

The Amesbury Public Schools' Newsletter

HAPPY TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

The District is celebrating Teacher/Staff Appreciation this week and if there was ever a year where folks should be honored it is this year.

To commemorate the occasion there are all sorts of events being scheduled. But the Administrative Team decided to have a tee shirt created and commissioned Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Daniel Grayton, to design it. And here he is modeling the finished product. Very impressive!!!



Here is a teachable moment for our kiddos. When Daniel was in college they had a "Create-a-Tee Shirt" contest every year and every year he would enter but never win. Now see...if you just wait long enough, sometimes dreams really do come true—especially in Amesbury. Thanks Daniel...they are awesome!!!



And this is the back! People will know APS staff coming and going!!



AHS & Central Office honored its staff with a breakfast from "Five Daughters." Feeling full are: Wanda, Anne, Kathy, Daniel, Joy, Candace, Carol and Lisa (Unfortunately Gwen and Karen missed it!!) Photo Credit Danielle Ricci



PTO decorated the Cashman and AES with garlands of red and white balloons and tied red ribbons around the trees!



Mayor Gove holds up HER tee shirt. She and each school committee member received a shirt at this week's meeting! They are Amesbury Public Schools too!!!



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LATE BREAKING NEWS

THIS JUST IN!!!

In a 7 – 0 vote the Amesbury School Committee appointed Elizabeth McAndrews Superintendent of Schools! Congratulations Mrs. McAndrews!





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Not All Heroes Wear Capes, Some Make Masks!



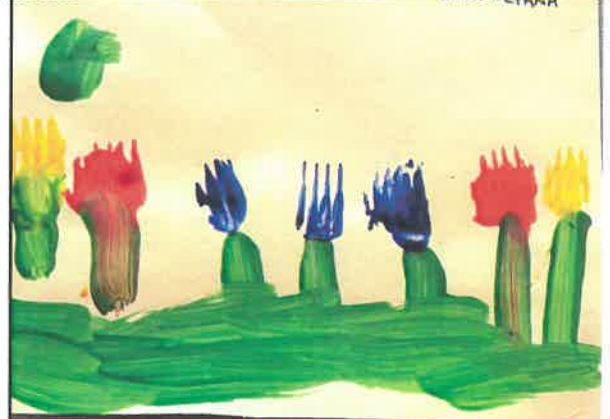
Former AMS Student Sophie Wagner has dedicated an amazing amount of time, energy and resources in making masks for each 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Team at AMS. It certainly was a considerable undertaking and shows the amazing spirit of this talented and caring young person!

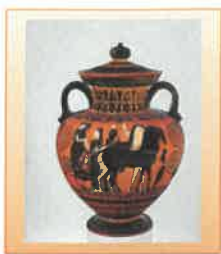
When folks returned from April Break, each team was asked to distribute these to students and staff. You can see that Sophie is wearing the white mask. They are stylish, breathable and have an attached lanyard. They also allowed people to show a little school and team spirit when they returned to full in person learning on April 26th. **THANK YOU SOPHIE!**



AMS Librarian, Mrs. Lori Byman is showing off the red version.

And some heroes make art!!! These were adorning the walls of some of our schools!!





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It's all Greek to Me!

Ordinarily when sixth graders have "Greek Day" it is in the AMS cafeteria or in the performance center, but as with all things in the time of COVID, situations alter cases. This year, the amazing sixth grade team problem solved and decided to do it as the Greeks did...in a coliseum, or in Amesbury's case, the Landry Colliseum! What an impressive sight it was. Socially distant, masked on a gorgeous day, the class was divided into two sides and had games that students and their teachers participated in. Thank you to the Parent Advisory Group for helping with this event. It was amazing.









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WE'RE CONNA ZOOM-A-ZOOM-A ZUMBA!!!

Math Teacher by Day/ Zumba Teacher By Night Jess Regis



Math Teacher



Zumba Teacher

I have been a licensed Zumba Instructor since November 2011 - almost 10 years. I started taking classes during the spring of 2011 when MIAA (our insurance) was providing free classes for town employees. Kelli LaVita was our instructor - she's a former New England Patriots Cheerleader and a true inspiration (I call her my ZINspiration.) I loved Zumba classes so much that I took a Zumba Basic instructor training and got my license to be an instructor. I've never considered myself a dancer, but I do love Zumba, which is fitness through international dance styles. I really like that Zumba can be modified for any age or ability level smiling so much when they're exercising!

One of my favorite parts is that if you don't like a particular song or exercise that we're doing, it will change within 3-4 minutes. The music makes everything fun, and I've never seen people smile so much while exercising

I have been teaching Zumba primarily through the Amesbury Adult Ed program. When COVID hit, I started teaching Zumba classes on Zoom, which was a great way to keep some of the group together, as well as to maintain connections, see smiling faces.

Beginning after vacation I will be teaching the 113 Crew every Thursday during G period. We want to make sure that kids are moving to stay healthy and have fun. When they can't have it on the patio, they have had it in the gym where the tables help them be socially distant. They had a blast!!



I think we have a new Zumba fan!!!

PACT (Partnership of Amesbury
Community and Teens) in conjunction
with Amesbury Middle and High Schools
presents

MINDING YOUR MIND



Resilience Required: Supporting Teen and Tween Mental Health.

A webinar for parents and caregivers of middle and high school students. This year couldn't be more different. Grief, loss, the rise in anxiety and depression, and ongoing uncertainty about the future are impacting our children.

Join Counselor Jon Mattleman for a dynamic virtual program providing a framework to understand and navigate this school year, your teen/tween's mental health, and how to be a support. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and get concrete answers and practical steps they can take now—who has time to wait?

**TUES, JUNE 8
7:00-8:00 PM**

To Register:

<https://event.webinarjam.com/register/308/m28mqcni>



**MINDING
YOUR MIND**

www.mindingyourmind.org

Questions? Contact:

Kael Brooks
PACT Program
Coordinator

Email: kael.brooks@amesburyma.org



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ARRIVALS PAGE

WELCOME TO AMESBURY MS. ABBEY SMITH

Ms. Abbey Smith teaches Special Education in the 5th Grade. Abbey started at the Amesbury Middle School in the beginning of March. She went to undergrad at Bridgewater State where she received a Bachelors Degree in Special Education and a Bachelors Degree in psychology. She also did part of her student teaching abroad in Ecuador. She then taught Pre-K for 2 years in both Florida & Western MA. Smith then received her Masters Degree in Severe Special Education from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ms. Smith currently lives in New Hampshire with her fiancé and their dog, Harry. She and her family love to be outside whether it's hiking, skiing, or going to the beach. So far, she is loving Amesbury! "The teachers and staff have been super welcoming and kind. The kiddos are so funny and it's been nice developing a rapport with them amidst the craziness that is this year."

Welcome to Amesbury Ms. Abbey Smith!! We hope you love it here and want to stay for a very long time!



SHEPARD TIMOTHY ALLEY

Welcome to the Amesbury Public Schools Family Shepard (Shep) Timothy Alley!

Born: March 27, 2021

Weighing: 6 lbs. 12 oz.

Length: 20-1/4"

Shep was born two weeks early, but he probably couldn't wait to meet his fabulous parents: Dad, AMS Phys. Ed. Teacher, Luke Alley, and Mom, AHS Science Teacher, Lindsay (Miller) Alley. He was a highly anticipated arrival in both schools!



And Carol O'Neill from Cashman has been incubating chickens eggs her basement during vacation and they were expected to hatch when students return to school. Everyone is so excited!!





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HERE A CHICK, THERE A CHICK!!!

On Tuesday the chicks hatched. All kinds of excitement to be had in Mrs. O'Neill's Class!!

Here is what the children taught me:

- ✓ It takes 21 days for chicks to hatch
- ✓ There are different colored eggs which produce different colored chicks
- ✓ If you take them out of the incubator before they dry they will die
- ✓ After they stay in the classroom for a couple of weeks they will go to a farm so they have room to walk around.
- ✓ It takes a lot of work to peck through the shell and afterwards they are very tired!!



In their box!



The Mother Hen...Mrs. Carol O'Neill!! What a treat!





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CONGRATULATIONS!!!



At Last!! Amesbury Educational Foundation can announce that the 18th Hall of Honor will happen on Friday, May 7, in the AHS Auditorium at 7:00 PM. AEFI is excited to celebrate three women who have made significant contributions to Amesbury Public Schools and who serve as impressive role models for our students:

Beverly Peeke, who taught 3rd and 4th grade for 30 years at Barnard School, will be recognized as a **Former Educator**.

Dr Jacqueline Bastien, a graduate of AHS Class of 1986, and a veterinarian at Amesbury Animal Hospital, will be honored as a **Former Student**.

Florence Kennedy will be recognized for her 5 decades of service as school nurse and health educator as a **Friend of Education**.

While seating is limited due to COVID regulations, there are tickets available through AEFI's website aefionline.com for those who want to join the celebration. Thanks to ACTV crew, the ceremony will also be recorded and shared with the public.

AEFI hopes that you share *Congratulatory Greetings* with these three wonderful people. You can send a message through AEFI's Facebook page, or by mail to:

AEFI
PO Box 245
Amesbury MA 01913

Although Spring Grants, the other traditional part of former Hall of Honor ceremonies, will not be awarded during the event, AEFI has been very busy finding ways to support Reopening Challenges for our five schools. Watch for announcements in the next Newsletter to see how schools have benefited!



This year the **AFT Massachusetts Distinguished Service Award** for school related personnel such as paraprofessional educators is awarded to Priscilla Terry.

A colleague of Priscilla's said this of Mrs. Terry, "She is by far one of the most talented teachers in a special education environment. Unassumingly, she visits students daily for check ins and provides them with as much or as little support that they need, while advocating and guiding them toward independence and confidence. She has changed the lives of many students. In addition, she also checks in on paras to make sure they are supported and thriving. When I think of a team player, that is Priscilla. She raises everyone's game because of how she conducts herself day in and day out. She distinguishes herself by her daily professional practice." Another said, "Personally, Priscilla has supported me and stood with me. She is fair, trustworthy, and a true champion to her peers." Her building representative remarked, "Whether it's from going on bus rides to Boston advocating for increased school funding to sitting down at the bargaining table, Priscilla has always shown her commitment to the union."

"Please consider Priscilla for this honor. She is a strong advocate for the paraprofessional unit she represents and is a highly devoted paraprofessional educator and union leader who deserves this honor."

This award is decided by a special committee at AFT Massachusetts who use the following criteria to make its selection among numerous applicants statewide!

Congratulations Priscilla, thank you for all you do for our children!



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Once there was a group of parents (Grad Night Committee) who decided they needed to raise money for their children's senior class. They contacted **SAVERS***, decided to have a benefit and invite the whole city to clean out their closets and bring their "stuff" down to the Middle School on a beautiful day in April. As an added incentive they would have food trucks where folks could purchase donuts, whoopee pies or barbeque!! So many people came out that they filled up the truck and needed to follow with a caravan of all the extra "stuff" that wouldn't fit into the truck!! Many people joined us just for the food!

Huge thank yours go to the Grad Night Committee, Whoo(pie) Wagon, Changing Tides Donuts, and The Big Rig Barbeque!



THE CREW



THE HAUL!!! This is what 11,000 lbs. of our "stuff" looked like!

A special thanks for Maria Morel, Dina Cross, Patrice Litwin, Liza Landry and Linda Lynch and to ALL of the people who planned, toled and schelpped all of this! It does take a village!! But it was great to see all of the people who came out to donate and participate! (Some folks just came for the food!)

The Grad Night "SURPRISE" event happens every year immediately after graduation. Seniors are bussed to a mystery location where they are fed and entertained and are all together as a class for possibly the last time. They are "sequestered" from 9:00 PM to 6:00 AM where they are delivered quite weary to the Middle School. The average cost of this event is \$15,000, so successful events like this are HUGE!!

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Throughout this year, our newsletter has been highlighting staff members who will be retiring at the end of this school year. In this issue we are featuring two more of our finest: AES Phys. Ed Teacher, Margaret Welch, and CES Paraprofessional Sandra MacLean. Please enjoy their profiles.

A Letter from Retiring Physical Education Teacher Margaret Welch to Her AES Family



At this time I would like to thank all those colleagues who have supported me during my teaching career here at The Amesbury Elementary School!

My role model and reason I chose to become a Physical Education teacher was my dad, **Bob Welch**. In my eyes, a true dedicated leader, educator, mentor, coach and role model. His professionalism, class and kindness to everyone were inspiring to me, and I wanted a career similar to his.

Now fast forward to the summer of 2001, when my friend **Judy Burke** was kind enough to find me and let me know there was a P.E. position available in Amesbury, at the Amesbury Elementary School. That day in August I went right to the school, application in hand, and thank you to **Victor Atkins**, the assistant principal at that time for hiring me. Victor said, "If you are anything like your father you will be a great addition to our school."

Soon after I was assigned a mentor, a person to guide and direct me in my teaching career, this was **Suzanne Morin**; intelligent, creative, invested, generous and full of energy. Suzanne made magic for all the children in Amesbury. Suzanne became so much more than my mentor; she has become one of my closest friends. Through her I met so many more fabulous people. The "**Team**", my most favorite group of unique and talented women, my children called, "my teacher friends." This group of powerful women, have cared and fought for each other through challenging times, but also laughed and enjoyed each other's company in the best of times. I am so blessed to have such loyal and amazing friends.

Helen Nadeau, the brains of the Elementary School, intelligent, organized, and always ready to fix a problem, thank you for so much. You have always had my back, offered great advice, and supported me during my time at AES.

This year I would be rude to not give a special thank you to **Bruce McBrien**. Through remote teaching and all the challenges it brought, Bruce showed me patience, kindness and shared his knowledge in the field of technology.

A fun fact to share, **Ted Flaherty's** mother and my father worked together for many years as P.E teachers in Newburyport. Thank you **Ted**, for being an awesome colleague, through curriculum writing and initiatives we created together.

Lastly, I would like to mention my late husband, **John Notargiacomo**, my biggest fan, he encouraged me to believe in myself and be the best person I can be.

For my next adventure, I hope to stay healthy and have more time to spend with my growing family and wonderful friends.

My best wishes,

Margaret Welch

SANDRA MACLEAN CASHMAN SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL IS RETIRING

An Interview



1. How long have you been in the Amesbury schools?

I began my career in Amesbury in August of 1999.

2. What did you do before you came here?

Prior to working in Amesbury, I was the director of an onsite childcare center at The New England Center for Children

3. What is your current position?

I am currently a paraprofessional working in the Tier Two CAMP Program at CES.

4. What other positions have you held here and where?

I started my career in Amesbury as a tutor at AES in the behavior support program. I have also spent many years as a CES Kindergarten para before transitioning to the SPED department at CES. I transitioned with two students from 2nd to 3rd then on to 4th. After they graduated, I stayed on at the 4th grade level until being asked to transition to this new program. I am currently in my 4th year working in the CAMP Program.

5. What is the best thing about your job?

The best thing about my job is seeing the impact I can make in helping a child learn, whether it be academically, socially, or emotionally.

6. If there were things you could change about it, what would it be?

I feel the only thing I would change is to have additional staff doing the job as well. There are far too many students that need the support and not enough staff.

7. Is there someone who mentored you?

I have had many wonderful colleagues along the way that have guided me. Paula Iannuccillo, Linda Jensen, Clarissa Taylor, Brenda McAtavey, Lauri McAllister, Kate Bissell, Megan Hoyt, and countless grade level teachers and paras.

8. Best memory?

Having program kids leave their handprints on the wall of Room 4, sledding with Linda Jensen and the kindergarteners every winter, Friday science walks with Peggy Laufer.

9. Most memorable colleague?

I was very fortunate to work alongside so many wonderful and memorable colleagues. I am so grateful our paths have crossed.

10. Are there certain children who stay with you when you go home at night?

They all do! It is the nature of the position I am in.

11. Tell me about your family. Do you have children, if so how old and what are they doing? A husband? Pets?

My family is the most important thing in my life. I have been married to my amazing husband, John, for 28 years (together for 31!). He is always there to support my dreams and has the biggest heart. We have 2 wonderful children. Our son Jared is 27 and is currently in D.C. with the National Guard. When not working or activated, he is my adventurer.... Always off seeing new places. Our daughter Sarah is 25. She got married last fall - yes during the pandemic! It was a beautiful day for her and my son-in-law Tyler. They are expecting their first child in August.

12. Do you have any hobbies?

When not working I love spending time with my family. I also enjoy tending to my flower garden, reading, kayaking, sipping coffee/wine with my husband on the back deck while we listen to records, and mentoring a kind hearted little girl.

13. What are your plans for retirement?

My biggest reason for retiring is to be a stay at home Grammy for my grandbaby on the way! I can't wait!

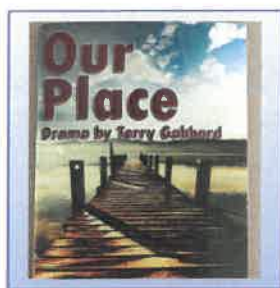
14. What will you miss the most about working and what WON'T you miss?

I will definitely miss the kids I have worked with and the impact I hope I have made in their lives. I will also miss my co-workers. It has truly been a pleasure to work alongside them. One thing I won't miss is the stress I take home each day as I worry about the kids I work with in the CAMP program. Not sure that will truly ever go away though.



Sandra was the recipient of the Cashman School's **Bucket Filler Award** in June of 2020. This honor is given to a staff member who continuously "goes above and beyond" to give help and support and to "fill other people's bucket." This award, which was started by Principal Lou Charette, is bestowed annually, and the best part of all, nominations come from Cashman School's peers!!

Congratulations and thank you Sandra for all you have given to the children of Amesbury and we all wish you a healthy, happy, and fulfilling retirement!



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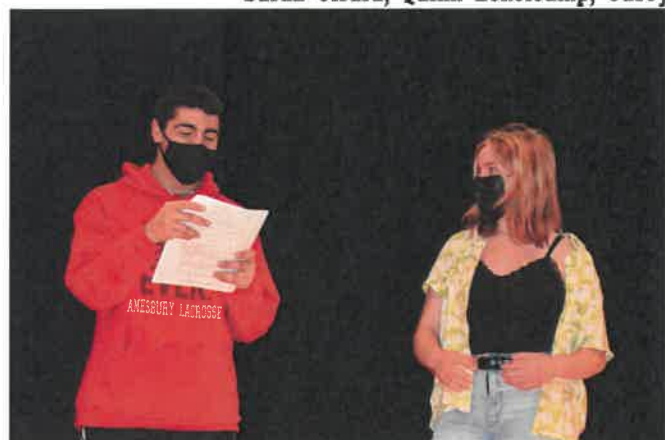
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THE PLAY IS THE THING!

In the production of "Our Place", the unassuming location of a dock extending out onto a small lake serves as the backdrop for five different stories. The play is both comedic and tragic. AHS students perform this on May 13th and 14th in the AHS Auditorium. Theater Arts Teacher Susanne Meyer directs with the help of Maryellen Shirshac and Joelyn Pray. Here are some outtakes from one of their rehearsals. There is so much talent in the Amesbury High School. Please come on down to see their performances.

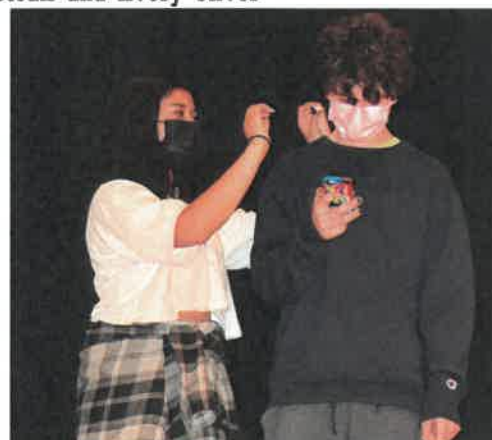


Sarah Girard, Quinn Eckelcamp, Casey Metcalf and Avery Oliver



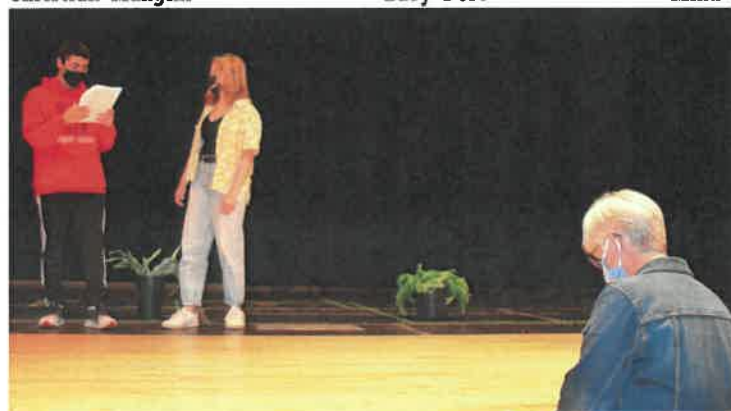
Christian Mangini

Lucy Dore



Mina Boston

Riley Andrews



Lucy, Christian and Maryellen Shirshac



Susanne Meyer



**Amesbury Chapter of the
National Honor Society
April 6, 2021
Congratulations to the
following newly inducted
members:**

*Anna Bailey
Hannah Balaam
Gabriel Balog
Benjamin Blumsack
Mina Boston
Solomon Browne
Callista Chabot
Andrew Daileanes
Andrew Davis
Emma DesRoches
Julianna Gannon
Zoe Glenn
Avery Hallinan
Jake Hallinan
McKenna Hallinan
Piper Hogg
Camden Keliher
Amelia Kirby
Lucy Litwin
Sydney Mahoney
Jane McCue
Julia Mitchell
Julia Penny
Nixie Raymond
David Roberts
Ryan Roberts
Sean Rodgers
Matthew Welch
Lucas Welling
Carofyn Williamson*





Students met in person in the auditorium while parents and friends watched on the Amesbury channel. Thanks to Tony Noon for doing the video for us. These students were voted in by FAC (faculty advisory committee) based on the 4 pillars of NHS: character, scholarship, leadership and service.

Ms Mary Beth Exner was the keynote speaker and reminded the students that C's need to be a part of their life, along with all their earned A's and B's - Courtesy, Communication, Collaboration and Commitment. Senior members Andrew Mahoney, Abby Allain, Declan Russel, Tim Gilleo and Xavier Roy took part in the ceremony.

Finally, thank you to Ms. Maggie Furlong, the NHS Advisor, for organizing this pandemic assembly and navigating all of the regulations. While not the usual format, it was meaningful to students and parents. (Photos by Ms. Barbara Leary)

Hi Everyone!

It's that time of year again - time to show the AHS seniors how proud you are to see them graduating! Send a carnation with a message to all of your favorites in the class of 2021!

Attached are the Senior Carnation forms and a list of this year's seniors.

Carnations are \$1 each. Cash or checks payable to AHS Class of **2023**.

Orders can be turned in to Adam Thibodeau or Jess Regis and are due by Wednesday, May 19.

Feel free to mail the orders to AHS or come to the drop-off day next Friday, May 7 from 2:30 - 4:30 where we will be collecting orders and payments.

Thank you!

Jessica Regis and Adam Thibodeau



Miesha Acevedo	Brady Dore	Joshua Lamkins	Owen Reid
Ali Aissa	Trinity Doyle	Brady Landry	John Remington-Field
Sydney Aldrich	Noah Eaton	Elianna Larnard	Ethan Rowe
Abigail Allain	Quinn Eckelkamp	Ryanne Leary	Xavier Roy
Molly Amundsen	Maximilian Exter	Jeremy Lopez	Declan Russell
Aaliyah Arsenault	William Fortin	Connor MacDonald	Brandon Ryan
Benjamin Ayotte	Tre Gaeta	Andrew Mahoney	Jaelee Saint Paulin
Connor Barron	Ryan Ghezzi	Marco Maldonado	Madison Sanchez
Stacia Baruti	Julie Gibbons	Ella Marinopoulos	Zachary Schneider
Casey Birdsall	Timothy Gilleo	Nora Marks	Jarrid Schwindt
Maximilian Boehler	Sarah Girard	Stephen Maurer	Nina Sesto
Gage Boothroyd	Vanese Gordon	Tyler Mazzaglia	Kelsey Seward
Layla Brunelle	Vanessa Gordon	Ethan McMillan	Alexandria Shelton
Nikolas Bucyk	Anthony Graham	Elia Merz	Madison Smith
Mary Bullis	Abigail Griffin	Benjamin Millett	Gabrielle Smyth
Seth Burdick	Liam Gross	Alaa Missaoui	Calvin Souther
Ceiligh Cacho-Negrete	Michael Gwynn	Danyelis Morales	Grace Spanoghe
Samuel Cadwell	Jack Hadwen	Brianna Morel	Daniel Stone
Sydney Calderwood	Tarah Hallisey	Nicole Morel	Ciara Sullivan
Julia Campbell	Ava Harlow	Richard Morris	Lauren Swift
Tiernan Cleary-Bentley	Kyle Heidt	Krista Nardone	Srey Vin Tep
Samantha Collins	Maxime Heriche	Marcus Naughton	Joseph Tilton
Kylie Considine	Guy Holland	Olivia Nichols	AvaLynn Tomkiewicz
Derek Couture	Tohrin Holmes	Angie Osorio	Macy Tripp
Jacob Cross	Jessica Holt	Kanthi Patel	Renee Vachon
Meghan Croteau	Evan Holtom	Mathew Pence	Joseph Welch
Emma Dane	Joel Jancewicz	Jared Pender	Parker Wile
Isabella Danforth-Penna	Ryan Joyce	Ryan Perkins	Lily Williams
Chloe Davis	Garrett Kahn	Anna Person	Julianna Worthen
Veronica Deacon	Clifford Kelley	Alyssa Pettet	Jacob Zaganis
Jessica Deschenes	Sadie Kermelewicz	Madyson Pope	Braeden Zellen
Madelyn DiPietro	Deirdre Kneeland	Alexander Pucillo	Zoe Zents
Charlotte Donohue	Alexandra Labrecque	Samantha Pustizzi	Carly Zichella
Kyle Donovan	Catherine LaForte	Jonathan Raskind	

To: _____ # of Carnations: _____

From: _____

Message:



To: _____ # of Carnations: _____

From: _____

Message:



To: _____ # of Carnations: _____

From: _____

Message:



To: _____ # of Carnations: _____

From: _____

Message:



No one is ever too old for an Easter Egg Hunt...Especially the Class of 2021



"YOU ARE ONE IN A MILLION" DAY AT AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL







The Amesbury Public Schools' Newsletter

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SPRING IS HERE!

The theme of this newsletter is to celebrate spring. Mrs. Pauline Fitzgerald's second grade students at AES are looking for signs of spring during their science lesson. Students are noticing changes in the seasons. They also got to have a snack outside.



High School apple tree is blooming!



AMS students could all gather as one in the stadium to listen to the Zach Field Steel Drum Ensemble. A performance paid for by an AEFI Grant. How lucky it was sunny after so many rainy days



The Boosters' Flamingos have landed!



And finally Amesbury High School had a "Spring Fling" event for the whole school and staff! Corn hole, croquet, basketball, Karaoke, etc.! Organized by the Fun Group!!! Pictures are on the following pages!!







