

New principal takes helm at Hopkins Hill Elementary

RACHAEL STAMP

Special to the Times

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COVENTRY—Principal Tracey Whitehead is excited about being the newest principal at the Hopkins Hill Elementary School.

“Coventry is an amazing district,” said Whitehead. “I am so excited to be here.”

Whitehead has worked in a variety of education related jobs for over 19 years, including teaching and state administration. She has recently moved from working at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School to Hopkins Hill.

“It’s like a big family here through all the districts,” said

Whitehead. “Coventry is a big district, but everyone is here to help me.”

She said that everyone at Hopkins Hills have been wonderful.

“You receive support on so many levels,” she said. “People help me from within the administration, through the teachers, staff members and the parents. I truly appreciate that so many different groups have come forward to help me.”

Whitehead said that she wouldn’t be able to complete all the tasks without the teachers at Hopkins Hill.

“The teachers are great,” she said. “They take initiative to

help me out. They help me with tasks that would be monumental. They step up and do above and beyond what is required of them. They take pride in what they do.”

She said that Coventry is a unique school district that she loves to be in.

“It’s not like that everywhere,” said Whitehead. “After working in the state, I saw that Coventry really is a supportive district. They just continue to go above and beyond. I can’t help but to be excited about being here. I feel inspired because of the way that people work to help me. It motivates me to do even more

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Photo/Hannah Piecuch

Tracey Whitehead is excited about being the newest principal at Hopkins Hill School in Coventry.

Principal

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because of the way that they have inspired and welcomed me.”

She has many plans to continue the growth of Hopkins

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Hill Elementary School. She said that she has just begun a school-wide implantation of a positive behavior support program.

In a letter to parents, she described Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as a process for creating safer and more effective schools by focusing on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students.

She said that the teachers give rewards to children who are following the school-wide expectations of being “Respectful, Responsible, and

Safe.”

“The kids have really gotten into it,” said Whitehead. “We are using interactive elements to create positive energy and excitement.”

Whitehead said that the students are rewarded when they exhibit positive actions in the classroom, playground and even coming home on the bus.

“This is a very nurturing and caring environment that the teachers have created here at Hopkins Hill,” said Whitehead. “We are just continuing to make the environment here a positive place to grow in knowledge and confidence.”