

# **Introducing Our New Principal, Mrs. Tracie Fraley**

## ***Early Years***

**Ms. Fraley**, was born on the Perrin Air Force Base in the Sherman-Dennison area, which closed in the early 70's. At the age of 1, she moved with her family to Edwards Air Force Base, where she lived until the age of 12. Her father was a Master Sergeant and Air Force liaison for NASA; crew chief on the early space shuttle flights; lead tech person on the YF12A Air Force mach 3 spy plane; and though not a pilot, he kept them all flying!

At the age of 12, her father retired from the military, moving to the Dallas area, joining Texas Instruments as an engineer. She attended the Plano ISD, while it was on its' growth spurt, changing schools almost every year due to continually changing residential dividing lines. She attended Harrington, Haggard, Vines, Clark, and Plano Senior. Upon graduation, Ms. Fraley attended Richland Jr. College, receiving an Associates Degree. She moved on to UTD, double majoring in Special Education and English, but she wasn't finished yet, receiving a Masters of Education from UNT with a major in Education Leadership. She has narrowed her school choices for work on a Doctorate, which is definitely on the horizon.

## ***Career Path***

Her career got off to a great start at Westminster Private School where she taught pre-K and Kindergarten. Then climbing the ladder took her to Hillcrest HS, Rosemont Elementary, DISD Administration, Booker T., back to Rosemont, Spence Middle School/TAG Academy, MacArthur High School, Irving ISD Administration, and back to Booker T. The positions she has held over the years have been: teacher, Resource and Special Ed. Dept Chair, Desegregation Monitor, Dean of Instruction, Principal, Division Director for Secondary Education and now back to us as Principal.

During her first affiliation with our school, she was instrumental in developing some innovative cluster courses that are still in play today. She was also an integral part in helping us become a National Blue Ribbon School. Our culture was and still is to reach for the stars and that couldn't be more evident than students she knew that have gone on to national acclaim and stardom: **Jay Franke, Robert Searight, God's Property and Norah Jones.**

## ***Personal Life***

Ms. Fraley celebrated her 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary in June with husband, David. They have a daughter, Sarah, 18, a freshman at UT El Paso (UTEP), who intends to follow in her mother's footsteps, majoring in Special Ed, but adding a minor in dance.

**David Fraley**, also in the "family business," has been a Special Ed teacher with the Irving ISD for the past 7 years, a career he began after retirement from 20+ years in management at Southland Corp. He holds an Economics/Finance degree from UTD and earned his teacher's certification after he retired.

Most of you have seen Ms. Fraley drive to school in her unorthodox vehicle, a "Koman pink" VW Beetle convertible. This is symbolic to her because she lost both of her parents to cancer;

her dad 5 years ago and her mother, 2 years ago. Her mother-in-law, father-in-law and best friend are all cancer survivors.

Ms. Fraley is in that “car” quite a bit, driving to and from Flower Mound. With a 35-minute commute each way, she has a lot of thinking time! Her dream for our school is ***One School...One Community***, joining the academic and arts worlds into one. We should all join with her to help in achieving that goal!