

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

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Dr. Christopher Kennedy Named Rhode Island Elementary School Principal of the Year

May 13, 2010 - The Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals has named Dr. Christopher Kennedy, Principal of Nayatt School in Barrington, as its 2010 Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Dr. Kennedy has fostered the implementation of Professional Learning Community behaviors at Nayatt School, facilitated development of Response to Intervention processes, and is helping to introduce the district wide PBIS initiative. Teachers note that Dr. Kennedy promotes the belief that all teachers are responsible for the learning of every student at the school and that everyone contributes to student achievement growth. He empowers teachers to lead reform initiatives at the school and has promoted high expectations for all. Parents overwhelmingly speak to the open communication that Dr. Kennedy maintains with them and his commitment to developing the whole child.

Always looking to improve education at Nayatt School, Dr. Kennedy is present in classrooms on a regular basis. He also works individually with students to ensure that their educational needs are met. Through creative scheduling, Dr. Kennedy holds four weekly first hour grade level assemblies each week. This assembly time provides teachers with the opportunity to meet in Common Planning Time every week to review student performance data, examine student work, and collaborate on instruction. Dr. Kennedy uses the student assemblies to teach students about citizenship, kindness, respect, and the like. Additionally, he holds school-wide Town Meetings once each month to showcase student learning.

Described with words such as supportive, collaborative, knowledgeable, skilled, respectful, creative, and empathetic, Dr. Kennedy is seen as an educational leader by teachers, students, staff, parents, and central office personnel. One parent noted that, "no principal any of my children had ever cared so intently for them individually," as does Dr. Kennedy.

Dr. Kennedy holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Rhode Island, a Master of Education in Language and Literacy from Harvard University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Johnson & Wales University. Dr. Kennedy served as a first grade and reading recovery teacher in Attleboro, MA before coming to Providence as a literacy coach and assistant principal. Having served as Principal of Barnes Elementary School in Johnston, he has been Principal of Nayatt School in Barrington since 2005.

As Rhode Island's Elementary School Principal of the Year, Dr. Kennedy will now participate in the National Distinguished Principal Program conducted by the National Association of Elementary School Principals in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education, in corporate partnership with AIG Retirement. The winners from each state will be honored at ceremonies to be held in Washington, D.C. in October. RIASP will also recognize Dr. Kennedy at a dinner meeting to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick on May 27, 2010.

Dr. Kennedy resides in Rehoboth, MA.