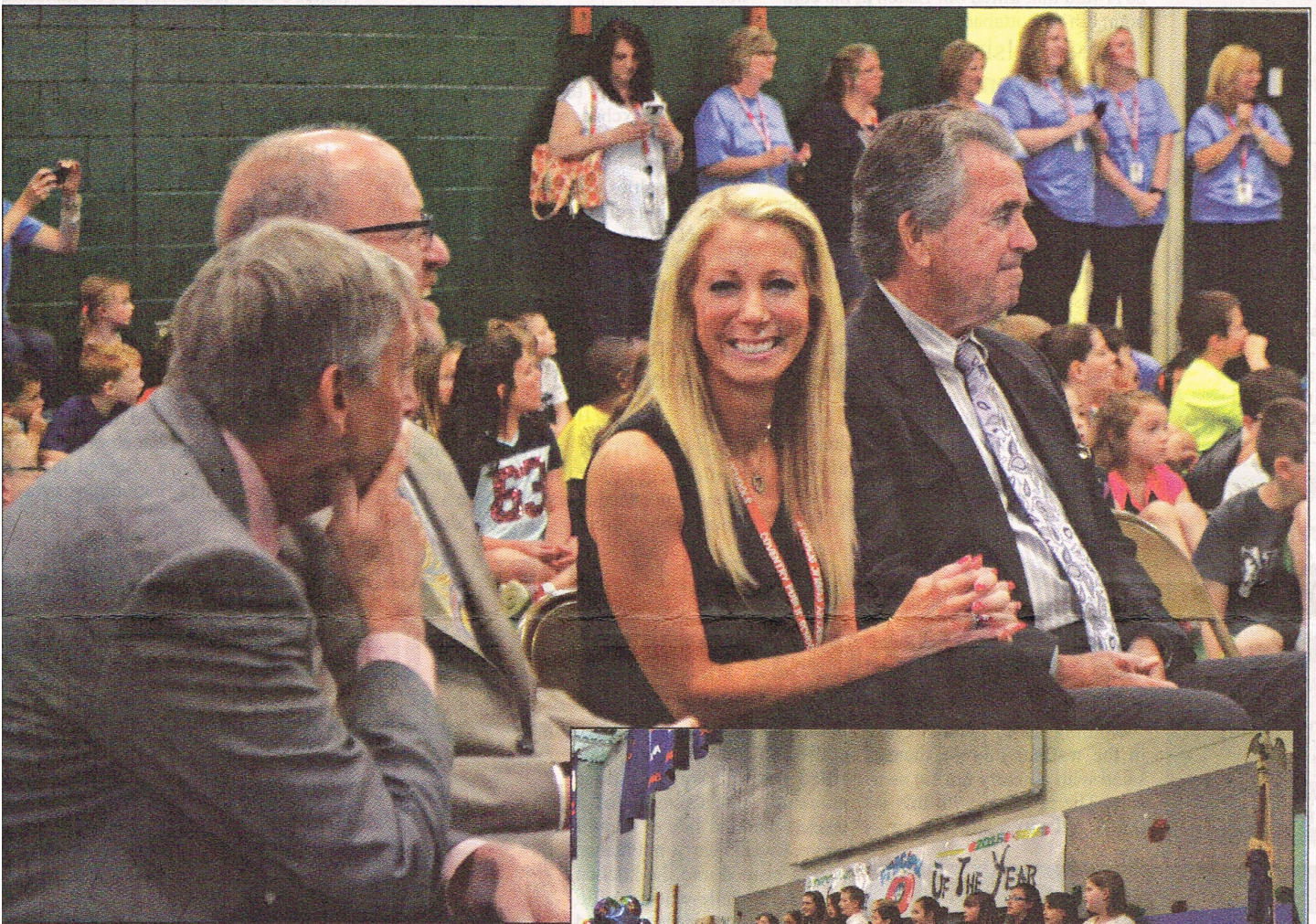


TIOGUE'S SEITSINGER NAMED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Labor of Love



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

ABOVE: Tiogue Elementary School Principal Louise Seitsinger was named the Rhode Island Association of School Principals Principal of the Year, and was feted at a school-wide celebration yesterday at the lakeside elementary school in Coventry, where colleagues, faculty and staff, and students all turned out to return the love and support that they all say she has shown them at Tiogue and in the district.

RIGHT: Members of the Tiogue Elementary School chorus perform during the ceremony.

Story, Page A-3



Tiogue's Seitsinger named RI Principal of the Year

Principal praises faculty and staff, praised by students

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
kmliller@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — She learned about the honor about two weeks ago, but it still hasn't sunk in yet.

Tiogue Elementary School Principal Louise Seitsinger was chosen as this year's Principal of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP).

"I'm so honored and I want to thank my teachers, staff and all the support I've gotten," she said during a special school-wide assembly held Wednesday to honor her.

"This is a very overwhelming experience and you don't know how much it means to me to be here with everyone. I'm so proud of how far we've come over the last few years."

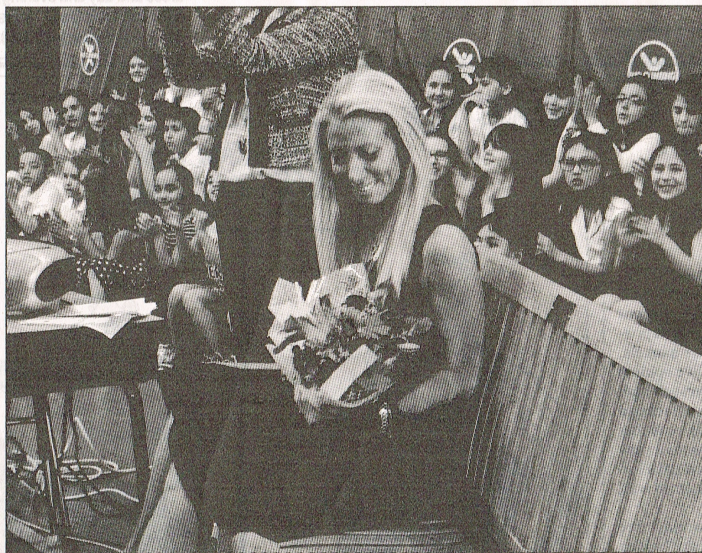
Joe Crowley, representative from RIASP, explained how the process works.

There are four categories of grades from elementary through high school. The association accepts nominations from everyone in the school community and from there, the association has teams that go through the paperwork and pick two finalists.

"From there, we do site visits and interview teachers and students and the final is chosen from that," he said.

Crowley described it as very gratifying.

"It's a great experience to witness what makes an outstanding principal and when you see the influence a single person has, it can be very humbling," he said.



Students Gabby Minuto, Jeanette Finch and Boston Lamb shared their thoughts about how special their principal is to them.

"She's an extraordinary principal who deserves the award," Lamb said. "We have a moment of reflection at the start of each day and her phrase of the day gets my day going on the right foot so I can have a successful day."

Minuto said Seitsinger is very involved in her learning.

"She cares about us more than herself," she said.

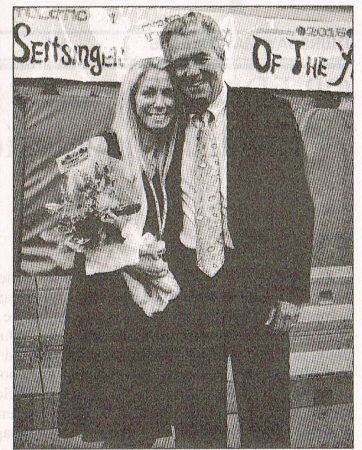
"She's nice because when we get in trouble,

she doesn't yell at us but she tells us what we did wrong and how to be better," Finch said.

Physical education teacher Alicia DelSanto was thrilled for Seitsinger.

"She is a person of leadership and very active both inside and outside the school community and always makes learning innovative," DelSanto said. "This was a long process. Once she was nominated, representatives from RIASP came about a week and a half ago and interviewed teachers and a student from each grade. It was an intense process but we're very proud."

Special Education teacher Sue Kaye said



Kendra Leigh Miller/Daily Times

ABOVE: Seitsinger with Rhode Island Association of School Principals' (RIASP) Joe Crowley. LEFT: As part of her recognition, Seitsinger was presented flowers and a bench in her honor.

everyone is so proud of her.

"She deserves it," Kaye said. "She's deserved it for a long time. She's a great leader and knows how to bring everyone's full potential out."

Coventry School Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida called it "an extraordinary honor."

"We're extremely proud and excited for her," he said. "She works extremely hard and is always focused on the right things. This is long overdue."

Dr. Arthur Lisi, principal at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School, called Seitsinger a "superb administrator, wonderful leader and friend to all."