

# Puma News



Puma Press

South Meadow School

Eighth Issue 2016-2017

## National Days

*by Reagan Riffle*

Did you know... March is the home to many infamous 'National Titles'? On [trackmaven.com](http://trackmaven.com) you can find a list of official National Titles that pertain to each month in our calendar. While some of them sound absurd, many others are very important to know about. Take a look at the other names for March!

### March 2017

National Caffeine Awareness Month  
National Celery Month  
National Cheer-leading Safety Month  
National Craft Month  
National Credit Education Month  
National Flour Month  
National Frozen Food Month  
National Kidney Disease Awareness Month  
National Noodle Month  
National Nutrition Month  
National Peanut Month  
National Sauce Month  
National Trisomy Awareness Month  
National Umbrella Month  
National Women's History Month  
National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month  
National Music in Our Schools Month  
National Professional Social Work Month

## Mrs. Parker

*by a lover not a hater, by an  
imaginator*

If you've never met Mrs. Parker, you may think that all Vice Principals are mean or strict, but Mrs. Parker is astonishing! She has been the Vice Principal here at SMS for 15 years. One thing Mrs. Parker strongly believes is that the SMS community is one big family, and that everyone has an important role in helping the family stay tightly knit and together. At the end of every Puma Pride assembly, she always tells us that we are important and that we need kindness to thrive. She makes us feel special about ourselves.

Mrs. Parker was also awarded the Vice Principal of the year award. The Vice Principal of the year award considers every Vice Principal in the schools in New Hampshire (elementary

school, middle school, and high school) which makes it a very hard award to receive. It makes a lot of sense that Mrs. Parker got the award because she is a wonderful vice principal.

Mrs. Parker always supports the school and the activities that SMS has to offer. She stays late at school doing her paperwork, and she even comes in on the weekends, when needed, to take care of the chickens. Mrs. Parker is a great influence on kids as well because she shows kids that they are significant even the kids that she doesn't often see because they do not need to be to be disciplined see her around the school because she is so involved. She influences many kids to do the right thing just by being a good person. She believes in SMS and that all the children are really great. Mrs. Parker is very funny, and she makes you feel happy when you are around her. Mrs. Parker is an inspiration and she shows you what awesome qualities people can have. She really makes SMS a better place, and we are all very happy to call her our Vice Principal! Thank you Mrs. Parker!!!

## Mr. Townsend

*by a member of your lunch crew*

Mr. Townsend, also known as “T-Dog”, is the eighth grade social studies teacher. He is very enthusiastic about ANYTHING history, and he’s a great joke-cracker as well. From cool biography projects on historic people that impacted America, to civil war movies, Mr. Townsend’s got it covered. He is one of our new teachers this year and impressively has been keeping up with us crazy kids. He’s always coming up with new ways to teach his curriculum, which I personally find impressive. Almost every week (typically Wednesdays), we have



current events. These are just summaries of little articles/pages on what we have learned about anything happening worldwide. It’s kind of like a little update on what’s happening in the world that you share with the class. Not to disappoint other teachers, he has the best engaging projects for all kids and their needs. For being a new teacher here, he is involved with some pretty cool things. Our newly formed Social Justice Club organized, by eighth grader Reagan Riffle, has acquired Mr. Townsend as their adult group leader. He never fails to impress us - not to mention his full support and dedication in participating in our spirit week. Each day he came to school dressed up, with a great

attitude. In addition, his advisory won spirit week! Good job to Mr. Townsend and his advisory! Since our cafeteria can’t hold 100 students for lunch, we are sent to different advisories for lunch. As one of the students in his lunch group, I appreciate the way he lets everyone sit together in a respectful but enjoyable manner. Also, Mr. Townsend is one of the group leaders in our AHT (American Heritage Tour) trip. Overall, Mr. Townsend is the best history teacher, and his effort in teaching and helping doesn’t go unrecognized or appreciated. Thanks Mr. Townsend for all your hard work and effort you give to the eighth grade students, it means a lot!

## Mrs. Koban

*by the sofa ;)*

Mrs. Koban, a renowned teacher amongst students, has an extremely admirable and perfect balance of character. She juggles her bubbly personality with a ‘chill’ connection to her students. Being a student that never experienced one of her classes, I am incapable of describing her teaching style, although it’s clearly evident that Mrs. Koban can communicate her sense of perseverance to her many students in the sixth grade wing. Ironically, when I was a second grade student in Mr. Rothhaus’s class at PES, Mrs. Koban (at the time, Ms. Roth), was a student teacher in a class next door. So I’ve known her for six years at this point, but hadn’t created a relationship beyond that until fifth grade. This was when I joined drama



club. As a student in fifth grade, I was shy and not very outgoing. I hadn’t wanted to participate in a lot of the extracurriculars offered because I was always afraid of failing. By December, the play had been announced and audition forms were handed out. At first, I refused to join, even though I loved acting and ‘starred’ in plays put on in elementary school. During the course of the week, Mrs. Koban, who was assistant directing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, announced that she was open to any new students regardless of acting background and promised to include any student willing to put forth the effort. Her words made me feel comfortable in trying out. I played the part of an oompa loompa that year! I had so much fun learning how to stand and speak on stage that I couldn’t wait to work with her again. As the plays turned from *Stuart Little*, to *James and the Giant Peach*, to *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Mrs. Koban got to know me a lot better and has become such a close friend/teacher and inspiration, not only to me but countless students that have worked with her before. She is sassy, but polite and kind. She is hilarious, but knows when to be serious. She is extremely determined, period. Although this is my last year at South Meadow, I hope Mrs. Koban stays and helps many other students in the future feel at home and welcomed, just as she did with me.

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## Ms. Hopgood

*by an eighth grader who is an avid reader and loves your class :-)*

Ms. Hopgood, one of the eighth grade Language Arts teachers, is the most positive Edgar Allen Poe fan I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. She is a great teacher who loves to challenge her students, but still maintains a fun and interesting class. In Ms. Hopgood's class, we have done many projects that are focused around one story or book. We have read the books, *The Man Who Was Poe*, and, *Nothing But the Truth* thus far.



We have also read short stories like *Flowers for Algernon* and the *Treasure of Lemon Brown*. In the beginning of the year, we spent a large portion of time learning about the life and stories of Edgar Allen Poe. We analyzed many of his poems and short stories, wrote an essay about him, and learned everything you could possibly know about his life. In doing this, Ms. Hopgood expertly blended a lot of skills and information into fun and engaging lessons. Personally, I really enjoy writing and reading, so Ms. Hopgood's class is definitely one of my favorites. As of right now, we are learning about how to write an argumentative essay and about grammar. I am extremely excited to go in-depth about everything grammar, because we never really got a very complete lesson about the specifics of grammar before. Not only will the lesson be extremely informative, it will also be very enjoyable. In language arts with Ms. Hopgood, you not only learn a ton about LA, but she also tells us about how we can implement the lessons we are receiving into the real world, something we don't necessarily get in all of our classes. One thing that I love about the

way Mrs. Hopgood teaches is that she truly believes that each and every student is capable of anything if they work hard and put their minds to it. In order to have a student that achieves a lot, you have to have a teacher that is willing to incorporate different methods of teaching as well as many resources for them to learn from, Ms. Hopgood perfectly exemplifies these characteristics. For example, when we are learning tough vocabulary words, she will give us multiple sheets with activities that help us learn the words, we go over them in class, and if you still need more practice with them, she provides the word list on Spelling City. To conclude, Ms. Hopgood is an incredible teacher, and one I am lucky to have her in my last year at South Meadow School.

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## Mr. LeBlanc

*by a lover of your dice game*

Mr. LeBlanc is the coolest guy on this side of the mighty Mississippi. It seems as if he just gets better everyday. He always has a funny story to tell, and is full of different facts. Mr. LeBlanc can tell you something about anything we could possibly be learning about. Mr. LeBlanc was a substitute teacher in 5th grade, then became a paraprofessional in the 6th and 7th grades later on. What's funny is that when I started 6th Grade, I forgot that he was a sub in 5th grade until he made a reference to a play we did in Mrs. Decibus's class. It suddenly dawned on me, *Oh my gosh that's the guy from 5th grade!* He taught Mrs. Norby's advisory how to play a fun game with dice last year, and it was great since we usually have a lot of indoor recesses during the winter months. During Spirit Week, Mr. LeBlanc had some great costumes, and he did a really good job as the anchor in the 8th grade vs 7th grade teacher Tug of War. Being anchor is a very important job in tug of war, and I speak from experience. I haven't even mentioned Mr. LeBlanc's legendary beard. It is hands down the best beard at SMS. I don't even know how he keeps it so sharp all the time. In 6th Grade he shaved his beard so that he could be twins with Mr. Lowy, and I think I speak for everybody when I say we were heartbroken to look at him and not see an incredible beard, but the bottom half of a face. But don't worry, his beard is back now, and it's better than ever! The final thing I will say about Mr. LeBlanc is that he's really good at Four Square. When you are winning and you see that Mr. LeBlanc is entering the square, you know that you're in for a good game. Mr. LeBlanc is a great teacher, and I think he should keep teaching forever because he's really great at it.

### Mrs. Hayes

by one of your PUMA PRIDE winners :-)

### Mr. Cipolla

by a happy student

Mrs. Hayes was my math teacher in fifth grade (she teaches something else now), and I remember really, really liking her. She was very mission-oriented. She got right to the point, but kept classes really fun and interesting. She taught us a ton of different strategies when completing the work that made understanding and solving much easier. I remember every week she pulled a name out of this bucket full of popsicle sticks with our names on them, and the name pulled got a prize from the prize box. These prizes were extremely coveted; there were putty, pencils and I remember once winning a small red lunch box with snowflakes on it. I'm pretty sure I still have it. Mrs. Hayes was one of my favorite teachers I've had the chance to learn from at this school. Without Mrs. Hayes' teaching, I never would have found my love of math. Also, before I came to South Meadow School, I went to a Waldorf school, and didn't learn a ton of math, so Mrs. Hayes helped me get caught up on anything that I might have missed. Now she teaches social studies, which means that she is in charge of the Freedom Trail project, which was also a ton of fun when I did it. This project involves a student from each advisory, and they get put into a group with three other people, one from each advisory. The group receives a building that's on the Boston Freedom Trail, and they have to research their building and construct a replica of it. They have a presentation of all of the buildings, and at the end of the year they travel to Boston and walk the Freedom Trail. Mrs. Brezovec also requested that I added that she is very good about bringing her caramel lattes from Dunkin Donuts. To summarize, Mrs. Hayes is a fantastic teacher, one that I was lucky to work with in fifth grade.

P.S The author of this is an older student, and when I had Mrs. Hayes in fifth grade a lot of things were different with scheduling and classes, so keep that in mind.

hair grey and wearing a flannel shirt. On Friday, it was spirit week game day. Showing no bias when it came to a color to any advisory, he wore grey and white. Overall, Mr. Cipolla is such a blessing to our school and he somehow made it seem as though he has been here forever. Although this is my last year at South Meadow, we are so glad to have him here and hope he will stay here as I continue on.

Mr. Cippy, as most of South Meadow's students call him, does not disappoint in any way, shape or form. You can always count on him to crack a joke that will make you double over with laughter. Also, who has better musical taste than he? I mean, talk about hip! Mr. Cipolla works as co-PE (physical education) teacher with Mr. Sil for all grade levels. Every time I walk into PE with music blaring, kids talking, I always feel instantly happy. The environment that he creates just overflows with joy. For his very first year here, Mr. Cipolla has made a huge impact on the kids at South Meadow and continues to do so everyday. Because Mr. Cippy is new to South Meadow, this year he had his first spirit week. Being the coolest teacher in existence, Mr. Cippy asked some of his students to make a play-list of songs to play during any spirit week activities that would involve music. You could always count on him to put his best effort in participating in any spirit week outfits. On Monday, it was dress up day, and Mr. Cippy wore a suit coat on top and shorts on the bottom to still keep his athletic side present. On Tuesday, it was fictional character day. He dressed up as Po from the movie *Kung Fu Panda*. He had super cool face paint and everything. On Wednesday, it was blue and white day, and he of course dressed in all blue and white to show his spirit to a school he barely knows. On Thursday, it was twin day. As a joke, he decided to twin with Mr. Sil by spraying his

P.S. I helped make a song list for spirit week that your wife "loved". Also, fellow students of the newspaper greatly appreciate your willingness to allow them to miss your class and finish this very paper!



## Mrs. Brezovec

*by white converse*

Dedicated, quirky, wise, and creative are all words that could be used to describe Mrs. Brezovec, the director and teacher of the Expanding Horizons Program (otherwise known as EHP). First of all, nineteen years at South Meadow can account for her brilliant teaching style. She knows exactly how to manage kids in her classes and includes all of her students using unique techniques that she's tested and used effectively throughout her nineteen years here. For example, there is 'the five finger rule', which is a mnemonic that teaches students how to include everyone in group activities. The pinky finger represents 'the little guy'. This finger reminds group leaders to include the shy and less outgoing students. Next, the ring finger is a symbol of togetherness and bonding. This is followed by the middle finger, which is opposite to its presumed offensive purpose (not allowed in our community), means no put downs or insults. The pointer finger symbolizes not to point our fingers, or single out people. Lastly, the thumb is the 'big guy'. Usually the leader of the group, "the big guy" is a reminder not to hog attention or be the only one talking. Mrs. Brezovec teaches so many things like this mnemonic; she teaches her leadership groups like the Peer Mentors ways to be kind and make everyone comfortable. The Peer Mentors are an accepting, welcoming, spirited, and committed group that meet with students new to the school to make sure they feel at home, safe, and have individual ideas as to how they will contribute to our school community. Because of Mrs. Brezovec's work with the peer mentors/peer mentees South Meadow has helped those who would be an insecure or lost group of fifth graders. Other than these amazing programs that she has brought to our school, she single-handedly runs the EHP program. This program allows any student eligible to participate in a variety of enrichment clubs not offered in the daily schedule. Among others, Mrs. Brezovec dedicates herself to the teaching of classes like Robotics, Mind Puzzles, Simple Machines, Web casting, and this very Newspaper! I, personally have had an amazing four years participating in these clubs. Previous to joining I had no knowledge as to how to type on a computer, use Photoshop and InDesign, solve a puzzle, use a green screen, take a photograph, or even how to design 3-D printing blueprints. Mrs. Brezovec's contributions to this school have made an incredible difference and changed the lives of many students coming through.

## Mrs. Foecking

*by a student that's in both your LA and Math classes every day that annoys you sometimes, but you know I'm your favorite student ;)*



Mrs. Foecking is an 8th grade language arts and math teacher that works hard everyday to make each and every one of her lessons special and fun. Day after day, you walk into her class and know that she will work her hardest to make sure that you understand her lessons and that what she's teaching you is correct. Whether it is language arts or math class, she tries to make it fun and interesting for everyone. Group projects, fun books, videos, and games, every class is different. Mrs. Foecking always gives you choices if you want to do a small quiz with games, or spelling city with a paper test. This is only Mrs. Foecking first year here, and she has already impacted us in a great way. During the spirit week games, Mrs. Foecking painted her whole face green and cheered on her class the whole time! Even though it was a little creepy, it was fun. Although they did not win, she still had fun the whole time and congratulated her class after spirit week. Right now we are working on argumentative writing. Mrs. Foecking came up with the idea to ask us a few questions about random things like, "should students be able to wear their favorite color to school?" Of course everyone said, "yes." Then the questions started to get a little more difficult like, "Should students be able to wear shirts that state their political views?" That was a little more difficult. Some people said no while others said yes. Others just didn't care, and there was a huge debate about it, which was awesome! Mrs. Foecking takes on a lot being one of the language arts teachers and one of the math teachers; there's a lot to do. Correcting language arts and math papers for over 100 students etc., Mrs. Foecking has to do so much in such a short amount of time every day to teach us. Mrs. Foecking is incredible, and we should recognize her for what she does in the school. Thanks Mrs. Foecking!



## Mr. Lefko

*by anonymous*

Have you recently walked by Mrs. Hayes advisory and asked, "Where is Mrs. Hayes?" Or, "Who is that new teacher?" That "new" teacher's name is Mr. Lefko. Mr. Lefko is an uber nice teacher who loves to play Night at the New Museum. It's a game where you turn off the lights and the tagger has to try and find people moving. When the tagger sees you move, you're out, and the last person not caught moving, wins and becomes the tagger. He also loves playing this game called the Human Bench. It is when a bunch of people become kind of like a centipede. Yesterday we started a project about the pilgrims and how they came to Jamestown. In the project, we have to draw a church, armory, bulwark, marketplace, barrels, and a bunker. We had to glue all those things onto a flexible piece of paper, kind of like tickets. If you know how to fold arcade tickets, that's what the paper was like. But, tomorrow he is going to bring in cut cardboard paper so we can build a roof. In RTI, which is in morning advisory, we learned about Photoshop, which really helps in furthering my EHP education. We also learned about how actors looked real while they are dressed up or were animated. But at the end of each RTI group we would watch a movie. The two movies we did watch were *Shrek One* and *How to Train Your Dragon*. Mr. Lefko is a really fun teacher! About two or three weeks ago he told me that he went to SMS when he was my age. But he never really talks about himself in middle school. He did say all the spirit week activities were the same. It probably made him really happy to see all the same activities from when he was a student which brought him back to his childhood. The subject that he teaches is Social Studies for Mrs. Hayes. When we get settled, in he starts a timer and that timer determines how long he didn't have to raise his voice in front of the classroom. Which ever class has the longest time gets candy at the end of the week. My block, or period, won last week, but I think D block is going to win because they have 42 minutes and something seconds. If you were wondering who the teacher was, well now you know. And just letting you know he is a lot more interesting than we thought he was going to be. He is definitely an awesome substitute for our fifth grade class.

## Mr. Hale

*by someone who appreciates your service here very much!*

As one of our best volunteers here at South Meadow, Mr. Hale comes here almost everyday to help SMS in anyway he can. From helping in classrooms, to checking the compost, Mr. Hale is always there to help. We couldn't have asked for anyone better than Mr. Hale. Trust me, his help doesn't go unappreciated. I first met Mr. Hale when I was in sixth grade. He had been helping out in Mrs. Groleau's classroom. As a first impression of him, I noticed he was in a wheelchair. I thought it kind of funny at the time, but realized just because he was in a wheelchair it didn't make him any different. I love his funny and caring personality. He really has such a huge heart. Again in seventh grade, I became fairly close to Mr. Hale. He was volunteering in most of my classes. I remember the time I broke my right arm during a soccer game that weekend. Since my right hand is my dominant, Mr. Hale kindly offered to write my notes for me. So for almost two weeks Mr. Hale wrote my notes for me. Such a heartwarming offer that has stayed with me for almost two years now, and I will continue to remember his kindness towards me. During lunch and recess he would always disappear. As the curious child I was, I decided to find out where he went. One day, I took the compost down and found him there eating his lunch on his lap and checking compost buckets for any plastic that wouldn't be able to go into the compost. I ended up taking the compost down for the rest of the year just to see him. He was very open with his accident and wasn't ashamed of his wheelchair. He told all the kids what had happened and that he was going to get surgery. At the time, I was in sixth grade and attending my music special. Mr. Hale had been volunteering his time in spending it with us. He had been recovering from his surgery for almost half a year at the time and showed us he could stand. His progression from barely able to move his legs to standing really showed how much of a fighter he was. I was so proud of him and still am. I remember I ran into him at the gas station one time. He had this very cool van that lets him drive with his hands and a wheelchair lifter that would let him get in and out of his car. Mr. Hale is so appreciated here. His hours of volunteer hours here could count up to almost three years! He's so heartwarming and kind. Thanks Mr. Hale for all you have done here!

## Sra. Pacheco

*by a student who was in a B Spanish last quarter*

Sra. Pacheco is the Spanish teacher here at SMS: Spanish is only offered to grades seven and eight. Many others may know her from when she taught at ConVal High School. Sra. Pacheco teaches Spanish very well and really helps the children learn Spanish easily. Each Spanish teacher has a different style of teaching, and Sra. Pacheco's style works wonders on the children here at SMS. She makes learning Spanish fun for everyone!

Sra. Pacheco truly explains to the class what the Spanish words mean and any other formation that the word could have. Every week or two we would learn a whole new set of words. She would give us a worksheet with the words in Spanish, and we would write them in English. Then at the beginning of every day we would say the date and then go over the words. This really helps us understand the date and know how to pronounce the words better.

Sra. Pacheco would also use big soft dice with Spanish words on them and she would create a game for us that used the words on the dice. For one game we play we roll the die, and whatever it lands on we would have to say the word in English (or vice versa depending on what language the word was on the die.) Doing this was very fun and made learning Spanish easier.

Another one of my favorite activities that she did was playing interactive "TV" shows. It would ask us questions with multiple choice answers, and after choosing the answer, depending on what we said the person in the show would do it. Sra. Pacheco has a great teaching style, and she is a wonderful teacher. I am so happy that I was able to have her as my Spanish teacher!

## Mrs. Fortin

*by a twin*

One of my first specials at South Meadow School was music, and it left a lasting impression on me. Music class was always fun, but nevertheless I learned so much! In the beginning of fifth grade, music class was all about learning to listen. The skills that my class learned in fifth grade have helped us through all four of our years here at SMS. Music class teaches students how to create observations through listening, how ears pick up sound, what sound is, how to create a project in Garage Band, how to play various instruments, and many more skills. Mrs. Fortin is a great teacher for this subject, because she is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about what she teaches. She can answer almost any question that she is asked, and she will answer it in a way that she knows students will be able to follow. This is a very important quality for a teacher to have, because the teachers are not actually getting anything across to the students if the students can not follow their vocabulary and terminology. It is also great that she is so enthusiastic, because that engages more students rather than showing them that they do not need to listen or care. This enthusiasm shows students why the skills they are learning are important, and necessary, rather than expressing the negative parts of learning challenging material. Mrs. Fortin also runs the chorus program at SMS. This program gives kids the opportunity to be part of a chorus that performs in two concerts, and also gives them the chance to audition for

select chorus, which is an after school extra-curricular opportunity. The chorus program is wildly popular, with about one quarter of the students at SMS in the program. There are three different choruses: 5th grade, 6th through 8th grades, and Select. Each concert, (there is a Spring and a Winter Concert) each chorus has two to four songs prepared to perform to the public and the whole school. Mrs. Fortin prepares the groups well, so all of the parts sound harmonious. In conclusion, Mrs Fortin teaches music class, directs the chorus program, and is a enthusiastic and knowledgeable teacher that makes a positive impact on many of her students!



## Mrs. Whitaker

*by a true believer in origami cranes*

When you enter SMS, one of the first faces you see is Mrs. Whitaker's. Mrs. Whitaker is a very friendly person, and she always greets everyone with a happy and positive attitude. She is a great person to be the school's administrator, because she is always nice to everyone and is always willing to help. Mrs. Whitaker also runs the student council with Mrs. Decibus. Together they run a wonderful program that is essential to some of the activities that are presented to students of SMS. Some of these activities include Spirit Week, Fun Friday, and the eighth grade and seventh grade dance. Many students at SMS look forward to these events and activities, and they really have an effect on students and their peers. These activities bond students, and none of this would be possible without Mrs. Whitaker. She also helps organize the carnation sales every year, which make many students very happy. It really lights up someone's face when they receive a flower sent to them by someone else. Mrs. Whitaker also works with Mrs. Bennet to make sure everything is always organized and in its place. Mrs. Whitaker really improves our school. She is very supportive of all the groups, clubs and events. She comes to school concerts after school, just to support the students. This makes an impression on the students, because it shows them that their teachers care about them even when they are not in school. This can encourage students to have positive behaviors and attitudes while in school. Therefore, Mrs. Whitaker is causing students to have a more positive attitude through cause and effect! Many students and teachers agree that the school would never be the same without her. She works very hard at her job every day and completes it as best as anyone ever could. Our school is very lucky to have a wonderful person such as Mrs. Whitaker, and I for one certainly hope she never leaves!

**Thank You to Our  
Teachers  
for  
Being There for Us**

## Mrs. Smart

*by a girl who dances her way through life*

Mrs. Smart is one of the guidance counselors here at SMS. She is very welcoming to all students when they come to her door. She also helps Mrs. Christian run the fifth grade guidance classes. Together, they run a class that teaches students about their feelings, peer pressure, and how to deal with emotions. This class is very helpful for students at that age, because they are going through puberty, a time when it can be hard to deal with drama, emotions, and peer pressure. They also talk about teamwork and the importance of communication, which are important life skills for students to have. On top of all that, Mrs. Smart communicates with the high school counselors to make sure the eighth graders are prepared for their freshman year. During various PLUS blocks throughout the past months, they have had the eighth graders take surveys that would help them know how to best prepare us for high school. She also always has her door open for students to come in and talk to her about their personal complications. She will always be there for you. Everyone likes Mrs. Smart, because she is very nice and welcoming. She really tries hard to make students feel comfortable. She also tries to get to know all of her students. In the beginning of the school year, she called students down if they had a personal complication that she knew about and asked if they would like to be in a group of people that have that complication in common. This helps students realize that they are not alone and that they have other people who are facing the same challenges they do. This is very helpful to students, and many students appreciate her effort! A couple examples of groups she has created include a divorce group and a diabetic group. In summation, Mrs. Smart does many things that help students feel comfortable in the school, and everyone appreciates it! We love you Mrs. Smart!

**BE  
HAPPY**



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## Mr. White

*by an art enthusiast*

Mr. White is the Systems Administrator, who takes care of all of the electronics. When there is a problem with the electronics he comes very fast and fixes it quickly and extremely well! He always has the equipment to fix the computers and smart boards. Once during Science class the Smart board had a major dysfunction which caused it to smoke and stink. My teacher called Mr. White and he was here in just one minute. He fixed the smart board very quickly because he already had the equipment necessary to fix it. My teacher was then able to use her smart board, and the rest of the classes could also have the same lesson plan.

Mr. White orders our new school computers, iPads and other electronics and sets them up. If you didn't already know, SMS has a TV in the front where you walk in. The TV displays photos of what the school is doing, including students winning Puma Pride awards. He takes care of the TV, and he is the one who puts the photos on the TV after they are edited by the EHP kids. The TV is always running, and it is so fascinating to watch what is going on in other classes. So, thanks Mr. White!

During computer testing Mr. White also helps with this major event. He gets the computers set up for the test and monitors them making sure nothing goes wrong with them. Without Mr. White, the testing experience would be much different and not as smooth as how it goes now. Mr. White also runs the school's network and the routers for the SMS internet. If something goes wrong with the internet or one of the teacher's internet, he is able to fix it. Without him we wouldn't have internet, which is definitely something we need. Mr. White also has control of everyone's password. That way if you forget your password, he has the ability to get it back for you! Mr. White is an very important to SMS, and we are very lucky to have him!



## Mrs. Christian

Mrs. Christian is one of the school's counselors and she is always there for the students. She has come up with some very creative projects to help us understand relationships, friendships and help us with listening skills. These hands on activities are just what we need. Unfortunately we are only able to see her part of the time during the week since she is only part time. The door to Mrs. Christian office is open to all students who may need to chat about something that is bothering them.

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## Mrs. Murray

*by poptropica lover ;)*

Technological, determined, computer whiz are all words that can describe Mrs. Murray. This is Mrs. Murray's first year teaching at South Meadow in the main computer lab as a technology teacher. Accompanied by Mr. White, Mrs. Murray teaches most of the fifth, seventh, and eighth grade classes. For the fifth graders, she introduces the concepts of computers and typing on them. I talked to some of the fifth graders and asked them about their class, and they said they watched lots of informative brainpop videos. Most of these brainpop videos are telling fifth graders how to do proper research. For the seventh grade classes I'm not exactly sure what she teaches, but I do know she helps Mrs. Fox with some of her art classes in Photo-shop. For RTI in the mornings, the eighth graders are split up into different groups. Mrs. Murray is one of the teachers who takes in kids for RTI. As an eighth grader who attended her RTI in the mornings, we started out with Scratch, an on line website that lets kids program and create their own animations that you can program to move. Since I had already had experience with scratch, I quickly picked up on what she was teaching. She wanted us to use our imaginations to make a story animation using different characters and story lines by programing. It was extremely fun, and I got to share it with all my friends, who enjoyed it too. Mrs. Murray is a great addition to our South Meadow family, and we're so happy she has joined us. Thanks Mrs. Murray!

## Mrs. Goodell

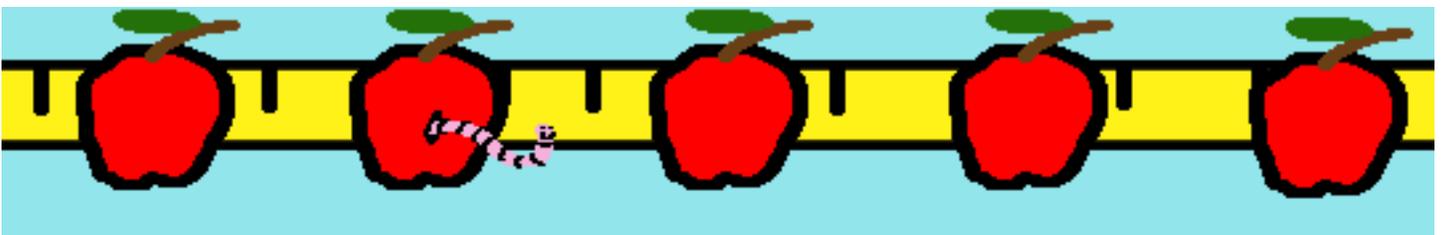
*by one of your energetic students from years past*

Mrs. Goodell is an awesome sixth grade math teacher who is fun, creative, and caring. Out of her three years here, last year was her first year with an advisory. Before Mrs. Goodell had an advisory, Mrs. Pease taught math. Mrs. Goodell has a sense of humor that makes advisory and math classes a lot of fun. She is firm only when needed, but about ninety-eight percent of the time she is all fun and laughs. She is very easy to be around and makes the classroom seem inviting and a safe place to be. Mrs. Goodell teaches math and does a very good job. Math is a lot of fun. You learn a lot by the way she teaches. Last year she taught us something in math called a CSI which stands for Criminal Scene Investigation. It was a lot of fun to use math to figure out the clues to find out who did it. Another activity she did was where she post laminated cards around the room. You go around the room and solve each of the thirty or so cards. Some math topics you have or will learn in her class are: fractions, integers, decimals, and ratios. In advisory they either do crafts or games. Some crafts they did last year are: dodecahedron and oceans in a bottle. Mrs. Goodell is a very amazing teacher. She loves Taylor Swift, and if she catches you saying that she is a bad singer, watch out. She will not let you forget that Taylor Swift is an awesome singer. Mrs. Goodell is friendly. Whenever you see her in the hall, she almost always has a very bright smile on her face. You almost never see her with a serious looking expression. With Mrs. Goodell around, you are sure to never be sad about anything. She will make sure you are okay and ask if you need anything. Being around Mrs. Goodell will cheer you up, guaranteed. Her sense of humor is enough to make anyone laugh. I hope if you have her as a sixth grade teacher, fifth graders, you will have as much fun as you possibly can.

## Mrs. Couture

*by student who is great at cooking*

Mrs. Couture is a great teacher here at South Meadow School. She teaches Family and Consumer Science, or F.A.C.S. This is a special class that students have in seventh and eighth grade. Sewing, cooking, consumerism, childbirth, and future careers are the units students are taught between seventh and eighth grade. Mrs. Couture keeps her class exciting, and it is a favorite to many students. Mrs. Couture is very talented at sewing and knows so many fun recipes. There are so many great projects you get to do in Mrs. Couture's class, and they are all very fun. My favorite sewing project that I completed was making a bag that closed with velcro. Another fun cooking project we did was make our own pretzels with our cooking group. In eighth grade, students get to make their own pizzas from scratch! Those are just a few fun projects you have the chance to do, but the class is mostly great because of the teacher. Mrs. Couture keeps every class exciting and she is always telling funny stories. She makes learning safety very fun, with stories about what has gone wrong and fun games. One thing I will always remember is the story about the two girls who messed with scissors. Mrs. Couture has the ability to keep the class very interested, more-so when food is involved. Students really enjoy all of the projects she creates for us, and we really appreciate her. You learn a lot in Mrs. Couture's class, and most everything you learn is valuable information that you will most likely need in the future. I enjoyed everything that we did in the first quarter of Family and Consumer Science, and so did the rest of my class. Family and Consumer Science is a class students look forward to, because they know it will always be fun no matter what we are learning about. Mrs. Couture creates great projects for students that make learning more fun, and always keeps the class exciting. The students at South Meadow School all really appreciate everything Mrs. Couture has done for our school.



## Miss Keating

*by anonymous*

Miss Keating is a new eighth grade math, pre-algebra, and algebra teacher at South Meadow School. She just graduated from college and is on her first year of teaching. Even though she has only been teaching for one year, Miss Keating is a great teacher.

Inside of class, Miss Keating is nice, fun, and a little bit strict. She expects each student to do their best. Miss Keating assigns homework almost every night for pre-algebra and eighth grade, and every day for her algebra class. Every week, she handed out a Math Maintenance and a new lesson packet. Math Maintenances are worksheets with about twelve problems each. The problems are normally easier than the lesson, but still provide a challenge. Each Friday, the Math Maintenance must be turned in or the student will get a late grade. The class then spends the day or so doing the new lesson. However, these lessons are sometimes taken over by tests. When everyone finishes, she tells the class how well they did. Miss Keating's algebra class finished their final exams a month ago. The students had to work and study extremely hard for the test. Also, Miss Keating prepares her students for high school. She gives each class diagnostics, which are tests she sends to ConVal math teachers. Miss Keating went to Keene State College. She took twelve math classes in her four years of college. Most college students only take four math classes. As a result, she has forty-eight math credits. She majored in statistics and math. Miss Keating also student-taught at a variety of schools.

In advisory, Miss Keating tries to be as helpful as possible. She made a chart for RTI so students know where to go each day. Additionally, she made a schedule, and when she got it wrong, she kept trying. Also, Miss Keating has a lot of school spirit. For every day of spirit week, Miss Keating would dress up, and was twins with Mrs. Woodward. Miss Keating is always positive, helpful, and fun. She tries to help each student, and tries to do what is best for them. Lots of students enjoy Miss Keating's classes, and hope she remains at South Meadow School.

## Mrs. Werth

*by your favorite student ;)*

There is so much to say about her. She approaches every situation with an open mind and a superb amount of patience. When the school is in need of a last minute sub Mrs. Werth steps in whether the class is social studies, science, or art. She is highly regarded by the students and teachers she works with. I personally consider Mrs. Werth one of my favorite teachers because of her dedication to my grade and her extraordinarily kind, supportive personality. Although she is a para-professional and not a core teacher she stands out like one in my opinion. She is always there no matter who needs help and has assisted me many times when I was in need of extra guidance in a lesson. When I move on to Conval and leave SMS behind I will be sad to have to say goodbye to Mrs. Werth. If there was a way she could move up to high school with my grade when the time comes I would insist that she do so. Having Mrs. Werth in my class automatically makes my day better, no matter what. Her innocent humor combined with a thoughtful, attentive, encouraging attitude instantly brightens my mood. Before advisory in the mornings she talks with me not because she has to but because she is genuinely interested in her students. Mrs. Werth is assigned to help a specific student most of the time but still has all the classmates' best interest in mind. She is truly an inspiration to my peers and me.

## Puma Press Contest!

As you have probably noticed by now, the by-line's of all of the articles have been anonymous. Puma Press is holding a contest to see if you can guess the author of each article. If you would like to participate in the contest, email Michele Brezovec at [mbrezovec@conval.edu](mailto:mbrezovec@conval.edu) with your guess of the author for each article. The person with the most correct answers will win. There will be two winners, student and teacher.

Good Luck! :)

## Mrs. Allen

*by an aspiring writer*

I had Mrs. Allen as a teacher when she first started working at SMS as a language arts and math teacher.



I immediately saw her love for the job and how devoted she was to her students. There were many projects that we did in her classes but, unlike many others I've done, they required real creativity. What I mean by this is that not everything we did was just another worksheet or powerpoint presentation. We had discussions, wrote stories, made art, and even acted. She even brought in hot chocolate once to drink while we read. Mrs. Allen puts time, energy, and heart into her lessons and that inspired me. Something else she did was believe in me and support me. Mrs. Allen noticed how interested I was and challenged me to be better, and I thank her for that. She cares about her students, and it shows through the way she teaches. I like reading but sometimes I consume myself with YA novels that often have rather low reading levels. Mrs. Allen saw this and challenged me to read more classics and nonfiction. I didn't always like what I was reading, but it made me stronger in my reading, writing, and vocabulary. I am better off in life having had her as my teacher. Even if it was just for a year, she impacted me and my learning greatly as well as my self confidence in all different aspects of literature.

## Mrs. Woodward

*by student who sits next to Thomas*



Mrs. Woodward was first introduced to our school as a librarian and now she is the eighth grade science teacher. For me, the way she teaches makes things much more interesting and fun. Science is one of my favorite subjects and half of the reason why is because of Mrs. Woodward. Not only does she do amazing things as a science teacher, she also coaches the field hockey team in the fall. It was her first year with lots of new players and, from what

I hear, she did superbly. In science, the eighth grade does incredibly interesting lab experiments such as extracting DNA from strawberries while studying the basics of genetics. They also dissected owl pellets and recorded the different bones inside. The eighth grade also went on two field trips with the Harris Center, once to find, study, and record data on macro invertebrates and another time to look at animal tracks and signs of different wildlife in the woods. Now her class is learning about genetics. During their time in that unit the eighth grade has learned about all kinds of amazing things involving heredity and even cloning! Not only is she a sucker for science but was also very enthusiastic during the school's spirit week and grade level competitions. Although this is her first year at SMS as a core teacher, she is adapting rather impressively to our customs and sometimes a rowdy group of classmates. I hope my science teacher next year will be just as amiable, diligent, resourceful, sincere, and witty as Mrs. Woodward.

We're looking to shake up the newspaper! Have any ideas for what we should include? email

[mbrezovec@conval.edu](mailto:mbrezovec@conval.edu)  
or  
[schwa212le@cvsd.me](mailto:schwa212le@cvsd.me)

Thank You! :)



## The High Notes of Our Band Teacher; A 6th grade Band Member's Perspective

*by the flute player who talks too much*

To those of you who don't know, Mr. Lowy is our outstanding band teacher. He pushes us to be our absolute best and doesn't give up on us, ever! I believe that no matter how good any of us get, Mr. Lowy will still push us to try harder and become even better. I believe in him, because he believes in the rest of us.

Like I said, Mr. Lowy believes in us, and helps us to believe in ourselves too. He challenges us, making us better, and better, until we are the best. He is almost always confident that we will be able to play the music he gives us, and that we will get through the challenges that it causes.

Personally, I love that Mr. Lowy encourages us to practice, because all he wants is for us to improve. Mr. Lowy knows when we haven't practiced and pushes us to practice as soon as we get home. He has been known to say something along the lines of, "Practice at school isn't enough. Now go home and practice!" One of his posters says "I want you to practice everyday!" Except he added, (in pencil,) the words "at home" between "practice" and "everyday." So now it says...."I want you to practice at home everyday!"

Another thing that I love about Mr. Lowy is that he is honest and tells us when we aren't playing very well. Mr. Lowy isn't the kind of person who thinks that we will improve by sweet talk and false compliments.

Mr. Lowy also creates an excellent environment for us to work in. We not only have access to the stage and his large music classroom, but the environment is encouraging too. The hand prints on his wall invoke a feeling of encouragement in me, pushing me to work harder and stay in band so that I can make my mark on his wall.

Students who have never been in one of Mr. Lowy's band lessons might think that "tough" isn't a good thing in a teacher. For band members, "tough" is what pushes us to be our best. Mr. Lowy pushes us to try harder and harder until we are more than capable of playing the music that we are given. I cannot speak from the perspective of a member of jazz band, as I'm not one, but I wish I could.

## Mrs. Norby

*by "Yo Fave" who really enjoys your M&M's!*



Mrs. Norby is a truly amazing teacher who never fails to make South Meadow School a better place. She is a very fun teacher who always makes sure students enjoy their classes with her. She started as a student teacher for Mrs. Butze, and was happily welcomed back to South Meadow School as a core teacher. Mrs. Norby teaches sixth grade science. Mrs. Norby has never failed to win a Spirit Week in all of her thirteen years of teaching her own class at South Meadow School. One of my favorite projects I have done in Mrs. Norby's class was the rock comics we made in the computer lab. They took a lot of time and effort, but we were allowed to be very creative with them; so no two comics were the same. She has also been involved in a few sports at South Meadow School. Mrs. Norby coached the field hockey team for a while and just finished her final season of coaching the girls white basketball team. I decided to ask a member of the basketball team what she thought about Mrs. Norby as a coach, and she said, "Mrs. Norby is one of the best basketball coaches I have ever had. She is really knowledgeable about basketball, focuses on the team, and is really fun." I know the girls will miss her as a coach, because she did such a great job. Mrs. Norby always has something fun planned for her students, whether it is lip sync battles or relay races. She is so fun to talk to, and always has something to say. As fun as Mrs. Norby is, she still knows how to keep a class quiet and paying attention, which is very important. She has a relationship with all of her students and cares about them a lot. Science class with Mrs. Norby was so much fun, and students look forward to her class everyday, because they know that they will be doing something exciting. We hope that Mrs. Norby keeps teaching a South Meadow School because she is an amazing teacher, and I will miss seeing her in my wing next year.

## Mrs. Fox

*by the creator of a house that looks like a human*

Mrs. Fox is a seventh and eighth grade art teacher here at South Meadow School. She covers many different parts of art, and the projects are always very fun and creative. The eighth graders are really enjoying their art classes because of the projects they are doing. They have just finished mini-golf sculptures and are beginning to paint portraits of themselves based off a photo. As another example, the seventh graders just finished a clay project, where they built pieces of architecture. Each student spent a day looking through books of architecture. Some students based their projects off of the architecture, and some used their imagination. However, all students received plenty of help from Mrs. Fox. She was helpful throughout the process and showed the students exactly what to do and how to do it. Mrs. Fox's art class is different from other art classes. Students get to do many different art techniques, from sculpting to Photoshop. Each unit is fun and has many different creative projects. All students can tell that Mrs. Fox is very passionate about art. Her love of art is infectious, and many students find themselves appreciating art more. Although the projects have guidelines, everyone is allowed creative freedom. For example, seventh graders recently made posters on their favorite work of architecture. They were allowed to do whatever building they wanted to and could design the poster however they wished. Additionally, each class had to make folders with their name written on it. Mrs. Fox let students use different nicknames, like Paintbrush and Zallard. Since she lets everyone be creative, but still follow the guidelines, art is extremely fun. Also, Mrs. Fox tries to make everyone feel good about their artwork. She goes around and helps students with their projects, and she compliments them. Mrs. Fox is a great teacher, and every student looks forward to art class. One time, a student was having some trouble with their drawing. Mrs. Fox did her best to help the student, and showed her how to make her art better. Mrs. Fox is an amazing member of South Meadow School.

## Mr. Driscoll

*by the Anonymous Subject*

Ding! Time for class in Mr. Driscoll's room! Mr. Driscoll teaches seventh grade social studies, but is also known for recently winning spirit week. Congrats, you guys. Social studies in his class includes the study of Hominids, Ancient Sumer, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece (currently), and occasionally a couple minor miscellaneous subjects. First, we learned about the prehistoric humans, called hominids, and how they lived. Then, we learned about the first civilization, a city/state called Ancient Sumer. Next, we learned about the incredible Ancient Egyptians and also learned how to summarize. During our Greece unit, Mr. Driscoll tells us some pretty gruesome stories about all these different Greek gods, usually not caring whether we throw up or not. I mean I don't even think I can put one of these stories in here they're so gross! In his class we take a lot of notes, read, write, and listen to his lecture. Yet somehow classes always seem to be interesting and fun. Most of the time Mr. Driscoll is nice and doesn't give us homework, but occasionally we need to finish something at home. Known to everyone who has set foot in his room, Mr. Driscoll has absolutely the largest room out of the entire seventh grade. Along with a big room, he also has extra tall tables in the back of his room. If you've ever sat at one of those tables, you know how you have to reach your arms up and have to write at about the same level as your head, maybe a little lower. It's actually pretty cool, though, besides the fact that they're twice as tall as any of the other tables. His lectures of cultural, political, and historical perspective make us realize how small we really are, as do those extra tall tables. We always have a good time in his class and always learn something new. Sometimes we get to watch "goofy videos", which are exactly what they sound like. I mean, come on, that's the best part. Most of the time we'll watch CNN student news instead, though. Without a doubt, social studies in Mr. Driscoll's is both engaging and enjoyable.



## Mrs. Grady

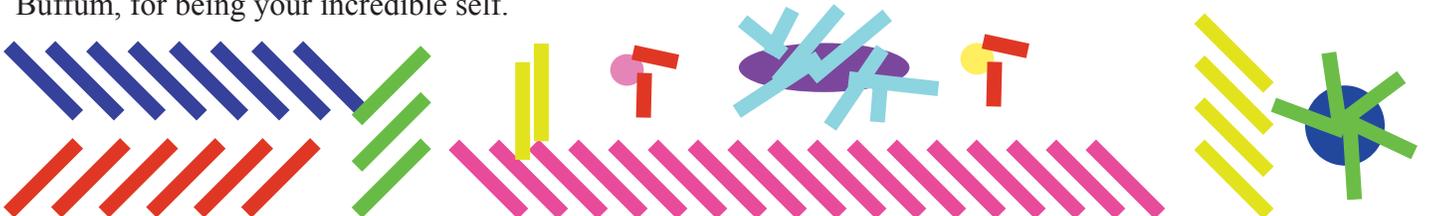
*by a strong believer in the peanut butter food pyramid*

Intelligent, kind, funny, experienced, “chill”, and creative are words that can be easily used to describe South Meadow School’s health teacher, Mrs. Grady. After being in her quarter-long classes for four years, I’ve grown to admire her extremely unique teaching style. From the lengthy experience she’s had as a teacher, and as a parent, she creates a perfect balance of class behavior, participation, and excitement. Also, because I belong to an infamously badly behaving grade, I am nearly accustomed to classes getting exhausting when kids can’t handle themselves. Mrs. Grady has a successful path set to maintain her classes completely, all the while keeping her class engaged and interested in the topics at hand. For example, during every health class I can remember, when kids get excited about a topic, Mrs. Grady always allows every student to be heard. This way, students that have stories to tell always feel welcome to share, and this keeps all kids entertained during lessons that may be a bit drier than others. Furthermore, Mrs. Grady’s experience also offers a wide variety of stories to tell herself, some more wild than others. Her personal life and her professional interest often intermix. When working on a section, Mrs. Grady almost always has something to share, to make the subject much more interesting. Her stories often warn or remind students to make healthy choices and to take her lessons seriously. Next, Mrs. Grady’s dedicated lifestyle towards the things she loves is admirable. When participating in an activity or event, she never fails to go above the expectations and basics. During spirit week, she always dresses according to the day and goes all-out. Even during the Turkey Trot, when others may be dreading the run, Mrs. Grady ensures each student has a good time and is involved in the race (with a turkey hat to accompany her!) Finally, her class is never boring. While some students may agonize about the stereotypical “health class”, they are quick to change their mind after just one class. Her projects are creative, engaging, and fun. She’s prevented a lot of risky decisions I could have made these past four years, and for that, I am grateful.

## Ms. Buffum

*the words of a student in a block social studies*

Ms. Buffum doesn’t let you be the naysayer. With her positive but “get it done without argument” attitude, Ms. Buffum gets it done! I have never witnessed someone in my social studies class get away with bad behavior while Ms. Buffum is in the room. Though she doesn’t teach, she is just as important to our learning as anyone else. Ms. Buffum is a para-professional. She makes sure that a single student, as well as the rest of the students, don’t disrupt the learning of anyone else. Ms. Buffum keeps everyone in line, but is nice about it. She is friendly to everyone, unless she is telling them off for bad behavior. She is always kind to me, and anyone else who is being nice and getting their work done. Ms. Buffum is smart and helps people with their work. Even though she doesn’t directly teach, she is always able to keep people on the right track. She can tell right away when a student is struggling and does her best to keep them from struggling even more. Another thing that Ms. Buffum does well is helping out our substitutes. If a substitute doesn’t know what to do about bad behavior, then she takes care of it herself. Sometimes, she has to leave the room to deal with a student while there is a substitute inside, and you can tell that all of the typically misbehaved kids immediately jump at the opportunity to make jokes, talk out loud, flip water bottles, etc.... I can tell that they know that Ms. Buffum wouldn’t let them get away with it if she was in the room. This is Ms. Buffum’s first year at SMS, but by last Halloween, she was already a full part of the 6th grade team. Honestly, I am so glad that she chose to come here this year. It would make a huge difference in our sixth grade classes if we didn’t have our wonderful Ms. Buffum. Thank you Ms. Buffum, for being your incredible self.



## Ms. Wall

by anonymous



Ms Wall is a seventh grade Language Arts teacher and the SMS dance team coach. She has been coaching the dance team for six years and has been teaching for 8 years. Before she started teaching she was dancing in the Monadnock Performing Arts Academy while she was in high school, she was also a part of the MCAA company. She then attended Plymouth State University where she minored in dance and majored in education. She also spent the four years of college being a member of the Contemporary Dance Ensemble and was awarded the Dance Achievement award from PSU when she graduated. Since she came to South Meadow School she has been teaching Language Arts and coaching the dance team. She started and has been coaching the dance team since 2011 and is in her 6th year coaching. My favorite Language Arts unit that we've done so far is the book reading unit. In this unit we read sections of a book and each section is about 2-3 chapters long. Students had the choice of picking their own book. The options were *The Giver*, *The City of Ember*, and *The Last Book of the Universe*. Most of our class picked *The City of Ember*. After reading the section you and your reading group filled out their work. The jobs are summaries of reading, discussion questions, teacher questions, and character charts. If you finish your assigned job you can do a creative role where you can create a poem, song, newspaper article, etc, about the sections you just read. Then, you and your group share what you wrote in the discussion and share your thoughts and predictions for the book. You do this for about eight weeks until you finish the book. I've known Ms. Wall since I was five years old. My dad coached her older brother and she was nice then and is nice now. Her personality carries over into her teaching, which makes her a very, very good teacher.



## Mrs. Bennett

by someone who always forgets to pass in her note :D

Mrs. Bennett is the Administrative Assistant at SMS, she works in the front office by the entrance. It is so nice to see her when you walk into the school because she is so friendly and makes you feel very welcome and invited. She always greets you with a smile and a happy face. She is very kind and answers any questions you have.

Mrs. Bennett takes care of attendance and notes. Everyday the teachers take attendance, and she is the one who puts the attendance into your Parent Portal. If you check Parent Portal you can see that the attendance is very up to date because Mrs. Bennett edits it very soon after she gets the attendance. If you have a note for after school or a different time she also takes care of the note and makes sure you get to your ride and home safely.

Mrs. Bennett, also maintains the SMS Website. She takes the photos that the EHP kids edit and puts them in the website and edits the website. She makes the website look wonderful, and it is always up to date! When you send her your photos for the website, Mrs. Bennett replies very kindly and tells the students who edited the photos that they did a great job.

Everyone who has ordered a sweatshirt for SMS or has seen the sweatshirts loves them. Did you know that Mrs. Bennett takes the money for the sweatshirts and deposits it and makes sure the account is correct. She handles the activity account money for SMS, and that doesn't just include the sweatshirts. The activity account has money for many different activities that SMS has. She takes the money to the bank and also makes sure the account has enough money in it.

Mrs. Bennett is so involved in our school, and she is such a positive person. This is Mrs. Bennett's first year at SMS but you never would have guessed it because she is known by so many people and she is already so involved. Mrs. Bennett is always on top of things and she knows what is going on in the school. She is also very organized, neat and nice. We are all so happy to have her as one of our Administrative Assistants at SMS. Thank you Mrs. Bennett!



## Ms. Stahl

*from the point of view of a student who dances a lot ;)*

I bet that every single student in this school has gone to the nurse at least once this school year. But have every single one of you noticed how efficiently Ms. Stahl gets everything done? Maybe, maybe not. Anyway, I've never had a nurse who was better at multitasking. Ms. Stahl is perfect. She is nice, funny, and efficient.

ef·fi·cient

ə'fiSHənt/adjective

(of a person) working in a well-organized and competent way.

“an efficient administrator” synonyms: organized, methodical, systematic, logical, orderly, businesslike, streamlined, productive, effective, cost-effective, labor-saving

I don't know about you, but I think that this definition works perfectly to describe our incredible school nurse. Being the school nurse is hard. I mean, injuries, sickness, not my thing. But for Ms. Stahl, it is obviously her thing. She gets “into her groove” and makes it seem like it's enjoyable. For her? Maybe it is. I think that she deserves respect for how much effort she puts into making all of us feel better. That's a big responsibility, and I am glad that the responsibility for me and my ailments rests on her shoulders. It makes me feel like I am in good hands, and I know that I will always get the attention I need when I am sick or injured. Ms. Stahl takes care of everybody, no matter who they are, or why they need her. On a related topic, Ms. Stahl has an excellent personality. She is nice, and she can be funny too. I love how she smiles through it all, even the worst injuries or the grossest illness. She is serious about her job, but she stays so upbeat. Her personality in itself is one of the best traits about our exceptional nurse. Ms. Stahl does what she does so well, it's incredible. She even makes sure that we have something to do while we are in her office, whether it's playing with the magnets on the fridge or squeezing one of the “stress stars.” Ms. Stahl is the perfect fit for school nurse. With her exceptional personality and super power skills at nursing, I don't think that any of you could disagree. Her superpower is being incredible at what she does. What's yours?

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## Mrs. Hautanen

*by the guy who wears gray shoes*



Mrs. Hautanen is my math teacher. She is a new math teacher, not meaning she's new to the school just that she switched subjects. She didn't teach it last year because Mrs. Rounds did it last year and that was her last year. So Mrs. Hautanen decided she wanted to be the Math teacher. So far she is a really good math teacher, and when I am in her class she always say's “yeah math!” Whenever I am without an eraser on my pencil and my math block is up next, I always get relieved because she has a gumball machine with a ton of erasers in it with Maleficent on the top. They are usually gone by the end of the week. Also, she lets us pick our assigned spots, which most teachers don't let us do from my experience. She usually is very aware of students' AR goals, she asks us students, “When did you finish that book?”, “

How many points is the book worth?”, “What is your AR goal?” and “What are you at for points right now?” She always has beanbags in her classroom which all the students try and take but she eventually sees them and takes them away. She also had these comfortable chairs that everybody raced for when they got in the classroom. Right now we are learning about fractions, and she makes it really easy to understand. Every week she gives us a skill check, and in one week we usually have four questions. Another week we had a packet that is usually ten questions inside a packet, and they are due in one week we get them. Once a week she gives us a homework assignment, and it is usually due the next day. She is usually nice about people not bringing their homework in on the right date, and she usually give them the weekend to finish their homework. Mrs. Hautanen is a very good math teacher even though this is her first year teaching math.



## Mrs. Brophy

*by a girl who loves algebra*

Mrs. Brophy is a sixth grade advisor and teacher who also runs the Math-counts program. She teaches math all day, and she used to run extra math programs during PLUS block. These programs helped students from all different levels of math knowledge. She had groups for kids who needed more help than others, and groups for kids who were advanced and needed a challenge. I used to be in an advanced math group, and it was a great experience! Mrs. Brophy really challenged my math skills, which was good for me. She always had fun activities that taught us about math, such as string art. I remember doing the string art, because it was really fun, but it also had a lot to do with math. In order to understand string art, you have to understand counting and angles. The angles part is very important, because you have to manipulate the angles, to create designs with the string. In our class time, we created a Christmas tree, and then brought them home to give to someone as a present. This sticks in my head, because I like to make things with my hands. It really helps me to learn, because I am a kinetic (do it myself) learner. Another thing I really liked about her class, is that she always had a word problem of the day. These problems were very hard, and we would all work together to figure it out. I remember working together to figure it out, because I remember that our skills always complemented each other, and we would remember things that our peers did not remember and vice versa. This was great because when someone else remembers something you forgot, they might be able to share their way of remembering it. Also, you could explain your thoughts to someone else, thus further teaching yourself the material. Mrs. Brophy also runs the math-counts program, which is a great program. It allows students, the opportunity to compete at a math competition! This is huge for many students whose strongest skills are math. Now, because of Mrs. Brophy, they too have something to be involved in. So thank you Mrs. Brophy for giving students the opportunity to be involved in something if they are not interested in any of the other clubs. In summary, Mrs. Brophy is a wonderful math teacher! I hope that she always stays and helps students in the way that she is able.

## Mrs. Baker

*by anonymous*

When you are walking in the fifth and eighth grade wing and you see a teacher in Mrs. Decibus's room, you may think, "Where is Mrs. Decibus?" and "Who is that new teacher?" Well that new teacher's name is Mrs. Baker. Mrs. Baker is taking Mrs. Decibus's spot until she gets back from her back surgery. Mrs. Baker is a really nice teacher. She loves playing 7 Up, Night of the Museum, and 4 corners. Mrs. Baker only lets you play those games if you don't get three strikes. If you were wondering what I mean by "three strikes", the three strikes program is implemented when you misbehave or talk when you're not suppose to be talking, you get a strike. If you argue you get another strike which gets you to two strikes. That means one more strike you're out. When you get to the third strike, you have to write your name on a piece of paper and that tells her who gets to play on Friday at the end of the class and who doesn't. If you get to the third strike three times in a week you get sent to the office and do your work there for the remainder of class. I forgot to say we made these slips for the strikes. So when she takes away your slip you know you have one strike. But so far no one that I know or heard of has gotten three strikes yet. There have been some kids that very close to getting the third strike but haven't gotten one yet. But I think if you go to the office and you don't even have a strike yet you automatically get all three strikes and don't get anytime at the end of the class on Friday. This program helps teach students responsibility and accountability for their actions. Also, she has a secret handshake with a student named Annika. I am in student council with Annika, and Mrs. Decibus was the head of student council, so Mrs. Baker took on the responsibility. So, they get to do their handshake. She does a great job in student council of keeping the kids happy, because Mrs. Whittaker has so much to do. Mrs. Baker is a really good teacher and helps the students make their own decisions. Thank you Mrs. Baker!

## Mr. Iwanowicz

*by a student*

Mr. Iwanowicz is my advisory teacher. Mr. Iwanowicz is a newbie here at South Meadow School. Despite being the newbie here at SMS, he is showing the other 5th grade teachers who's boss. What I mean by that is that he has won Spirit Week, the Turkey Trot and a food drive competition. In the SMS gym Mr. Iwanowicz has his own wall, and you can see it on the right when you first walk in. Also, he is my 4th grade teacher's husband, which couldn't be any better. He also likes putting a puzzle out for the people who have finished their AR goal and gotten their own work done. Within a week the puzzle is usually done or almost done. For the ones that do ski club, I'm sure Mr. Iwanowicz does it most of the time. What I find fun doing in the beginning of Mr. Iwanowicz's class



is when he writes a subject on the board and then we have to write about it in our journals, which we have been doing since the beginning of the year. But every Friday we have free choice write, which means we can write about whatever we want. He also has a stuffed dog that he has in the room, which we call "Speedy". We got

the name Speedy from a vote we did in the beginning of the year. The names that were available were Speedy (of course), Blackjack, and Flash. The Class was torn between Blackjack, and Speedy. But Speedy won the vote, and now we call him that. In Mr. Iwanowicz's class, we have jobs, and there is one called the Speedy Buddy. The person with this job gets to put Speedy wherever he/she wants in the classroom. A lot of people in my class like that job. Mr. Iwanowicz is also a die hard Boston fan, which is evident if you walk in his room. He has a David Ortiz poster, a Marshall Faulk poster, a cool poster which spells out Boston with the "B" being the Bruins logo, the "O" being the Celtics logo, the "S" being the Red Sox logo, the "T" being the Train logo, the other "O" is the Revolution logo, and the "N" being the Patriots logo. After the superbowl when the Atlanta Falcons blew a massive lead against the Patriots, Mr. Iwanowicz brought in a ton of Patriots stuff. Mrs. Lafleur liked the Patriot pom poms and Patriot towels. For hat day last week, he brought in a Patriots hat, and the hat is from when they won in 07 ten years ago. He was also the cross country coach for the SMS team. Mr. Iwanowicz is one of my favorite teachers of all time and he will probably stay that way for the rest of my time at South Meadow!

## Mrs. O'Bryant

*by a peer mentor*

Mrs. O'Bryant has been principal at South Meadow School since my fifth grade year, or four years. You can always count on her to provide a smile in any situation. Every Puma Pride assembly, she expertly excites the crowd and delivers her messages in a clear and concise tone that people can't help but listen to. She always gets the teachers up and dancing, which is a lot of fun for all of the teachers, as well as the students. She always encourages us to do our best in school. One quote of hers that I like is, "Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours." Another thing she does around the school is help implement different initiatives. For example, when it was spirit week, you could always count on her to be dressed up in a funky outfit! Mrs. O'Bryant always supports all of the different extracurriculars or clubs around the school. She'll often attend sports games, or concerts. I remember a few years ago when I was in NHDI (New Hampshire Dance Institute), it was performance week and we were all really nervous and excited, and Mrs. O'Bryant came and congratulated us and wished us luck. It felt good knowing we had the support of our principal, even though it was in no way required of her. That's really just Mrs. O'Bryant, she'll always go above and beyond to make sure each and every student feels supported and appreciated. You can also always rely on her to have a super cool outfit! I remember one day she was wearing this super cool pink and white polka dot dress with roller skate earrings! Her outfits often reflect what's going on in the school. For instance, when the fifth graders have Plaid Friday, she'll always show up to school in a plaid shirt. Mrs. O'Bryant is a really cool principal that does a lot of good for the school, and is someone that we are lucky to have here. Thank you Mrs. O'Bryant for all that you do! :)



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## Mrs. Decibus

*by anonymous*

Mrs. Decibus is the fifth grade science teacher at South Meadow School. She has been teaching for over thirty years, but has been teaching for twenty years at SMS. She also advises science club and student council. Her smile is infectious, and she always has a positive attitude. Many students love her style of teaching, and she makes science fun. Lots of fifth graders love the science projects in Mrs. Decibus' class. The first experiment she does with the class is the gummy bear lab. In this lab, students put gummy bears in different liquids, like water and vinegar. This experiment is extremely fun, and all students enjoy it. Another fun project is the science fair. Mrs. Decibus allows students to choose any topic, from animals to popcorn. Students can tell that Mrs. Decibus is in love with science. She talks excitedly about all topics, and her attitude rubs off on the fifth graders. Also, she never raises her voice, and stays calm and caring during the class. Additionally, Mrs. Decibus runs the fifth grade science club. They do extra science projects after school, like coding, catapults, and straw towers. One year, the science club built a planetarium! Last year's science club went to a baseball game. Although Mrs. Decibus loves science, she has another favorite thing: minions. Many posters, drawings, and stuffed animals decorate her room. Spirit Week is another favorite of Mrs. Decibus. She loves to dress up and participate in all of the activities, especially the fifth grade competitions. Her advisory has won spirit week many times. Student council is also co-run by Mrs. Decibus, along with Mrs. Whitaker. Every year, she helps advise student council, and helps to plan important events around the school. Student council would not be as fun without Mrs. Decibus, because she is very caring and always works out any problem. Recently, Mrs. Decibus had to undergo back surgery. She is excited to get back to teaching and can not wait to get back to South Meadow. Mrs. Decibus is an amazing teacher, and all students are thrilled to have been taught by her. Thank you Mrs. Decibus!

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## Mrs. Groleau

*by anonymous*

Mrs. Groleau teaches sixth grade social studies. I had so much fun in social studies as a sixth grader. We really did so much I never would've expected to do in a social studies class. We had a pet fish, made a garden from scratch, raised our own chickens, and made the Taj Mahal out of Legos! Geography was important for us to get a grasp of and we also spent time with the election since it was important for the country. It was really cool to watch the entire election, and learn how it works along the way. I remember at the start of the year we had to write down what we know about the world, in terms of geography, economics, politics, etc. We also had to write what we wanted to learn. I remember writing surprisingly so very little about what I did know, but a lot for what I wanted to know. In the end, I had learned so much I could never simply write everything down on one page. Along with learning, we had quite a lot of fun in that class. I was not in her advisory, but I know they had a jolly good time, especially when it came to spirit week. They had so much enthusiasm and spirit, and if you asked anyone, they would say that it was all Mrs. Groleau. One thing I think everyone can remember was CNN Student News, and in particular, the newsreader Carl Azuz. Later in the year she got a class fish, and her advisory voted on naming it--you guessed it--Carl Azuz. Then, when learning about India, a big project that we had was to build the entire Taj Mahal out of Legos! We had to learn about the different parts of the palace first, then we were split into teams to build a replica. They actually turned out pretty well, from what I remember! Then, we started a big unit about where our food comes from. We watched a movie called Food Inc., which was pretty disgusting, but now we know where our food really comes from. With what that taught us, we planted our own garden beds, and raised our own chickens! We cleaned out the old garden beds, shoveled new soil in, and planted new seeds. We built a dwelling for the chicks, and raised them until they were big enough to live outside. In the end, there were so many things I will remember about social studies with Mrs. Groleau, but I think the thing that stands out the most is the fact that we all did it together, as a team. I will never forget how Mrs. Groleau's class impacted everyone in my grade. Thank you Mrs. Groleau!

## Mrs.Heald

*by the one good kid*

Mrs.Heald is such a great teacher. She always makes sure that you understand what she is trying to teach. She knows when it is time to be serious and when it is time to be fun. But even when she is being serious she is so full of energy and excitement that she is still a lot of fun to be in a class with. Kids always think they are funny by saying, “ Oh well how is this going to help me in real life?” and she always tells us how. Mrs.Heald also might secretly be magic. She told us a story about how one time she really wanted to win a Kindle and she told everyone that she was going to win the Kindle. And she ended up winning the Kindle. Her class is a little bit different every day. Some days we are doing something on the ipads or the laptops. Sometimes she will tell us that we have 50 problems to do and we should just get started, and sometimes she just teaches a more traditional lesson. On the day of the 2017 School Play she knew that only half of the classes were going to get math class so we used the laptops the way we normally would, by going on the IXL website. Before we used the laptops, though, she went in-depth about how they connect to the hubs on the ceilings all over the school. Mrs.Heald is extremely good at grading quizzes. Most of the time she gives you back your quiz on the day you hand it in. Every time I have gotten a bad score on a quiz she explained what I did wrong, and I was able to fix my mistake pretty easily. Mrs.Heald is a great teacher,s and I am glad that I have her.

## Mr.Hammett

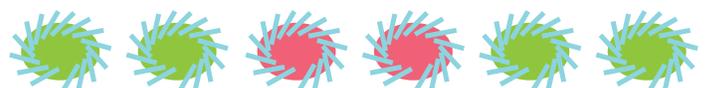
*by a ginger ninja*

Mr.Hammett is the Art teacher for the 5th grade and the IAT teacher for everyone else. IAT stands for Integrated Arts and Technology. It is one of the most fun and interesting classes in all of SMS. You make lots of cool things, and you learn to use lots of different tools. Part of the reason it is so fun is because of Mr.Hammett, who is one of the funniest and most energetic teachers I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. One time when we were working on making our nutcrackers Mr.Hammett walks over with his train whistle and starts blowing it. One minute I was in class, the next I was on a train! I am terrible at using tools of any kind so I really screwed up when I was making my wooden race car’s axels. He helped me patch up all the little holes I made when pulling the drill out. The best lesson he taught was absolutely the nutcrackers we made in December. He showed us his crazy gift wrapping skills when we had to wrap the nutcrackers. While that was his best lesson I have sentimental value for the first art class he taught me in 5th grade. It was actually the first class I ever went to at SMS. I was so scared but Mr.Hammett was so funny and cool that I was less scared the second I walked into the room. He also shows us pictures of the house that he is building. He used bike wheels as a part of the railing on his staircase. He is extremely cool and funny and I hope that I get to be in his class again next year.

## Mrs. Burnett

*by a girl who enjoys Chinese jump rope at 7th grade recess*

Mrs. Burnett is a paraprofessional who works with a girl named Lauren. She also does seventh grade recess in Mrs. Allen’s room. When she does recess, she brings a Chinese jump rope made out of rubber bands. Chinese jump rope is a rope that is a complete circle. Two people stand inside the rope, so it forms a long rectangle. A third person does a series of steps over the rope. It is a lot of fun to do. She is full of ideas. For example, with the Chinese jump rope, she gives us ideas to help create our own steps. She is very nice. When I see her in the school hallways, I say “Hi” to her and Lauren. She always smiles and says “Hi” back. Mrs. Burnett is very patient and never has to raise her voice to get students’ attention. She is a very caring women. Whenever I see her with Lauren, she has a look on her face that is calm, patient, and caring. When working with Lauren, she makes sure that Lauren is using her ipad. For example, when Mrs. Burnett and Lauren want to into the superintendent’s office, she waits until Lauren hits the button on her ipad asking for the door to be open instead of just opening the door for her. It is very nice to have Mrs. Burnett working at this school. She really a part of the South Meadow School community. We really enjoy having her here.



## Mrs. Jones

*by a former student with dark brown hair and a big personality*

Mrs. Jones is a 6th grade Language Arts teacher that picks the weirdest books for her kids. Year after year the books keep getting more interesting. Books like *The Twits* and *All Summer In A Day*. *The Twits* is about a husband and a wife; the husband has a huge ugly beard that always gets food stuck in it. The wife is a mean ugly woman that used to be pretty but turned ugly because of her meanness. The husband and the wife would always play tricks on each other, like putting a worm in the other ones soup or cutting the legs of the other ones chair so it felt like they were shrinking. *All Of Summer In A Day* is a science fiction short story by Ray Bradbury that got published in 1954. This story is about a group of willing people that go up and try and live on Venus. The story takes place at a school on Venus where kids get picked on and there are bullies everywhere. On Venus it rains every day and the sun is always blocked by thunderclouds. But for one hour every seven years the sun comes out and the kids get to play outside in the sunshine and have fun with their friends without getting soaked. As you can see there are so many crazy books that Mrs. Jones picks for her kids, and she takes the time and effort to pick out every one that will make the kids excited and happy to read more and take AR test on them. Then after we were done reading the books we would sometimes watch the movies! Mrs. Jones really prepares her student for the new and fun things that you can learn in Mrs. Wall's and Mrs. Foecking's Language Arts classes. Whether you have been in her class before or you're going to her soon you should always know that Mrs. Jones is there for you.

## Mrs. Van

*by the one who actually spilled the pudding*

Mrs. Van teaches science in 7th grade. Science is a big part of seventh grade, and there is no one better to teach it than Mrs. Van. We learned about elements, atoms, electricity, and more! What made the learning fun was all the projects we did, including making a model of an atom and an electromagnetic fishing pole. In science class, once a week each class gets to go to the EHP room/area to work with Mrs. Brezovec on robotics during third quarter. The students in robotics also come and help us if we need it, which we do. For the first few classes, we got to work on mBots, which was a lot of fun. In our last class we got to do a breakout, which is like a giant puzzle. That was the best class yet. Everyone is looking forward to doing it again. We thank Mrs. Van for teaming up with Mrs. Brezovec.

If you hadn't noticed, Mrs. Van has energy. She is always super enthusiastic about everything she does, and it is truly admirable. It's always good to have that extra boost of confidence, or just a reason to smile. During spirit week, Mrs. Van's class had a whole lot of spirit.



The students in her advisory were all wearing the color they were assigned, all had their faces painted, and screamed as loud as they could. Mrs. Van supplied a whole bunch of stuff for the class to use, including visors, bandannas, and pompoms! Spirit Week was out of this world, oh my goodness. It was super competitive in the seventh grade, and it was clear Mrs. Van and her class really wanted to win. It was really great how much heat and passion they have; it really shows their school spirit. Sadly, at the end of this year, Mrs. Van is retiring! We are all going to miss her very much, both students and staff! The sixth graders may never experience the authentic seventh grade ways without Mrs. Van! We really hope you enjoy retirement, but be sure to visit us. I really don't know what we're going to do without her. We'll miss you and all the wonderful experiments that we did in science Mrs. Van! Fun times in science, is all I have to say.

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## Mrs. Russell

*By a Girl Who Loves Art Class*

Mrs. Russell is a great teacher at South Meadow School, who always brings joy to her students. Art is a class that has so many varied activities, because there are so many forms of art. Mrs. Russell gives her students the chance to learn about all the different styles of art. When we are introduced to a new project, we always spend a few days learning about what we are doing, so we can really understand what it is that we are creating. I really love how she gives us art vocabulary, because I feel like I'm learning much more than I would if I was to just copy what she is doing. Before starting a project, we learn vocabulary, techniques that we will use, artists that provide inspiration, and related information. It makes me feel as if I am more connected to my artwork, because I can explain what I did. Mrs. Russell's art class is different than others, as she really lets you make your art, your art. She gives you a lot of creative freedom. One project we did was paint any bird of our choice, so we could create better art. One of my favorite projects I did in Mrs. Russell's class were some paintings we did just before Christmas. They were silhouettes of trees in the winter on a really cool background. Many people used these as a present for the holidays, because they all looked really great and thoughtful. Mrs. Russell has not been at school for a while, because she recently had her first child. Before having her child, Mrs. Russell brought in ultrasounds for the class to look at. Everyone misses her, but from the pictures that we have seen, her daughter is very cute. Mrs. Russell also does something in her class that makes students want to do their best in class. Students and Mrs. Russell can nominate other students to get something called, "Mona Money", which can be used to get extra credit, or some little toys. You can be nominated for many characteristics that you show in the classroom, whether it is about your artwork or how you behave towards the teacher or other students. All of the students really enjoy this, because it is a chance to be rewarded for something good. Everyone in the school really appreciates Mrs. Russell, and we can not wait to see her return.

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## Mr. Sil

*By The Hockey Player That You Want To Play Soccer*

I think everyone in this school can agree that Mr Sil is a very important teacher here at SMS. He gets kids pumped up for pep rally, runs the grade level competitions, coaches boys soccer and girls softball, and is the athletic director. At the pep rally Sil will put on a crazy hat and crazy clothes and get everybody pumped up for the chants every grade does. He runs the grade level competitions where each advisory in each grade do a bunch of different activities to see who is the best advisory. Sil also coaches the SMS soccer and softball teams. I was on his soccer team and let me say this...he takes it very, very seriously, which is a good thing because he taught me a lot about the sport. He teaches every student in the school that has P.E. class how to play a certain sport whether it's basketball for a team you play for or badminton to play in your backyard at BBQ. He makes every sport a fun one whether it's your favorite or not. One of my favorite games that Mr sil does is Silly Ball. In Silly Ball you hit a wiffle ball with a cricket bat. There are two teams and a pitcher. The pitcher throws the ball to the catcher and the batter can hit it. After the batter hits it or misses the batter runs around a cone that is worth one point. You can also run round a cone that is worth two points. Once the pitcher throws it to the catcher without the batter hitting it the batter is out. The batter has to keep track of the points in his head, and when he or she is out they add their points to the scoreboard for their team. Mr. Sil does a lot for this school, and I don't think anyone disagrees with that statement. He will keep doing what he does for the school, and everyone loves Sil. Besides he wears terrific socks.

## Mr. Bless

*By Yah Boi*

I met Mr. Bless on a hike last summer on Crotched Mountain. From last summer, the first time I met him, I knew he was going to be a great librarian. When I reached the top of the mountain someone introduced Mr. Bless to me. Now I don't go to the library that much but when I do he is always being nice and helping kids out. He also enjoys going to the gym, and let me say this, Mr. Bless is a straight baller! When I was playing soccer for the SMS team after practices we would walk by the gym to get to the locker rooms and Mr. Bless was in the gym almost every day practicing basketball. He would be shooting three pointers and making them consistently. He would shoot and shoot and shoot until he felt like stopping. During spirit week he dressed up as Captain Jack from the Pirates of the Caribbean with all the makeup, he looked almost exactly like Captain Jack. This is only his first year at SMS but I am sure he will be here for a while. Kids love Mr. Bless, in fact, some say he is the best school librarian they ever had! He has made the library a better place by rearranging the bookshelves to create more space to walk, helping students find books and teaching them how to find the books, and by letting the library be open for recess so that students who don't like going outside or need something to do at indoor recess can go to the library. He teaches a fifth grade class. He also teaches you how to put the books back and a trick to remember where you put the book you wanted to check out. That trick is when you take a book to look at it but you need to remember where you put it you take the book next to the one you chose at put it on its side so it's farther out than the other books. When you check out the book or put the book back you take the book you put on a side and put it back the way it was. Mr. Bless has only been here for a year and students already love him!