

### Jessica Corwin



*Special Education teacher, Milton Terrace North Elementary School*

**My History at BSCSD:** This is my 4th year in the district but my first year in current position as a 4th and 5th grade 8:1:1 teacher.

**Where I live:** Gloversville

**Favorite Hobbies:** I coach cheerleading at the high school but when I'm not doing that I love traveling, running and spending time with family and friends.

**Family Pets:** I have two cats- Winston (Churchill) and Franklin (Roosevelt). my husband is a history buff :)

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** I just loved being involved as much as I could. I was a 3-sport athlete, acted in the drama club and joined as many clubs as I could. I loved being a part of the school community.

**What I like about working at BSCSD:** I love the feeling of community at BSCSD. I've worked in a variety of different buildings since starting here and have always felt welcome and supported no matter where I was. It's a great feeling to come to work each day and have such wonderful people (both staff and students) around you!

**Ways I give back to my community:** I do a lot of fundraising through organizing teams and running races for a variety of causes. I recently ran the reindeer 5K in December, which benefited Cindy's Comfort Camp which is a free sleep away camp for children who have experienced the death of a parent or close relative.

**Favorite musician:** Luke Bryan

**Favorite books:** My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

**Favorite TV show(s):** Criminal Minds and The Walking Dead

**People might be surprised to know that I:** have three sisters who were born and raised in Ireland.

**If money were no object I would:** travel to amazing places with friends and family.

### Kara Echandy



*Physical Education teacher, High School*

**My history at BSCSD:** I have worked for the District since 2005. My first years were at Malta Avenue elementary and I've been at the High School four 4 years.

**Where I live:** Rexford

**Favorite hobbies/pastimes:** I love the NY Giants. I practice yoga and jog. I'm also very interested in photography.

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** Playing Varsity field hockey and Varsity softball. Then playing lacrosse in college and being chosen as team MVP.

**What I like best about working at BSCSD:** I adore my students. they have such a great young, un-jaded perspective of the world. I love seeing them end their high school careers and start fresh in the real world with their eyes wide open.

**Ways I give back to my community:** I volunteer with my synagogue and also give money to St. Jude's Research Hospital. They saved my cousin who was born with a life threatening condition.

**My favorite song or musician(s):** Tax Man by The Beatles or Sweet Child of Mine by Guns and Roses.

**My favorite book(s):** The Help

**Favorite movie or TV show:** The Walking Dead!!!

**People would be surprised to know that I:** married my husband twice (without ever getting divorced)

**If money were no object I would:** buy a house on a beach where it is warm all year long. Hire a chef. Get my certification to teach yoga and go on amazing retreats.

**I'd also like to share:** I love the friends I've made while teaching here at BSCSD!

## Jean Hoins



*Fifth grade teacher, Malta Avenue Elementary School*

**My history at BSCSD:** I started working in the district in 1999 teaching at Malta Avenue, spent five years at the Milton Terrace North Elementary school, and returned to Malta Avenue in 2013.

**Where I live:** Wilton

**Family Pets:** Somewhere around 40 goldfish in a little pond, one thoroughbred horse and lots of wild birds at my feeders.

**Favorite Hobbies:** I am a naturalist and am always studying things in nature wherever I go. I enjoy drawing and painting. I am also a gardening fanatic so I have vegetable, herb and flower gardens at my house. My favorite sport is horseback riding. I also enjoy hiking, skiing and snowshoeing.

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** I went to a British school in Tanzania, East Africa and I remember having to learn how to curtsy for the Queen of England just in case she ever visited. I also remember having to study a small plot of land at the edge of the school property to map the changes over time and keep a detailed nature journal in fourth grade. I still enjoy doing things like that with my students.

**What I like most about working at BSCSD:** My favorite thing about working at BSCSD is watching my students grow and keeping in touch with them over the years. Many of my former students have gone on to finish college and start careers and it is so great to see them finding their way out in the world. I also enjoy the close relationships that I have developed with many of my talented colleagues over the years. I was very happy to return to the beautifully renovated Malta Avenue school this year.

**Ways I give back to my community:** I volunteer for nature-related activities such as clean-ups

and fundraising activities at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve. I also volunteer for equestrian events in various capacities around the state. My grandparents founded a private school up in Lake Placid so I help with fundraising and other alumni events during the year. I like to start gardens at school and am hoping to put a garden at Malta Avenue this spring.

**My favorite song/musician:** "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles. I love the Mozart Horn Concertos and I am also a big country music fan, particularly Zac Brown Band and Florida Georgia Line.

**My favorite Book:** How can I choose just one?

**My favorite movie or TV show: Movies:** Lawrence of Arabia, Out of Africa and Pride and Prejudice. TV: *Downton Abbey* and lots of shows on The History Channel.

**People would be surprised to know that I:** used to speak Swahili and spoke with a British accent as a child.

**If money were no object I would:** preserve as many different wilderness ecosystems as I could around the planet and live completely "off the grid".

### Angela Johanning



*Sixth grade Math teacher, Middle School*

**My history with BSCSD:** This is my 2nd year here.

**Where I live:** Colonie

**Family pets:** One cat named Susie. I have had her since I was 7 years old.

**Favorite hobbies/pastimes:** Softball, volleyball, crafts, reading, movies, board games and cards.

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** Making a video of the Beowulf epic poem using various toys and action figures in my basement for a group project.

**Ways I give back to the community:** I volunteer at various events in the community and participate in different activities at my local church.

**Dream place to live:** Italy

**What I like most about working at BSCSD:** The welcoming staff and that everyday is different.

**My favorite song/musician:** I like mostly anything

**My favorite book:** And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie.

**My favorite TV show(s):** Grey's Anatomy and 24

**People would be surprised to know that I:** have travelled to New Zealand and 14 European countries while I was in college.

**If money were no object I would:** travel to more places.

**I would also like to share:** I just completed my masters degree at St. Rose.

## Meredith Kenny



*Kindergarten teacher, Milton Terrace North Elementary School*

**My History with BSCSD:** This is my 5th year working in the Ballston Spa Central School District.

**Where I live:** Stillwater

**Favorite hobbies/pastimes:** Anything outside- running, gardening, hiking, boating, camping, etc.

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** I enjoy fun competition from "Texas hold'em" to beach volleyball. I have run in several 5K's and absolutely love doing yoga. I am a Yankees fan and I love the Patriots (even through *Deflate-gate*). I went to Canisius College in Buffalo and have a lot of family and friends in western NY so I also have a love for the Bills!

**Dream place to live:** Greece is on the top of my "bucket list" and I hope to travel there someday (and even stay for an

extended period). After living out of the country for 5 years however, I know my heart is in New York with my family and loved ones (although it would be amazing to have the Mediterranean climate here!)

**Ways I give back to my community:** I volunteer at a local food bank by organizing and stocking food and supplies. I've taught summer bible camp at my local church and each holiday season I assist local families by purchasing toys and clothing for those in need.

**What I like most about working at BSCSD:** I am very honored to be a part of the BSCSD and MTN! I have worked in several school districts in NY and in Ontario, both private and public and I'm continuously impressed by the committed, caring, enthusiastic and motivated staff members in Ballston Spa! I enjoy learning and growing with my colleagues, and certainly enjoy spending time with my Kinder-rooms every day- they always make me smile!.

**People may be surprised to know that I:** welcome the challenge of taking on new house projects and I love working with power tools (especially my industrial spray gun!) Recently I etched and sealed my garage floor, repainted my shutters and front door, put up wallpaper, extended my fireplace mantel, built shelving from scratch and sanded/re-painted my deck (can you feel my excitement of being a new homeowner?) I find it satisfying to work hard and enjoy the results.

**If money were no object I would:** Travel, travel, travel! I feel very fulfilled exploring and immersing myself in different cultures. I truly enjoy the awesomeness and beauty of witnessing something for the first time. I feel it's a privilege to tour our incredible planet!

**I also want to share:** I am extremely blessed with a very supporting family unit, a wonderful partner and many extraordinary friends who have helped to shape my life and keep me strong and optimistic.

## Raina Liebert



Spanish teacher, *High School*

**My history at BSCSD:** 7 tremendous years.

**Where I live:** Charlton

**Family Pets:** Anabel, a feisty (outgoing) Catahoula Leopard-Blue Heeler mix; Cleo and equally feisty (and anti-social) Blue Point Sphynx

**Dream place to live:** a house on an oceanfront bluff, with nothing but windows

**Favorite pastimes/hobbies:** Naps are lovely- when there is time...otherwise, getting lost in a great book or going for a drive while blasting music with the windows down.

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** Richard Kelly, the most amazing teacher ever! He showed me what it is to be an educator; passionate, encouraging and most importantly, a little crazy (about what you teach AND about your students)!

**What I like best about working at BSCSD:** The camaraderie in my department and beyond- but the students make everything worth it! My IB students would be livid if I didn't specifically give them a shout-out :).

**Favorite musician(s):** of all time- Beastie Boys; of the moment:

Alt-J and Fitz and the Tantrums

**Favorite Book:** The Shadow of the Wind

**Favorite movie or TV show:** Movie- On the Waterfront. TV- Deadwood and currently The Blacklist

**People may be surprised to know that I:** people who know me aren't surprised by anything I do. Conversely, people who don't know me may be surprised by everything.

**If money were no object I would:** live out of a suitcase doing humanitarian work abroad...and take students along for the ride.



## Ben O'Shea

*Elementary Band teacher, District-wide*

**My history at BSCSD:** 3 years

**Where I live:** Niskayuna

**Family pets:** Porter, our (almost) 3 year old Golden Retriever

**Favorite sports/hobbies:** I'm a baseball and football fan. I don't ride my bike as much as I used to, but I do enjoy that. I spend a



lot of time playing with my 1 1/2 year old son Liam, hiking with the dog and canoeing.

**Favorite memory from when I was in school:** Performing with my high school jazz band at a couple of major European jazz festivals in July of 1997.

**Ways I give back to my community:** I often play trombone for local musical productions (including Proctors), operas, church services and other musical venues (mostly jazz and Latin). Plus I volunteer with Capital District Jazz as a performer and mentor for underprivileged student musicians in the Albany/Schenectady area.

**Dream place to live:** Hawaii or back in Seattle

**What I like most about working at BSCSD:** The kids for sure (aren't they awesome?) plus the support of my colleagues and coworkers to do something special every day.

**My favorite song or musician:** Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Los Van Van, Hector LaVoe, Willie Colon and Ruben Blades

**Favorite Book:** Water for Elephants or The Jungle

**Favorite movie or TV show:** Most Martin Scorsese movies, House of Cards, Step Brothers and the new Batman movies

**People may be surprised to know that I:** played in the band for the Ringling Bros, and Barnum and Bailey Circus for a year and a half, and lived on the circus train that travelled all around the country with people from all over the world.

**If money were no object I would:** open up my own coffee shop.

**I also want to share:** I grew up in Seattle, so any Seattle sports team questions should be directed my way (Go 'Hawks).