



August 30, 2018

Dear School Families,

It seems as if we just finished closing up our classrooms yet here we are opening the doors for what promises to be another exciting and productive year. The start of each new year brings with it great expectations and a little bit of nervousness, even for us! Our teachers and staff have been getting everything ready, all designed to make this a wonderful year for everyone.

Why is the sky blue? How did the American Revolution really start? Does 6×3 really equal $6 + 6 + 6$? The amazing elementary educators in Amesbury continue mastering their craft and blending the science of teaching with the art of teaching. Reading, writing and arithmetic are important but so is developing a child's sense of wonder in the world around them. This takes a lot of hard work on the part of all us: children, parents, educators, and our community. We will be presented with challenges but together we will be able to continue to develop a generation of life-long learners.

One of the keys in our journey together is being able to strengthen and build upon the communication between the schools and our student's homes. There is an expectation that principals and teachers will promote the learning and growth of all students through effective partnerships with families, caregivers, community members, and organizations. We encourage each family to become active participants in the school community. We seek to collaborate with you to create and implement strategies that will support your child's learning both at home and at school. We also hope to engage with you in regular, two-way communication about your child's growth and achievements. We have several tools to accomplish this including our District and school websites: www.schools.amesburyma.gov as well as the Wednesday polys. Remember that you can go to Parent Communication Polys on the Web tab on either school's page to have the Poly automatically delivered to your email.

Please keep this handbook handy and use it throughout the year as a reference guide. We hope the information on school policies and procedures, as well as District policies, answers many of the day-to-day questions that might arise. We ask that you take the time to review with your child those parts of the handbook that apply directly to him or her. Teachers will be referring to the handbook during the first weeks of school as they establish their classrooms routines and procedures. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve this handbook to strengthen our home/school team, please do not hesitate to let either of us know.

Finally, working together is the best way to ensure success for all. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions that develop over the course of the year. Working together to make decisions that are in the best interest of each child is one of our main goals. We thank you in advance for your help and support.

Happy New Year!

Walter L. Helliesen

Walter L. Helliesen
Amesbury Elementary School
(978) 388-3659
helliesenw@amesburyma.gov

Karina S. Mascia-Fayles

Karina S. Mascia-Fayles
Cashman Elementary School
(978) 388-4407
masciak@amesburyma.gov