

## What is Bus Ten?



By Charlotte Dobbs

Has anyone wondered what it is like on a bus like Bus 10? Being on a bus is not always as exciting as you think. I mean you have probably been on a bus for field trips but I bet you have never been on Bus 10. Bus 10 is an amazing bus and it has a very nice bus driver. From Mr. M's point of view, Bus 10 is quite a good bus. Bus 10 is the first bus to arrive in the morning and the last bus to arrive in the afternoon. Mr M does not mind Bus 10 being late, he does not mind the kids staying a little bit later, but Mr M thinks the kids on Bus 10 are doing a great job adapting to the bus schedule. On the bus there are 13 stops in the morning. I am not sure how many stops there are in the afternoon because I am the first stop in the afternoon and that means I don't have a late enough stop to know how many stops. Bus 10 has 7 fourth graders, 5 third graders, 6 second graders, and there are also 6 first graders and last but not least there are about 10 kindergarteners. So if you can't tell, Bus 10 has a lot of kids, which could make it hard for the bus driver to manage the bus. Well not my bus driver. She can manage the bus like it's nothing. Her name is Priscilla. For Priscilla to become a

bus driver she had to do lots of training. She had to practice backing up the bus and even parallel parking in a parking lot. And to me that sounds hard because the bus is 40 feet long, which makes it hard to maneuver. The reason why Priscilla wanted to become a bus driver is because she had 3 kids and she wanted to be around them all the time, so she became a bus driver. For her the hardest part is getting up in the morning and the best part is the kids. She loves the kids. In total there are between 35-40 kids on the bus!! If you do already go on the bus like Bus 9, 8 or 6 your bus drivers are also super nice, and Bus 10 may not always have the best reputation but on the inside it is way different. Now let's dig deeper into the bus. On the inside the bus is not crazy at all because we know that if we do something bad then it's all downhill from there. What I mean by that is Priscilla can be strict from time to time but she does not take long to get used to. Now I sit in the back of the bus and a lot of stuff happens back there, all good stuff, fun stuff and Priscilla trusts the fourth graders because they know what she expects. The kindergarteners sit in the front, the first graders sit in the right middle and the second graders are in the left middle and the 3rd and 4th graders are in the back. So if you can't tell, the bus is super fun and I really enjoyed talking about it. And that's the end of the amazing story of Bus 10!!



## Before School Program



By Brayden Froncki

Did you ever want to know about the Before School Program? The Before School Program is for children ages 5-10 years old who are in Kindergarten through fourth grade. These AES family members need childcare for their students because they have another place they need to be before school starts.

You can join the Before School Program by calling the Amesbury Recreation Center at 978-388-8137 and ask for Kathy Crowley. They also have an after school program too. The before school program starts at 7:00 am and goes to 8:30 am. In the morning you will see that Ms. Kate and my mom Ms. Pia will be there to help out and be there with all the kids.

There are lots of fun things that you can do. You can play with legos, elastics to make bracelets, do easy or hard puzzles, drawing, and board games like Spot it or Zingo and much more stuff to play with. There are a lot of kids to play with and even sometimes Ms. Kate and my mom join in the fun.

If it is nice outside, we go outside and play on the playground, or we can bring a football or a tennis ball out too, and even use chalk and draw on the bricks outside. If it is

cold outside or if it's raining, snowing or windy outside we will go to the gym. In the gym we play with the parachute and play with basketballs. You can play tag outside and inside the gym, which is really cool. So this is what the Before School Program is all about.

## Mr. Mike



By Luke Edic

Mr. Mike is our daytime Multi-Purpose-Facilities-Technician, which is what we call our school janitors now. Mr. Mike has been a janitor for 16 years. Mr. Mike got his start in a job washing dishes before being a janitor. Mr. Mike got more training for a janitor by cleaning up the lunch room after school. He enjoys being a janitor because he gets to see all the kids in the lunchroom and he gets to help in many ways around the school. Mr. Mike started as a janitor at the high school before coming to Amesbury Elementary and then returned to Cashman for a while before coming back to our school where he still is today.

Mr. Mike does cool stuff after school too, like he goes to the park with his kids and walks around the peaceful graveyard right next to his house. On the weekends Mr. Mike mostly spends time with his family and sometimes he goes golfing. He

loves going golfing because it is his favorite sport. In the summer Mr. Mike mostly spends time at the school, fixing things, setting up classrooms and making sure the school is ready for the fall. In the summer he also goes golfing when he can and tries to spend more time with his family. When he was little, Mr. Mike went to Amesbury Elementary and then he went to Cashman Elementary for 5th grade before moving on to the middle school and high school. I hope you enjoyed learning about Mr. Mike.

### **What is a Leonberger?**



By Jax Langemaide

A Leonberger is one of the world's 9 biggest dogs. It's a breed made by Saint Bernard, Newfoundland and Great Pyrenees. A fully grown Leonberger is about half the height of a full grown person. A Leonberger comes in different colors: they are sandy, red, yellow and mahogany. A female has a max weight of 140 lbs and a male has a max of 170 lbs. They are from Germany, and live 8-9 years. They are loyal, compatible, adaptable, loving, fearless, obedient and are very mild tempered. I have one because my dad wanted a large dog and Leonbergers have all of the

good characteristics he was looking for. The Leonburger, or Leo, is thick-coated with a hard-working spirit and a gentle disposition that hails from the city in Germany after which it was named. Although the breed almost went extinct in World War I, it was saved—and thankfully so, because Leonbergers not only make excellent working dogs but are also calm and affectionate companions. They are so strong that a mature male can do the work of three typical dogs. Mature males develop a pronounced lion-like mane, adding to their distinguished appearance. I enjoy having a Leonberger and am glad my father chose it as our family dog.

### **What is Lightning and Thunder?**



By Brayden Froncki

Lightning is very exciting! What is lightning and thunder? I'm going to tell you what lightning and thunder are.

There are about 16 million thunderstorms each year in the world. Thunderstorms are when moist air near the Earth is heated by the sun. Most are made of several cells in a row. This is called the squall line. They last 15 to 20 minutes and then new cells are made. This can go on for hours. Lightning forms when clouds become charged and when the



voltage is high enough. Thunder is the sound of the lightning when it superheats the air. Lightning can strike anywhere, even the same place! Lightning can make a big strike noise. You can hear lightning because it makes a really loud sound. Lightning is a giant spark of electricity in the atmosphere between clouds, the air, or the ground. In the early stages of storm development, air acts as an insulator between the positive and negative charges in the cloud and between the cloud and the ground. When those charges become strong enough, the clouds discharge the energy in the form of a lightning bolt.

#### Fun facts about lightning

- Lightning strikes usually happen every second on earth.
- There are millions of volts of electricity in lightning.
- The average temperature of lightning is 36,000 F.
- Lightning seeks the shortest path to the ground.
- Lightning Safety:
  - Never go under a tree.
  - Don't swim during lightning storms.
  - Find shelter. This includes your house.
  - Avoid open areas like parks and playgrounds, ponds, lakes and beaches.

I hope you enjoyed my article about lightning and thunder.

#### Who is Mrs Gonthier



By Nia Santimore

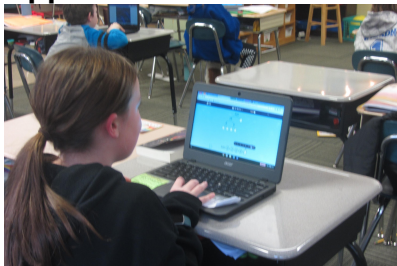
Mrs. Gonthier is a first grade teacher at Amesbury Elementary School. She went to Salem State College for four years, went back for a master's degree, and then went to American International College for CAGS. A CAGS is a certificate of advanced degree studies, where she learned even more about early elementary education. She loves helping and watching her students learn. Her favorite subject to teach is math, because it was her favorite growing up, it is important for kids, and she likes them to use manipulatives because it helps with number sense. The students favorite subject is reading. The hardest subject for her to teach is Wit and Wisdom because there are so many different activities. She likes the program, but just wishes it could be done with less time because now it is a long time for first graders to sit and listen.

She is a union rep, her job as a union rep is to help teachers solve problems. She has coffee every Friday with teachers to get to know them better. She was a Special Education teacher for one year in Groveland, then she taught kindergarten for thirteen years, and even second grade for one year.



Most recently she has taught first grade for three years, and taught at AES for seventeen years. With the other first grades she went to Franklin Park Zoo and Frog Pond last year. She hopes that they can go to the maple sugaring activity next spring at the Ipswich Wildlife Sanctuary. She is excited to leave this old building because Amesbury Elementary School is so old and leaks, and to work in the new Shay Elementary with the Cashman teachers. However, she is not looking forward to packing up her classroom at the end of the year to move. She does not like that teachers can not choose when to take a vacation. The easiest subject to teach for her is Foundations. She loved school even as a kid and she decorated her bulletin board like she was a teacher and would play school. She had two other jobs before teaching, one, as a cashier at Walgreens and the other one she worked at a sub shop.

## Apps and education



By Ava Nash

In this article I will be talking about one of the apps we use in our school called Reflex. For a student to do Reflex math might take about 15 to 20 minutes. If you know your math facts then it might take 5 to 10 minutes. You have one game which

is called the Ninja to the Stars game and if you do reflex at home you can level up and unlock new games. So, I interviewed some teachers, and Mrs. Ladd was first. I asked her what she thought about Reflex and she said that she likes it and it is a good app for the kids to learn their math facts but she doesn't like the timer and thinks it is stressful for them. She said she likes how it is a game style format and less boring than flash cards. Next, I asked her why do we do reflex and how does it help the kids? Both she and Miss Elliott said that they got a grant for Reflex and they have been doing it for a year longer than the other teachers. They saw how much their students test scores went up! So, they went to the principal, showed him their test scores and all that data and he decided to get it for Amesbury Elementary School. When I asked her how she thought that Reflex helps the kids, she said it helps them learn their math facts which helps them to solve more challenging math problems and do more word problems. I hope you liked my article and thank you for reading it.



**What is the Difference between OT and PT?**



By Adeline Hart

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between occupational therapy and physical therapy? My mom is a physical therapist and I didn't know the difference. I got to talk to the OT and PT that work at our school and they helped me figure it out. Miss Robin is our OT and Miss Melinda is our PT.

Miss Robin said that Occupation means how people spend their time. Occupation for adults means their work. For kids, occupation means playing and school. Miss Melinda said that PT is a little different in schools than other places. In schools, it is the treatment of physical difficulties through exercise, stretching, and sometimes using equipment.

So who needs OT and PT? Miss Robin said any students who lack skills that are interfering in their daily life may need OT. Miss Melinda said that anyone who needs help moving around their school or participating in school activities might need PT. All types of kids might need OT or PT.

I asked Miss Melinda, "Was it hard to become a physical

therapist?" She said, "Yes. It's a lot of school. You have to go to college and then get your doctorate degree. A doctorate degree for PT is about two more years of school after college." And I asked Miss Robin how long it takes you to study OT. She said, "So when I went to school it was 4 years, but now it is 6 years."

What do kids do in OT or PT? Miss Melinda said, "In a school, we help students participate in their curriculum and access their school environment. That could mean walking in the halls, playing at recess, or even sitting in a chair." Miss Robin said, "They come to OT if their skills are interfering in daily life."

It all comes down to the final question: what is the difference between OT and PT? PT works on bigger muscles, muscles that help you move around. OT works on smaller muscles, usually muscles that help you write and type and even eat. Miss Robin said, "We both do the same things, but we look at the problem in different ways." I think Mr. M said it best, "I love OT and PT. We are very lucky. I think Miss. Robin is outstanding. I think Mrs. Hart is outstanding. Miss Robin and Mrs. Hart together are a phenomenal team." The difference doesn't really matter, They are here to help students succeed.

**READ  
EVERY  
DAY!**

## What is football like for a girl?



By Charlotte Dobbs

Have you ever wondered what football is like for a girl because in this story you will find out!! No one really asks me how I feel about playing football with boys. Well, I interviewed my two friends Ava Nash and Caroline Courtney. I also interviewed a girl football player on the high school team. Her name is Debunchi.

First I will talk about Ava's interview. In Ava's own words, "The best part of football is being able to interact with your teammates." She said, "It is fun to practice with your team, to know them better because if you don't know your team then you won't do well in the game." For Ava the biggest competition is playing against older, bigger and better people. How Ava got into playing football is her Dad would watch football all the time and one time he said, 'Ava I think I have a football, do you want to go out and play catch?' And that's what got Ava into playing a season and she has played ever since. Ava said that Football is important to her because it keeps her strong and moving well. It also is good exercise!! Ava said that it is fun playing with older boys and girls even if they are tougher, stronger

and faster. She said that she would rather play without her friends than with her friends because when you play with your friends they distract you at practice and then you don't know the drills and then you either get asked to sit out of the drill or stay away from whoever is distracting you. Also Ava has been playing for 5 years. Ava and I have both played on a coed team for as long as we have played and this year is our first year playing on an all girls team. This team is ALS, the first all girls team in Amesbury, Our team is the Buccaneers. We are doing really good this season and we Won the Superbowl!!

Now I am going to be talking about Caroline's interview. Caroline said that her favorite part of football is the celebration. She also said that the biggest competition is playing against older and taller people. Caroline would not even be playing football if it were not for me. After I had played about 3 seasons I said, "Caroline, you should play the winter football season with me." It took a while but I finally talked her into doing it. Caroline said that she would rather play with boys on a football team because they get you to work hard and play well on the field. Caroline has been playing for 3 seasons.

Okay, so now I am going to talk about the football star Debunchi!! She plays on the high school football team and to her the best part of football is having your team to support you when you score. Debunchi said that the biggest competition for her in football is



playing against heavier and taller boys. Debunchi got into playing football because when she was in 8th Grade she went to one of the high school games and she realized that she wanted to play football in high school. Football is important to her because she said, "The team is like family and when you step on the field and start playing all of your worries just disappear." Debunchi said that it is hard because "everything that you can do, the boys can do better, it is energy draining." She said that she would not play football if she did not know anybody. Debunchi has been playing for 2 years. My best friend, Adeline Hart, said that she feels good that her friends play football and she was even looking into playing the next season. Even though she does not play, she cheers us on from the sidelines like a champ. I hope you enjoyed this story and hopefully you now know how my and I friends feel about playing football.

### **Pokemon!**



By Logan Campbell

What are Pokemon?  
When did the Pokemon story start?  
Where did it begin?  
Pokemon are living creatures who evolve into Pokemon who are stronger, faster, and look different. Pokemon can be in shows, movies, toys, stuffies, and cards you can

collect. Pokemon are 25 years old! Pokemon began in Japan. It was invented by Satoshi Tajiri. His friend Ken Sugimori was the illustrator. A fun fact about Satoshi Tajiri is he was nickname Dr. Bug by his friends because he loved bugs as a kid. Playing Pokemon is awesome but if you play it too long it is not healthy. Nintendo created a program called "Pokemon Sleep" it helps kids get better sleep. When you wake up and start playing again you get a surprise! Pokemon X and Y are one of the most popular Pokemon games in the world!!! In Japan there is a Pokemon shop! Pokemon Go is a game that gets you to go outside to play, and in Japan there is a Pokemon Plane. There have been "20 billion pokemon cards sold". There have been 3 Pokemon games on the Game Boy! I really enjoy Pokemon, and I hope you enjoyed reading my story.

### **New Kid**

By Oliver Gillard



Hi, I'm a new kid at AES, which is short for Amesbury Elementary School. I'm here to share my experience with you. I would like to tell you how cool it has been for me here at AES. It is a whole lot bigger than my old school and I have not been able to go around the entire building quite yet, but I'm getting there. I feel bad, because just as I



get to know it, the school will be moved to the new building next to Cashman Elementary.

For me, it's crazy that there are about 400 kids at AES and it's sooooo BIG. It is bigger than my old school. My old school had 3 small buildings. One building had two Specials and 1 classroom, another building had 5 classrooms, the last building was where the office is. When I first came here I was a little nervous. It was hard getting to know all of the teachers and my new classmates, but everyone is so nice here at AES.

Some things are very different here than my old school. For instance, instead of library we had Spanish, and instead of gym we had extra art. Instead of Tech class we had extra Music and on Fridays we had a village meeting that was with the whole school. It was like a giant morning meeting but with every single student and teacher present. Instead of a line order we just ran or walked to class or Spanish or Art. I knew Spanish since I was in Pre K, but here at AES we don't have Spanish class. Library is very cool, though, because you can check out books, explore, or draw. Tech is very cool because you learn how to use a computer, Art is very cool because you get to explore art techniques and make a collage. Gym is very fun because we move a lot, learn sports skills and play games like monster ball. At Sparhawk we could sled so fast down the hill in winter and we can't forget the buildings had names.

There was the Farmhouse, the Emerson building, and the Woodsvew building. The Woodsvew building was called Woodsvew because it was next to the woods and you could get a good view of it. I used to go on nature walks in third grade with my teacher John. We used to go in the woods all the time and we all got to walk or be the leader. Sometimes we would do some athletics like soccer, baseball and more fun games outside with Bridgette, who was one of my favorite teachers. We can't forget my favorite part of Friday's enrichments, they're at the end of the day and I'll explain to you what they were. They're kind of like little clubs but they only last for 2 to 4 sessions while enrichments happened once every week. There would be a vote to which one you wanted to go in and the teachers would sort out the votes and if that choice was full they would move you to your second choice, and so on. At Sparhawk class size was 13 and at AES the class sizes are 17 to 22. We have a nice playground here at AES, but a special part of Sparhawks playground was some woods behind the school that were awesome to explore. My time at Sparhawk was cool, and now I've learned that it's super fun here at AES!

### **Play ACNH**

By Shay Chappie

What is ACNH you ask? ANCH means Animal Crossing New Horizons, and it is a Nintendo game where you play online with friends



you make online. You can also make animal friends, and that's why it's called Animal Crossing. Oh! And you may ask, "But how do you get your animal friends?" When you first start the game, you get two starter villager characters. Your villagers can talk to you if you go up to them and press "A" on your controller. They also teach you emotions for example, ta-da, sniff sniff, greetings, surprise, and delight.

People ask me if you can get more villagers, and I tell them that they can use many different ways to get some more villagers. First, you wait one day after starting and use Amiibo cards. Amiibo cards are cards that you hold to your Nintendo joystick. When you add a character that way, they will be right in your campsite. The next method is tickets, to travel to different islands and to get more characters, you need tickets.

Once on an island, in order to succeed there, you have to get enough villagers to make the tent in your campsite to turn into a building. The island is where you get to meet Nook, who is the father of Timmy and Tommy. Another character you get permanently is Isabel! She is the BEST! She is like the assistant in the building and you can have fun with your island tune, island flag and even more when you chat with Isabel! Tom Nook is available for building, to make your island's future great!

Fun fact: did you know, when Covid came, many more people downloaded Animal Crossing. It has

been downloaded over 15 million times!

I like Animal Crossing because my sister got it on her Nintendo switch and I enjoyed it so much that I took it from her almost immediately, but that only lasted so long before I had to get my own switch and got Animal Crossing for myself. Now I play it whenever I can. I really like to play, and hope you try it too!

### Who is Mr. M?



### By Jax Langemaid

Mr. M started teaching in Swampscott grades 4 and 5, then he went to Salisbury Elementary School and that's when he wanted a new challenge so he became principal. He later wanted another new challenge, so he came to Amesbury Elementary. The reason why he wanted to be principal was to make sure that all kids and parents get what they need. His favorite part of being principal is working with teachers and students and making sure that everyone gets what they need, in growth academically and physically. He went to Salem State College and got his master's at Lesley College. His favorite subject is reading. His plan for this year is to make sure everyone gets what they need Academically and physically.



He puts pictures in the lobby that introduce you to the school. He has no plans to become superintendent. He loves to watch football with the Patriots and Tom Brady, but he likes to play golf more. His favorite team is the Patriots but he was very disappointed about this the last season. His favorite movie is Rocky/Creed. He likes to go on vacation in Cape Cod every year, he goes down for one week. Outside of school he likes to hike and he has hiked a couple 4,000 foot tall mountains.

### Changes in Gym



By Luke Edic

There have been many changes in gym while I have been at Amesbury Elementary School. When I started Kindergarten, Mrs. Welch was my gym teacher. She had really fun games like Fire and Ice Tag, Fishy Fishy Cross My Ocean, and Mat ball. She was my brother's teacher too. When Mrs. Welch retired, I had Miss MacLean. She was my gym teacher for a year and she had fun games we could play like Flag Football, Floor Hockey and Pop up Tag and she played Fire and Ice Tag too.

She was also a basketball coach and a soccer coach and she did great and she was the first

female coach to make it to the finals. Then she moved to be a gym teacher at the high school. When Miss MacLean went to the high school, we were getting a new gym teacher but there was a substitute named Miss Hannah. She had fun games like Ghostbusters, and Pop Up Tag. Then the new teacher came to school and her name is Mrs. R. She had really fun games like Dodgeball and Mat Ball and locomotor warm ups. In locomotor warm up we do walking, jogging, planks and jumping jacks. She was also a soccer coach.

### Who is Mrs Bostic



By Brayden Froncki

Mrs Bostic is a 4th grade teacher at AES, but she used to work in Saugus. In her family she has two daughters named Grace and Sophie. She has 17 students in her class who work really hard and are really kind to each other. They have been really welcoming. She really likes teaching math. The most challenging thing for her is Wit & Wisdom because it has a lot of information and is very intense. She really likes teaching at AES and she thinks it's really fun to work at AES. She started at the beginning of the school year, and it was a surprise to most of us because Mrs. Harney moved to the Middle School at the



very end of the summer. There are three fourth grade teachers here at AES. One of them is Ms. Elliot and Mrs. Ladd and Mrs. Bostic. Mrs. Bostic had to very quickly organize the room and get ready for the school year. She said that she is really happy here, and truly feels like being part of a team. Mrs. Bostic really likes teaching at AES and is really glad to be here!

## Who was George McNeill



By Jax Langmaid

George McNeill was born on 8/4/1836 in Amesbury and he died on 5/17/1906 (he was 69 years old). We remember him because he made it so kids can go to school without being rich because he lived in a time when rich kids went to school and poor kids had to work in a Mill. Beginning in 1847, ten-year-old George McNeill had to work at a textile mill from 5:00 in the morning to 7:00 at night and never got to go to school. Mills were dangerous places for kids and adults, but he had no choice. It was an awful place to work, so one day the spinners, weavers, and workers in the carding room went on strike. Despite both Amesbury and Salisbury supporting the workers, and striking workers trying to negotiate with Derby, the

mill owners brought in police guards and hired 50 Irish immigrants (immigrants are people who come to live permanently in a different country) to take the place of the original workers to operate the machinery. The strikers never won their demands; they did not get their jobs back. While you might think that the Derby Strike was a failure, it did inspire young George McNeill. For the rest of his life he fought for both the universal education of children and for labor fairness in Massachusetts.

At AES, the George McNeill award is the highest award we present, given each year to two students who have demonstrated their leadership during their time at Amesbury Elementary School.

## The Website Clever

# Clever

By Brayden Froncki

Clever is an easy way for students at AES to log in and learn with all of the online programs they use at school. With their own personal portals, or ways into the apps they need, students can learn with resources selected by their teacher and district. Schools use Clever so students can have all of their digital resources in one place. With Clever, students do not need to remember multiple usernames and passwords....we can even log in with just a QR code! Apps that use Clever to login are Epic, which is a program where kids can read e-books, Kami, which is a





website that lets you edit and work with PDF files. There is also a website called Type to Learn, it is a program that you can practice typing. As you get older, you're faster at typing. Next there is a website called ST Math. ST Math is a website that teaches you everything like shapes, numbers, math problems and everything that you need to know. There is a website called Reflex. Reflex is a website that teaches you math and lots of math facts. It starts on addition then ends on division. There are a lot of programs on Clever and mostly, if you say, 'Can I learn division, multiplication, addition and subtraction?' There is a website called Reflex that can teach you that and XtraMath and those two websites are fun. We use Clever because you just click on the website that you want to learn about. Usually we use Clever at home and school. To get into Clever you have to have your badge. You hold it up and it will take you to Clever. Another way is to go to your account then type username and password and click log in through Clever, then it takes you in and it shows you all the websites that you are looking for.

## **Mrs. Ripley LOVES her job!**



By Nia Santimore

Mrs Ripley is a third grade teacher at Amesbury Elementary

School. She has been teaching third grade for three years, and before that she taught fourth grade for six years. One of the many things she enjoys doing with students is taking students to Spencer Pierce Little Farm when they are studying about Colonial America. Another trip she enjoys is the walking field trip to a local graveyard to put down flags on the graves in honor of Memorial Day. She hopes that the third grade team can visit the science museum in Boston again as a field trip this year. Mrs. Ripley likes all of the subjects, but science is her favorite because it is so hands-on and allows for students to think in different ways while being creative and using problem solving skills. When I asked her what her least favorite subject was, she said, "That is hard, because they are all fun but have their own challenges. Writing is difficult to have everyone finish up at the same time in order to move on to another task. You want to make sure the students who need extra support and time are given it, but also the fast finishers continue to feel challenged."

I was curious about where she went to school to be a teacher. She told me that she went to Keene State College in Keene, NH for undergrad and to Lesley University for her master's.

"I went to Keene for four years," she said, "and it was some of the best years of my life. I made lifelong friends that I continue to connect with and now our children play together. Also, I found professors who I also continue to keep in touch



with and use their knowledge and teaching skills in my own classroom.” Next, I wanted to find out what she liked about being a teacher. She said that was a long answer! “I LOVE my job!” she said. “I enjoy working with kids and watching them learn. I enjoy project-based learning and the creativity teaching can allow. I also like the energy of a school, it is a fun place to work!”

I knew that Mrs. Ripley had been a teacher here at AES for a while, but I also wondered if she had ever taught at any other school. She said she had worked at the Parthum Elementary School in Lawrence working with grades first through fourth on reading.

When I asked her if she had ever had any other jobs besides being a teacher, she had some very interesting answers! “Yes! I have a college degree in journalism and worked at the television news stations in Springfield, MA and Boston, MA as a reporter and managing editor. It was fun and it was where I met my husband. He worked as a videographer at the same station! I worked in TV news for six years and then moved to the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office. There I worked as the press secretary and in their non-profit division working with law enforcement and educators by providing programming to foster students’ health and safety in and out of schools. I went back to school to become a teacher,” she said.

Next, I asked her if she was excited to leave this building, and she told me “I have mixed emotions.

I love the people I work with and miss seeing them everyday, but I also enjoy new challenges and experiences and know the change will be best for students.” Finally, I asked her if she was looking forward to packing up her classroom; “Yes! I always enjoy cleaning out!” she answered. “This is a great opportunity to go through what I use and do not need anymore. It will be a process but I am hoping to put on some music or a podcast and make the most of it!” I enjoyed speaking with Mrs. Ripley and I hope you enjoyed reading about it.

## Code and Circuit



By Oliver Gillard

code & circuit

Code and circuit is non-profit educational coding studio located at 36 Main St, Amesbury, MA. Ken Aspeslagh started Code and Circuit in 2013, as a fun side project. He is a computer programmer, who worked with Apple at one time, but now owns his own company with his brother. Ken’s inspiration for Code and Circuit was actually Mr. McBrien, who is the computer teacher at AES. At the time, Mr. McBrien was running a morning computer club, which was a group of students who would come in early to help with computer lab tasks. Ken said “I can’t remember whose idea it was, but I came in as a guest a few times and gave some small computer science lessons. It was so fun to do and meet all the kids that I had the idea to start my own classroom.”



When I asked him why he was interested in teaching coding, he said "I think it's really crazy that most people use computers all day, but nobody knows how they really work." Ken wanted to teach people how they work, and also provide mentorship and knowledge to kids who are interested in becoming engineers and computer programmers.

After working with Mr. McBrien in his lab, Ken researched similar organizations and things that already existed, and decided there wasn't really anything quite like what he wanted to create, at least not in the area.

Then, Ken made a list of people he knew who he thought could be involved in teaching classes, and volunteer, and he talked to each of them about it.

He rented the room on Main St here for the classroom, he bought 8 MacBook Airs and 8 iPads, a TV, a big white board, some desks and chairs, and other things and made the website. Then, Ken came up with a few class ideas. For his first classes, it was mostly friends and people he knew already.

Then, he had to learn about teaching, and build experiences about running a classroom and communicating with students and parents.

In 2018, Ken decided to incorporate the business as a non-profit. This means that money he earns from people signing up for classes, and any donations and grants he receives all goes back into running the classroom.

His wife helped him come up with the name Code & Circuit. They brainstormed name ideas, and that was the one that they liked the best. A lot of businesses back then were starting to be named like This & That, like Crate & Barrel, etc. And that's the history of Code & Circuit.

### Is School Important?



By:Stephanie Jamison Chappie

Kids don't want to go to school but they have to because if they don't they won't know anything! But thanks to Horace Mann for inventing school we have learned new things! There's a reason why kids don't like school or want to go to school, it is because they think it's boring. One boring thing is waiting in a really long line with noisy people. There are actually kids who enjoy school, like me. It's fun and it makes you learn from your mistakes. There is one reason I am writing this and that is because school is important, it helps your life and by being well educated you will learn a lot of things. Teachers are like students, they learn new things just like us.

### AES Specialists

Cooper Haight

Who are the school specialists?



First, let me tell you about Mr. McBrien. Mr. McBrien is a teacher at the Amesbury Elementary School.



He was born in Boston, in the 60's and he has worked at the school for over 25 years teaching technology. He went to school in Swampscott, Massachusetts, Boston University and Salem University. Mr. McBrien is a K to 12 technologist and K to 6 grade teacher. Did you know that he has had his mustache since 1977? He has Dyslexia, so school was not easy for him, but he loved to learn and to help others learn. Mr. McBrien said he feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a tech specialist at AES. It has given him the freedom to find fun and interesting ways to teach his students the computer skills they need to know. He helped to build his own classroom, and learned how to take care of the computers he has had, making sure that his students have a good experience. Over the four years that I have been here, Mr. McBrien has taught me many cool things about technology. He taught me how to take screenshots, make folders, keyboarding, coding, internet safety, and how to use Google tools. I also learned that this is Mr. McBrien's last year teaching. This is Mr. McBrien's life the way he told me.

Next, is Mrs. Peg.

Mrs. Peg is the Library specialist at Amesbury Elementary School. She

has worked here at Amesbury Elementary School for 6 years. Mrs. Peg went to school in Salem, New Hampshire and college at North Shore Community College. She wasn't fortunate enough to get a master's, but at least she tried because that's all that matters. Mrs. Peg was originally supposed to be a Library sub until the Librarian left in the middle of the year, so Mr. Helliesen made her a long term sub until the end of the year. Then, the next year she became the Librarian at the Amesbury Elementary School. Mrs. Peg was mostly a B student, but in her good subjects like math, she usually would get an A. Mrs. Peg has always lived in Massachusetts. That's my impression of Mrs. Peg life.

Third is Mrs. Long.

Mrs. Long is the Music teacher at the Amesbury Elementary School. She has worked here for two years. Before she worked as a music teacher at Amesbury Elementary, she worked as a music teacher in Albuquerque, New Mexico for 5 years. Mrs. Long grew up in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. She was homeschooled by her mom and she had a voice teacher named Mrs. Bailey, who taught her from sixth grade until she graduated college. For college Mrs. Long went to Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri where she got her bachelor's degree in music. Mr. M, Mrs. Harney, and Mrs. Kimball interviewed her on a Google Meet. They picked Mrs. Long over the other teachers who were being interviewed because of the story she





gave about her teacher, Mrs. Bailey. There was a time that her parents struggled to pay for her voice lessons, but Mrs. Bailey put her under a scholarship so that she could go to college for music. That inspiration is why she teaches her students today. Mrs. Long is currently getting her master's degree at Boston College online. When Mrs. Long was in college she taught at an amusement park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She started immediately teaching music when she graduated with her bachelor's. In her first year of teaching she was at two schools in Santa Fe, NM, one for middle school choir and the other for elementary school. She then learned that she liked teaching elementary music, so she moved closer to her family and taught elementary music in Albuquerque, NM for 4 years. Her favorite subject in school was music. Mrs. Long was home schooled for most of school for most of her life, so she didn't get to see her grades until college but she was an A and B student. That's Mrs. Long's story for you.

Fourth is Mrs. Ramos.

Mrs. Ramos is the Art teacher at the Amesbury Elementary School. She has worked here for 10 years. Mrs. Ramos grew up, and went to school in Newburyport. Then for college she went to Simmons College where she got her master's degree in art. Mrs. Ramos was an A student in school. She has worked at an art gallery, different stores, and a place called Opportunity Works. When Mrs. Ramos saw the job application for Art Specialist at AES she decided to

apply for the job and the principal thought that she was the right person for the job. She loves teaching students about art and helping them to learn how to express themselves artistically. That is the Mrs. Ramos' story for you.

Fifth and finally, is Mrs. R

Mrs. R is the gym teacher at the Amesbury Elementary School. She has worked here for about 2 months. Before she came to teach at Amesbury Elementary, she worked as a gym teacher in Haverhill. Mrs. R has been a gym teacher since 2006. She was born in North Adams, Massachusetts, and grew up in Stuart, Florida. Mrs. R also went to school in Stuart. She has worked at 4 different schools. Before she was a teacher she was a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. After finishing college in NC, she went to a school to learn about the travel industry, and got offered an opportunity to become a flight attendant. After that, she decided to go back to school to become a PE teacher. In school, she was an A student in every class except ELA where she got B's. Mrs. R went to college at Brevard College in North Carolina, then she went to Salem University in Massachusetts. Now she goes to Plymouth State University where she got her master's degree. Her favorite subjects were science and math, and she wanted to be a marine biologist when she started college. We are enjoying having her as our PE teacher and glad that she is with us at AES. That Mrs. R's story.



## Rotary Readers

By Ava Nash

In this article I will be talking about Rotary Readers. I interviewed Mr Tom Farrell who works with Rotary Readers.



One of the questions was what is Horace Mann? He said Horace Mann was an educator who lived long ago, who was considered the father of American public education. Many schools have been named after him. He was also a State Representative as well as the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education. Two teachers who wanted their business to be identified with the education community founded the company. The next question was what group was he with? He explained that he was with Rotary International. He said he would explain it in two ways. Its international, which means there are Rotarians all over the world. There are Rotary clubs which just do good in their community. In the world they try to do good by giving back to the community in some way. I knew about them because in third grade I got a dictionary and that was from the Rotary club. They also try to help and support some of the local groups in the city of Amesbury like the Pettengill House and Our Neighbors Table. Mr. Farrell said that sometimes they provide them with financial assistance or they help out

with a project like Operation Backpack with Pettengill House or serving people food at Our Neighbors Table. They also do a Readers are Leaders which is a program founded by two Rotary members and the City of Amesbury. Mr. Farrell thinks they started about 25 years ago. The idea was just to have Rotarians and other volunteers in the city to come and read in our schools. Rotary Readers are for the most part members of the Amesbury Rotary Club but they don't have to be. Sometimes there are local people that want to volunteer their time. The goal of Rotary Readers is to partner up with a kid every week. Mr. Farrell reads with two kids named JJ and Lily. Last year he read to the same students too. Thank you for reading my story. I hope you have a blessed day!!

## Student council 2022-2023

Nathan Githira



Have you ever wondered what it means to be in student council? Well, the student council is something local to all the following Amesbury schools; Amesbury Elementary School, Cashman Elementary School, Amesbury Middle School and Amesbury High School. What is the student council? "Student council is a leadership group that is run by Mrs. Ladd and Miss. Elliott. They were looking for

students who were positive role models, strong leaders and who want to make a difference in their school community. Students were invited to join to help different initiatives inside our school such as helping food rescue or food drive or stuff outside of our school with things like clothing drives. We are going to be working with students from the student council from Cashman to help transition to the new school." What do you do in the student council? "We are going to be doing a food drive," said Mrs. Ladd, and have planned fun holiday spirit weeks around Christmas and December. We are looking forward to the random acts of kindness in February as well as some surprises in the spring but that is what we have planned for now." When I asked her what she liked most about student council, she said, "What I most like about student council is empowering the students to go out to the other classrooms or work with the teacher or make a difference in our school culture and community and hearing the differences that needs to be done in our school." I wondered what ideas that students have come up with in the past, and she told me that "In the past, students have done food drives and had special days that have raised awareness for kids in our school who have different needs, illnesses or diseases. They have helped raise awareness for special causes, and they also designed spirit wear and helped with field day." Next, I asked her what the point of student council was, and she told me that it was to empower

students to go out and make a difference. It's not always the teachers telling kids what to care about but it's the students who are seeing what needs to be done and also what has to happen to see a change happen. I was curious and wondered what idea she liked best since she started student council and Mrs. Ladd said, "I am the most excited about the random acts of kindness. I planned random acts of kindness when COVID happened so we couldn't really follow through with it so I am really excited to see that come this year." I asked her what the ideas of the present student council were, and she said, "They recently finished talking about the mascot for the school and the tallies for the mascot and mentioning about craft fair things, the food reuse and food drive which they are very excited about. Hopefully they come up with more ideas the more we meet and see problems around the school." I asked her if they took any field trips, and she told me, "We went on a field trip to Our Neighbor's Table and we are planning to go to Cashman." "Do you think that the people you picked are responsible?" I asked. "I do", she said. "I think all the applications we got were exemplifying about being leaders and being responsible and being a role-model so I am really excited with the great group of kids we have. I also think that they are going to help us with some great ideas this year and I think they are going to help us join next year. I hope this year's student council will be like this at Cashman next year."





**Thanks for the memories!**  
**AES 1968 - 2023**