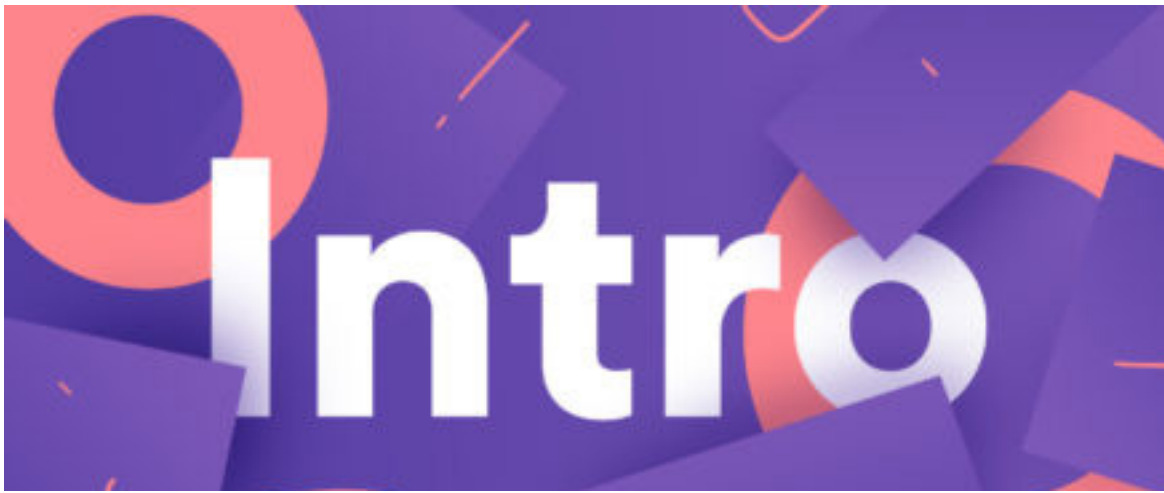
Colleen Jones - 2nd Grade Special Education Teacher (Hillside)

My name is Colleen Jones and I am honored to be joining the Hastings on Hudson community as a Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School. I graduated from SUNY New Paltz with degrees in both Early Childhood (B-2) and Childhood (1-6) Education and a minor in Spanish. I earned my Masters degrees in Special Education (1-6) as well as Literacy (B-6) from Manhattanville College. Throughout the course of my teaching career, I have worked in first, second, and third-grade classrooms. I am an avid dog lover and enjoy baking in my free time!

Please let me know if this works or if you would like me to add more information about myself. Thank you!

Best,  
Colleen





Amanda Puglise - Speech and Language Pathologist Leave Replacement (Farragut Middle School & Hastings High School)

Ms. Puglise is joining us Monday, November 22, 2021. She is a graduate of Loyola University where she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology and her Masters in Speech-Language Pathology. Ms. Puglise spent a semester at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom where she wrote an Immersion Project about social justice.



Jennifer Lynch has a dual master's degree in Inclusive Special Education and History from Hofstra University. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Behavior Analyst in New York State. She has experience teaching in self-contained and general education classrooms and helping districts build ABA programs to ensure all students can have the opportunities to remain in their home community districts.

Jennifer has worked in the district for six years. She provides ongoing consultation to teachers, teacher aides, related service providers, and families to assess needs and create support to enable individuals with challenging behaviors to be successful throughout the school day. Jennifer also provides training to our teacher aides and teachers in best practices that are scientifically based to foster success for our students to achieve their fullest potential and achieve meaningful outcomes. She conducts Functional Behavior Assessments, develops Behavior Intervention Plans as needed, and monitors plans to ensure plans are run with fidelity and consistency to create an independent learner.





### Inclusion Facilitator:

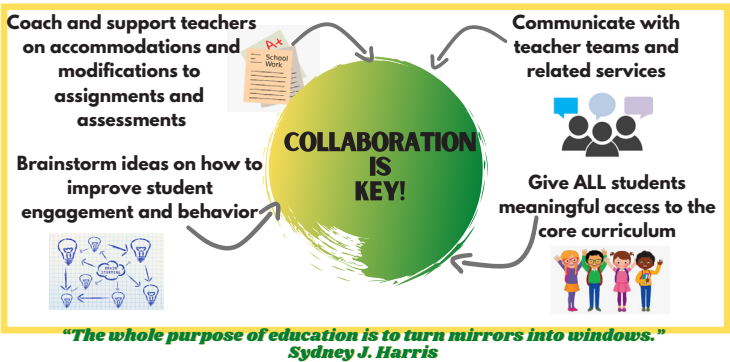
We are thrilled to be entering our 2nd year with Kristen Kumar as our Inclusion Facilitator. In the new year, Mrs. Kumar, Mr. Stewart, and Mrs. Sullivan will be working with stakeholders K-12 to evaluate the current status of Special Education in Hastings and develop goals for enhancing our program. Our committee will begin internally; however, we will eventually expand to include community members.

# INCLUSION FACILITATOR

## KRISTEN KUMAR

[kumark@hohschools.org](mailto:kumark@hohschools.org)  
x3081  
FMS: Coaches Corner  
Hillside: Speech Suite

An inclusion facilitator is a special education teacher who collaborates with teachers in differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all students to create an inclusive environment for all students.



<p>to sit with my class.</p>	<p>to learn from others and they from me.</p>	<p>to be called upon to answer questions.</p>	<p>to not have my aide as my group partner.</p>
<p>to be a student in my class not a guest.</p>			<p>to experience being a group leader.</p>
<p>to adapted or modified grade level lessons.</p>			<p>to have a teacher that presumes competence.</p>
<p>to develop authentic friendships not helpers.</p>	<p>to create an inclusive future with my peers now</p>	<p>to choose when, where and if I desire a pull out.</p>	<p>We...have the right too!</p>

Bethan McCutcheon 2015 "We are in it together."





#### Crisis Prevention Intervention:

Laura Sullivan and Tesfa Stewart are both Certified Crisis Prevention Intervention Instructors - Associates through Nonviolent Crisis Intervention®. "CPI training equips you with skills, confidence, and an effective framework to safely manage & prevent difficult behavior. From children to teens to adults, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training helps de-escalate tense situations with people of all ages." In December, we successfully trained 36 staff members to be fully trained in verbal, non-verbal, and physical de-escalation strategies. Moving forward, we will be working with each building to design crisis teams to help support students and staff who require these techniques and interventions.

<https://www.crisisprevention.com/>

#### District Leadership PLC:

Since September, one of the focal points of our district leadership professional learning community has been to broaden our knowledge on the CSE process, roles and responsibilities, and best practices on how to best support students with disabilities within our district. Our district leaders have actively taken part in 3 sessions of ongoing work, which will continue throughout the 21-22 school year to ensure strong services for all students K-12.

#### Wilson Language Training:

Across three buildings, four special education teachers, Emily Isidori, Donna Gamble, Britney Skultety, and Erin Dolan, are going through the practicum to become certified Wilson Trainers. Teachers were able to go to a three-day training during the summer in order to prepare for this practicum. Teachers are working one on one with students before or after school for this certification. In addition, there are 95 hours of coursework to support teachers in learning new strategies to support all learners. Teachers have reported that they are excited for this opportunity to continue to grow so that all students can continue to be successful in our buildings.

#### Winward institute:

Erin Dolan participated over summer in an overview course through the Windward Institute. The Multisensory Reading Instruction: PAF (Preventing Academic Failure) Reading Program is organized in two four-session courses, emphasizing explicit, multisensory techniques for teaching reading, handwriting, and spelling in the primary grades. PAF incorporates the theories and practices of Orton-Gillingham instruction into an early intervention program intended for children at-risk for reading difficulties. PAF can also be used remedially for struggling readers or as an effective beginning reading program for all children. Topics will include instructional practices supported by the latest research on developing accurate and fluent reading and comprehension, lesson planning, and curriculum-based assessments.

In the month of January and February, Ms. Ippolito attended The Windward Multisensory Reading Instruction PAF Reading Program. This program was organized in two four-session courses, emphasizing explicit, multisensory techniques for teaching reading, handwriting, and spelling in the primary grades. Topics included instructional practices supported by the latest research on developing accurate and fluent reading and comprehension, lesson planning, and curriculum-based assessments.



OPWDD - Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

The first step in the process of OPWDD is understanding what it can provide for you.

[https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/040\\_front-door-access-to-services\\_342020\\_0.pdf](https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/040_front-door-access-to-services_342020_0.pdf)

“The purpose of this guide is to explain OPWDD’s Front Door process. This detailed guide will help you understand the services that OPWDD offers and how they might fit into your life. The guide also tells you what you will need to become eligible for OPWDD supports and services, including:

- Findings related to your developmental disability,
- Medicaid eligibility, and
- Enrollment in the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program.

Most OPWDD supports are funded through this waiver program. This guide will also outline the choices available to you and/or your family member.

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/information-sessions>

Community Support Network 2021-22 ‘Virtual’ Transition Institute  
Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022-Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

The Community Support Network is pleased once again to offer our annual conference on post-secondary transition covering topics ranging from employment options, inclusive college programs, social and recreational programs, systems navigation, self-advocacy, and policy issues with several breakout tracks to choose from.

This year’s threads include:

- For Self-Advocates: Sessions focused on issues for individuals with disabilities
- Self Help: Strategies and ideas to cope with stress and wellness ideas
- Self Determination: Strategies to promote responsibility and independence
- Inclusive Higher Education: Information and promising practices in college programs for students with I/DD
- Financial Planning and Systems Navigation: Information regarding benefits systems and financial planning
- For School Administrators: Best practices to build capacity for inclusive transition supports and services. Learn from experts and each other.
- Introduction to Everything: Beginners guide for families just starting transition planning
- Living and Working: Promising practices around Housing, Employment, and Recreation

<https://www.wiwd.org/what-we-do/community-support-network/our-events/community-support-network-2021-22-virtual-transition-institute>

### Transition Planning Post High School

The Lower Hudson Regional Partnership Center is offering a **FREE** two-hour workshop to empower families to actively participate in their children’s transition planning. This two-hour presentation will look at how educators can collaborate with families to promote effective transition planning practices leading to improved school outcomes. The workshop will explore tips and tools to increase collaboration between educators and families. During the two hours, elements of transition planning will be reviewed with an emphasis on how to engage students and their families in the process.

Link to meeting materials

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13RvENG1Wae9PKwSvQ2Y7rt6m-rF\\_SgsHZ?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13RvENG1Wae9PKwSvQ2Y7rt6m-rF_SgsHZ?usp=sharing)

The Transition Specialist Network (TSN) is a gathering of educators and others who work directly with middle and high school-aged students, with disabilities, to provide opportunities, programs and services all supporting transition from school into the adult world. Debbie Goddard, Resource and Referral Specialist from the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center, will be joining us as we identify and explore opportunities to strengthen the transition planning process. We will discuss ways to develop and maintain collaborative partnerships between school staff, families and students. Time will be allotted for networking so please be prepared to share upcoming events as well as well transition-related information or questions.

To Register: Click on the box to the right or go to <http://www.pnwbores.org/> catalog to register online. Click on the down arrow next to the box that says “Select one or more options...”, then select Regional Partnership Center and click “Search”. Scroll down the webpage until you see the workshop in which you are interested and then click on its name to see details and enroll.



New York State Education Department  
Office of Special Education  
**Educational Partnership**  
Regional Partnership Center  
LOWER HUDSON

## Lower Hudson Regional Partnership Center (RPC)

# Transition Specialist Network (TSN): Students, Families and Educators – Transitioning Together

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Time will be allotted for networking so please be prepared to share upcoming events as well as well transition-related information or questions.

**There is no charge for this workshop.**

**TO REGISTER:** Please click [here](#) to go to our catalog and register for this workshop or any of our other offerings.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For information on workshop content, contact Kit Casey, Stephanie Wozniak, John McCabe or Debbie Goddard directly at [kcasey@pnwboces.org](mailto:kcasey@pnwboces.org), [swozniak@pnwboces.org](mailto:swozniak@pnwboces.org), [jmccabe@pnwboces.org](mailto:jmccabe@pnwboces.org), or [dgoddard@wihd.org](mailto:dgoddard@wihd.org), respectively. For questions regarding the electronic registration process, e-mail Leslie Zedlovich at [lzedlovich@pnwboces.org](mailto:lzedlovich@pnwboces.org).

### DATE

Monday, February 14, 2022  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

### PRESENTERS

**KIT CASEY**  
**STEPHANIE WOZNIAK**  
**JOHN MC CABE**  
Transition Specialists  
Lower Hudson Regional  
Partnership Center (RPC)

**DEBBIE GODDARD**  
Resource and Referral Specialist  
Lower Hudson Family and  
Community Engagement (FACE)  
Center

### LOCATION

#### Online training via Zoom

Our trainings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who need special accommodations should contact us at least two weeks prior to taking the workshop.





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#### Who Do I Contact?

Case Managers - Each child has been assigned a case manager. Please contact them with any questions/ concerns regarding your child's day-to-day happenings including the areas of academics and/or behavior. If your child receives any related services (Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling) please feel free to contact the provider directly if you have a question/concern related to this area.

You should have received the names and contact information for your child's case manager and service providers. Have If you have a question that doesn't seem to fit into one of the categories above, please feel free to contact us through the following links.

#### Team Leaders

Hillside Elementary: Emily Isidori:  
[isidorie@hohschools.org](mailto:isidorie@hohschools.org)

Farragut Middle School: Britney Skultety:  
[skultetyb@hohschools.org](mailto:skultetyb@hohschools.org)

Hastings High School: Erin Dolan:  
[dolane@hohschools.org](mailto:dolane@hohschools.org)

K-12 Department Chair: Lori Mackay:  
[mackayl@hohschools.org](mailto:mackayl@hohschools.org)

#### Administrative Support:

Hillside Elementary: Alexine Hollocou:  
[hollocoua@hohschools.org](mailto:hollocoua@hohschools.org)

Farragut Middle School: Theresa Terry:  
[TerryT@hohschools.org](mailto:TerryT@hohschools.org)

Hastings High School: Beth Haberman:  
[HabermanB@hohschools.org](mailto:HabermanB@hohschools.org)

General Concerns:  
<https://forms.gle/JGdA4QadrkQhAisJ6>