## Hopkins Hill Principal Honored

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Kendra Leigh Miller Daily Times

Hopkins Hill School Principal Kathryn Tancrelle surrounded by teachers, students and well-wishers after she received Outstanding First-Year Principal honor for 2012-2013.

## Tancrelle named top first-year principal

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COVENTRY — She had no idea the school assembly to celebrate the reading program at Hopkins Hill Elementary School Thursday morning was really to celebrate her accomplishments in her first year of being principal, so when Kathryn Tancrelle was asked to step forward to be recognized as Outstanding First-Year Principal, she was left speechless before an auditorium filled with her family, fellow administrators, teachers and students.

"I can't believe this," she said, as she was handed bouquets of flowers.

"I knew it had to be a good omen to be here when I walked in," she said, as she tearfully addressed the filled gymnasium. "I love huskies and artwork so with the husky being our mascot and all the students' artwork, it looked like a place that really cares about kids, where I knew I wanted to be."

The Board of Directors of the Rhode Island



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Hopkins Hill Elementary School students raise their hands in response to a question at an assembly last week honoring Tancrelle.

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## Tancrelle: 'I wanted to be here'

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Association of School Principals (RIASP) named Tancrelle after she received overwhelming accolades from her fellow administrators, teachers and students.

"It's clear that everyone loves her," said Patricia Hines, executive director of RIASP.

Inspirational, exceptional, knowledgeable and supportive were just a few adjectives those who work with her and have come to know her describe her.

As Coventry School Superintendent Mike Almeida offered his congratulations, he called her approach collaborative, insightful, respectful and highly strategic.

"I believe she has the potential to become one of the best administrators in the district,' he said. "She began her first year at Hopkins Hill with confidence and determination."

He said he and other administrators were so confident in her abilities a year ago that they predicted back then she would be the perfect candidate.

"It's really an award for the entire Hopkins Hill community and I commend you all because you all work as a team," Almeida said. "Mrs. Tancrelle, you have empowered your pack."

Parents of Hopkins Hill students have seen time and time again Tancrelle's passion for her role and for always doing what they consider to be "more than stepping up to the plate."

"They have shared with me the fact that she communicates with them effectively and conveys a sense of leadership and control," Hines explained. "Parents credit her with being very quick to respond making them feel welcome and establishing a sense of community."

"Dynamic, collaborative, proactive and a true educational leader, Principal Tancrelle inspires teachers and students to be the best they can be."

Patricia Hines
 Executive Director, RIASP

Teachers at the assembly said Tancrelle is "on top of her game, not like a first-year principal but a veteran."

They appreciate the step-by-step approach she models with each task and initiative being instituted at the school.

Another aspect of her approach that teachers truly appreciate is how Tancrelle takes overwhelming tasks and can break them down systematically into step-by-step processes for implementation.

Hines said Tancrelle's first question when she collaborates with a teacher or more than one teacher is how can she help that teacher. She's constantly working to provide teachers with the professional development training they need as well as the time within their work day to meet to confer with colleagues, analyze data and collaborate on school improvement efforts and student achievement.

One of her many goals as an administrator is to always engage teachers in profes-

sional development.

As part of that commitment, she participates along with the teachers, sharing best practices, seeking input and leading discussions.

"Dynamic, collaborative, proactive and a true educational leader, Principal Tancrelle inspires teachers and students to be the best they can be," Hines said.

In a special PowerPoint presentation, students from all grades were able to share how they felt about all the support their principal gives them.

Some words used by students to describe their favorite principal were caring, devoted, supportive, gentle and loving.

Tancrelle's proud family was at the assembly to be a part of the honors.

"It's a great day," said her husband Paul. As we were getting ready to leave the house this morning, I almost let it slip that she was being given this honor."

Her daughter Ciana called it a very well-deserved honor.

"She works very hard and loves what she does," she said.

Her fiancé Chris called her a very hard worker.

"I've known her for three years and we have dinner together as a family every Sunday and she's always talking about the school and the kids," he said

Her son Jared and his wife Laura both agreed, the school means everything to her.

"She loves being a part of it," he said.
"When she was nominated, we were so proud of her," she added.