

# THE JAMESTOWN PRESS



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## Kittredge named interim Melrose principal

### Werner will take leave of absence

BY TIM RIEL

Jenn Kittredge, whose tenure in Jamestown began in 2006, has been named interim principal at Melrose School.

"I'm really excited about the

opportunity," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with everyone."

Carrie Werner, who has been principal since 2007, is taking a leave of absence for the upcoming academic year. The district would not disclose the reason for the sabbatical.

Ken Duva, superintendent of schools, expects Werner to return for the 2021-22 academic year. In the meantime, Duva said Kittredge has his full confidence to lead the elementary school that won a National

Blue Ribbon in 2018.

"I know she will do a fabulous job," he said.

Kittredge has been studying under Werner and Lawn School principal Nate Edmunds for a year since being named the district's top teacher in 2019. Before the promotion, Kittredge was a fifth-grade teacher who was instrumental in implementing the mathematics curriculum that launches this fall.

"We didn't have to look very far," Duva said. "We had the perfect candidate already work-

ing for us."

Along with being qualified, Duva said Kittredge makes the ideal replacement because she already is acquainted with the schools, students and staff.

Because the appointment only is expected to last a year, familiarizing a principal from out of district would have been a time-consuming task for such a short stint, he said. Moreover, Duva said, Kittredge is accustomed to the strategies used in Jamestown for remote learning during the coronavirus pan-

dem.

A native of Bethel, Conn., and a resident of Saunderson, Kittredge has been a math specialist in the district since her arrival. She graduated with a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut in 1996, and was hired as education director for the Nutmeg State's Audubon Society in 1998. She arrived in Jamestown from a Montessori school in Connecticut.

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## THE EAGLE HAS LANDED



The Eagle traverses the East Passage flying the American flag Sunday. The 295-foot barque is used as a training cutter for future officers of the U.S. Coast Guard. Along with the USS Constitution, the Eagle is one of only two active commissioned sailboats in the military.

PHOTO BY ANDREA VON HOHENLEITEN

## Press starts voluntary subscription campaign

The Jamestown Press has launched a voluntary subscription fundraiser to help it continue publishing during the coronavirus pandemic.

The newspaper has seen its revenue shrink dramatically during the outbreak because it relies solely on advertising money for operation. With many other businesses adversely affected, the ability for them to advertise has disappeared in some cases, according to Robert Berczuk, the paper's publisher.

"We are truly thankful to the businesses that have been able to maintain their advertising with us, and empathize with those also going through financial struggles," he said. "Everyone here loves serving this community and wants to

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continue to do so well into the future. Any contributions by our readers that can be made will be greatly appreciated and allow us to fulfill that responsibility."

The campaign is being administered by the New England Newspaper & Press Association, which has established a 501(3) for its members to raise money through tax-deductible donations. In order to support local businesses, the Press will give a \$20 chamber check for every \$100 donated.

"It's our way of paying it forward and helping our fellow businesses while also saying thank-you to the donor," Berczuk said.

## Town has low coronavirus rate

Jamestown has the third lowest percentage of positive coronavirus tests in Rhode Island, according to the state Department of Health.

With 3 percent of tested residents showing positive results, Jamestown is tied with Charlestown, Middletown, South Kingstown and Westerly. New Shoreham has one reported infection and 2 percent of Hopkinton residents have tested positive. These figures do not include tests taken after July 3.

According to the data, 572 residents from Jamestown have been tested for COVID-19, and 15 of those have been positive. Roughly 10 percent of the local population has been tested.

The state's highest rate is in Central Falls with 22 percent

### COVID-19 stats (as of Wednesday morning)

#### Rhode Island

■ Cases: 17,588

■ Deaths: 985

(Source: RI Department of Health)

#### United States

■ Cases: 3,355,457

■ Deaths: 135,235

(Source: Centers for Disease Control)

#### Globally

■ Cases: 12 964 809

■ Deaths: 570,288

(Source: World Health Organization)

of its residents testing positive. Nearly 4,200 residents of Central Falls have been tested, resulting in 923 positive tests. Providence,

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## New priest installed at St. Mark

### Grant replaces Amaral as head of Catholic church

BY RYAN GIBBS

For the third time in five years, St. Mark has welcomed a new priest to lead the Catholic congregation.

The Rev. Douglas Grant conducted his first sermon July 1 at the church on Narragansett Avenue following the retirement of Steven Amaral. The incoming rector was grateful for the reception he received during his inaugural Mass.

"I look forward to getting to know everyone in town," he said.

The Diocese of Providence allows priests to ask the bishop for permission to retire from administrative duties when they turn 70 years old. In March, Amaral asked for that permission from Bishop Thomas Tobin effective July 1, which was granted. He joined St. Mark in February 2017 following a 17-year stint as pastor of Our Lady of Czenstochowa Parish in Coventry.

Amaral said he came to the decision to retire after much thought, consultation and prayer. He has been a Catholic priest since 1978, and his first Mass in Jamestown coincided with the 39th anniversary of his ordainment.

Before coming to Jamestown, Amaral worked in parishes in North Kingstown, Providence, Woonsocket, Peace Dale and Coventry. Of all of his assignments, he said his work at St. Mark has been some of "the most productive" in his 42 years of priesthood.

"The people in this parish have allowed me to be the priest that I could be for them, a gift which can never be taken for granted," he said. "They have allowed me to share the lessons that I have learned, the person that I have become, and the love with which I have been gifted with them. If that doesn't occur in the bond between pastor and parishioner, then no

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