History Lesson

Washington Elementary School was built as part of the town’s response to the infamous Ninth District School fire on Oct. 23, 1913.

Although all of the 1,000 students and teachers in the Ninth District School were able to get out without harm that day, the building — which is at the site of what is now Bennet Academy — burned to the ground.

Washington opened in April 1915 (yes, three-quarters of the way through the school year) having been built — hastily but sturdily, for $62,237 — on a four-acre lot bounded by Pleasant, Cooper, Cooper Hill and Cedar streets. It served a West Side that was growing rapidly and would continue to do so for years, with many of the residents employed by the sprawling Cheney Brothers manufacturing empire.

In 1921, the West Side Rec opened just to the south of the school, and athletes of all ages spent hours in the Rec and on the adjacent fields. A parking lot separated the two buildings and students would have to walk outdoors from the school to the Rec, which had in addition to a gymnasium a small duck-pin bowling alley.

In 1958, an addition was built connecting the school building and the Rec, and 20 years later the Rec was razed and rebuilt — reopening in 1979 and dedicated soon thereafter (in 1981) in honor of Francis Mahoney, a former mayor (1962-66) and state representative (1968-80).

Washington Elementary School is closing in June 2019 as part of a multifaceted upgrade of elementary schools throughout the district. Its future use has not been determined.
Self-Guided Tour

Top Level
The media center (aka library) and third- and fourth-grade classrooms.

Middle Level
The main office and the nurse’s office, a STEM room and art room, as well as first- and second-grade classrooms.

Ground Level
The gymnasium and stage, the cafeteria, a music room, a yoga space and kindergarten classrooms.
Since it opened in 1915, thousands of people have worked at Washington Elementary School and many are listed here. If you know of someone or something we’ve missed, please jot notes below or in the margins. You can leave this program in the media center or main office before you leave today, or share information later with Jim Farrell, the district communications director, at b1ljfarrell@mpspride.org or 860-268-6377.

We will post a ‘final version’ on the district Facebook page and give a copy to the Manchester Historical Society.

Notes:

Welcome back! There will be a brief ceremony in the media center at 5:15 p.m. and after that we will be taking various group photos that will be shared on the district Facebook page (MPSpride). The times and locations of the group photos will be announced over the PA system.

Today’s staff reunion runs until 6 p.m. and will be followed by a community open house that ends at 8 p.m. We hope you can stick around a bit and perhaps reconnect with some former students.

Also, tonight at 6:15 and 7:15, Town Historian Susan Barlow will give brief presentations about the history of Washington Elementary School. These will take place in the cafeteria.

Finally, this all-time Washington employee list is a work in progress. See the back page for how you can help us make it more comprehensive and accurate.
Dahms, Debbie
Daley, Erica
Darna, Bette – teacher (1970s-1990s)
Davis, Mike
Dean, Christie
Deffley, Mary
DeForest, Amy – para
Dehm, Jean (2008-2018)
Dell, Ann – teacher (~1972-1991+?)
DeNies, Marie
Dhiman, Linda – reading consultant
DiTardo, Carl – custodian (1970s)
Dolan, Mrs. – teacher (1990s)
Drugan, Nikarai
Dukes, Christine
Dupuis, Kim
Dyer, Kathy – teacher (1970s)

Ekstrom, Sarah (2008-2011)
English, Linda
Everett, Shelly

Eagan, Rebecca (1968-2007)
Fallicaro, Joe
Farrell, Kathleen
Faulkner, Julie – teacher (1950s-1960s)
Fegy, Mrs. – secretary
Fellenstein, Carol
Fennimore, Nathaniel
Ferran, John
Fiedler, Karen
Fish, Carol – teacher (1970s)
Fleming, Mary
Flores, Iris – para (2015)
Flynn, Antoinette (1998-2016)
Formica-Burnham, Elaine
Fountain, Felicia
Fox (Plummer), Sandy
Fraser, E. – teacher (1920s)
Fredette, teacher (early 1960s)
Frenette, Fred – teacher (1980s)
Frosti, Mayra
Furlong, A. – teacher (1920s)

Gardiner, Ray – principal (1985-94)
Gardiner (Connors), Donna
Gasper, Linda
Giaquinto, Christine
Gibson, Robin (2006-2008)
Gioux, Jennifer
Gordon, Brian
Gorman, Alice G. – teacher (1930s)
Gorman, Helen – teacher (1930s)
Greene, Mrs. – cafeteria (1980s)
Griffith, Polly

Hahn, Rachel
Hall, Brittany – FRC (2010-11, 2015-16)
Hanna, Lenora – first principal (1915-1937)
Harbec, Kate

Hayes, Beverly
Hazzard, Erin
Hebert, Joanne
Heinz, Robert – principal (1975-1979)
Hendrickson, Ms.
Hensig, E. – teacher (1920s)
Herrick, Carly
Hernandez, Glenda – (2005-2013)
Hershey-Deno, Marcie
Hilliard (Connway), Linda
Hollis, Jill
Hoss, Carly
Howard, (Carter), Edna – teacher (1930s)
Humes, Brian
Hyatt, Ashley

Iacovelli, Jane
Indomenico, Donna – reading and language arts consultant
Irvin, Pat
Istou, Stacey

Jennings (Kenny), Winfred – teacher (1930s)
Johnkoski, Janina
Johnson, Annie
Jones, Janice – teacher
Jones, Theresa – teacher (20xx-2019)
Jordan, Sarah

Kantrow, Kate – teacher (2013-2019)
Kearney, Diane
Kellerg, Jean
Kelson, Charles – teacher (~1950s-1980s)
Kenyon, Arline – teacher (1970s)
Kilgus (Horstia), Jill – teacher (1997-2001)
King, Deryn
Kinsgspur, Jean – teacher
Klute, Karen (?) – student teacher (1986)
Knight, Melissa
Kolek, Jamie – (2015-2018)
Korb, Charity – social worker
Koski, Millie – teacher (~1972-1996)
Kosky, "Gran" Francis
Kovacs, Sharon
Krajewski, Leigh Ann
Krzyszicki, Christina

LaForge, David – custodian
LaFleur, Britany
Langevin, Margaret – teacher
Lambert, Sandy – (1999-2013)
Lapolla, Lisa
Larco, Lauren
Lassou, Mrs. (~1983)
Laughlin, Robert B. – after school program (2001-2004)
Lavey, Linda
LeMay, Matt
Levesque, Caitlin
Liwan, Colleen

Locust, Kimi
Long, Darcelle
Lowe, Cindy
Lucas, Mary
Lukach, Lynn
Lunsford, Helen – teacher (1970s-1990s+)
Luzo, Danielle

Maas, Carol – teacher
Maglieri, Tina
Malcom-Best, Zinnia
Maloney, Diane
Mannina, Mary
Martinez, Madeline
Mason, Linda
Matthews, Shelley-Ann
McCann, Mrs. – teacher(1960s)
McCann, (Marlowe) Grace – teacher (1900s-1940s)
McCarty, Bill
McCaul, Nancy
McCoy (Greene) Stacey – kitchen (2002-2005)
McDougal, Bill – teacher
Mcguire, Susie
McKeone, Meaghan
McKernan, (sp?), Lorriane
Melzen, Emily
Menzies, Ann
Meyers, Mary
Miller, Janet
Mizra, Elizabeth – para (2002)
Modean, Nancy
Monaco, James – custodian (1980s)
Molly, Alice
Montstream, Kendra (2004-2013)
Montanaro, Niki
Monti, Shalina
Moore, Rachel
Morin, Kate – teacher (2015-2017)
Moyer, MaryBeth – teacher
Mudgett, Joan
Mullins, Christopher
Murphy, Barbara (32 years, when?)
Muro, Candy
Myers, Mary

Nagle, Eric
Napolitano, Maryann
Nardone, Danielle
Negrelli, Dan
Negron, Bernardo
Nelson, R. – teacher (1920s)
Nudget, Joan
Nyman (Marrot), Olive – teacher (1930s)
Nyman (Campaagna) Ruth – (1930s)

O'Brien, Karen
Odom, Annette
O'Donnell, Joan
Olsery, Donna – teacher (1970s)
Olson, Merry – nurse (20xx-2018)
Orthell, Edith – teacher (1959-1986)
O'Malley, Tammy – (2003-2012)
O'Neil, Caitlin – occupational therapist
Owens, Deborah

P
Paterson, Judy – teacher
Paklos, Liz
Pearce, Michael
Perez, Carmen – behavioral (early 2000s-2017)
Perrins, Tanya
Peterson, Donna
Petroph, Cheryl
Phillips, Bryan
Phillips, Craig
Piasecki, Sandi
Pilolio, Jackie
Pike, Dorothy – teacher (1930s)
Pinkney, Nancy
Plass, Janet
Plentay, Elana
Pollock, Jillian
Prager, Beverly
Prosko, Tom – teacher (1990s-1990s)
Proctor (Briggs), Allegra – teacher (1930s)

Quaglia, Sue
Quey, Michelle

R
Ramsey, Jessica
Ransome, H. – among first Washington teachers (1915-1922)
Reid, Mrs. – teacher (1960s)
Renn, Mrs. – teacher (1960s)
Reynolds, Kathleen
Rizzi, Frank
Riegel, Rima – 1980
Robinson, Nan
Rodriguez, Teresa
Rogers, Andre
Rogers, Tiffany
Rohlfis, Judy – teacher (1960s-1970s)
Rohlfis, Linda – teacher (1960s-1970s)
Rosenberg, Gal – teacher (1970s)
Rosow, Rebecca
Rossi, Rick – teacher
Rudy, Melissa
Russell, Ann Marie – teacher (1970s)
Russw, Wendy

S
St. Germain, Carey
Saimond, Mir – interim co-principal (2013)
Sabatelli, Cecilia – teacher (2007-2012)
Salerno, Kristyn
Santerre, Rebecca
Sanzo, Pat
Sawyer, Kaitlyn
Scaglione, Charity
Scanlon, Peg
Scatta, Joanne. – teacher (1960s-1970s)
Scheidat, Andrea
Schon, Wilhelm
Scott, M. – teacher (1920s)
Sehna, Cherie
Sentivany, Lynn
Seymour, M. E. – among first Washington teachers (1915-1922)
Siebert, Kara – teacher (1986-1990s)
Sikand, Kathleen