

Meet Linda Bleile

Although I consider Maine my home state, I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and lived there until I was five. Then my parents, sister and I moved to Skowhegan, Maine. My Dad owned an independent supermarket called “George’s Banana Stand” and my mother was the school nurse. After graduating from Skowhegan High School, I went to the University of Maine at Orono where I majored in secondary English and was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority.

Upon graduating from UMO, I began teaching grade 8 reading at the Wiscasset Elementary School and did so for the next 29 years. During this time I returned to college twice and received a Master’s degree in Literacy and a CAS degree in Educational Leadership. In 2002, when the principal position at the Wiscasset Middle School opened up, I was asked to assume this position and remained principal for twelve years.

Many people ask me whether I enjoyed being a teacher or principal more and I have to say, I thoroughly enjoyed both positions. During my tenure as principal, I was very fortunate to have a wonderful, dedicated and professional staff that wanted to create a safe and interesting learning environment for our students. We began to deliver our curriculum using the Expeditionary Learning model where students experienced authentic learning for authentic audiences. We also applied for and received a national grant, the 21st Century Learning Community Grant, which provided enriching and enjoyable after school activities for our students.

In 2009, I was very surprised to be nominated and voted President of the Maine Principals’ Association. This afforded me multiple opportunities to travel and meet with principals from all fifty states, meet with Maine’s Congressional members in Washington, DC, and visit the White House. In 2011, I was very honored to be chosen Maine’s Middle Level Principal of the Year and recognized as a National Distinguished Principal.

I have been married to my husband Edward for 44 years. Ed was a lobsterman for several years and then worked at Maine Yankee for 23 years. When the plant closed he started driving a school bus for Wiscasset and continues to do so. We have two sons Eric and Steve who graduated from Wiscasset High School. Eric and his wife Tara live in Weston, Connecticut, and have a five-month-old son. Steve and his wife KC live in Richmond, Virginia, and have a two-year-old son and are expecting a second child in March. I love being a grandmother! Eric and Steve participated in sports, band, chorus and many extracurricular activities while at WHS. In 1994 they were both members of the high school golf team that won the state championship. They attended college on golf scholarships and Eric won a NCAA Division 1 golf tournament and was featured in Sports Illustrated magazine. Presently, Eric has his own modern country band called

