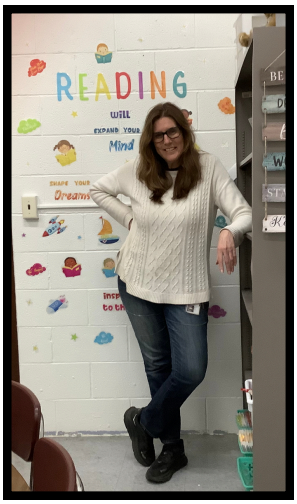
Marlboro Elementary School • THE MES TIMES • May 2026

THIRTY-TWO YEARS OF BEING A DUKE

MARLBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAYS "GOODBYE" TO MRS. ROBERTS



Hudson Barley and Lauren Tubbs



Mrs. Roberts is a teacher at MES who has been teaching in Marlboro for 32 years. She started as an aid and then a teacher and is now an AIS reading teacher. AIS stands for Academic Intervention Services. In June, she is finally retiring.

Mrs. Roberts went to school for teaching and got a degree at Suffolk County Community College. She got her bachelor's degree at Dowing College for elementary education. Then she went to Mount Saint Mary's for her master's degree. Mrs. Roberts is a life long learner and has always continued taking classes in our community.

She first began teaching at Milton Elementary School. Her favorite subject to teach is reading. Mrs. Roberts has worked in many places but her favorite place she taught was second grade where she worked with Ms. Barone for nine years. Even though she loved second grade, Mrs. Roberts said "If I ever were to go back to a grade, I would go back to 5th grade because fifth graders were very mature."

When we met with Mrs. Roberts she said when she retires she would love to travel and read more. Mrs. Roberts always has a smile on her face and she will be greatly missed at MES.

WILLY WONKA, A REALLY "SWEET" EXPERIENCE

Daze Zhu, Zoey Baggatta and Tristan Sapida

The fifth grade students of the Marlboro Elementary School witnessed the amazing play "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" that the Marlboro Middle School put on. Despite having to be made shorter, and excluding a final part, the middle schoolers still were able to make it the best they could. The play included all the students crossing the street to enter the middle school. Fortunately, police officers were willing to stop and direct traffic to ensure our students and teachers would stay safe. The students were seated in rows of chairs in the gymnasium and were able to watch as the play began showing key elements and it showed scenes that exploded with color! The actors and actresses were very good at their roles and they were kind and funny. It was like stepping into a real life chocolate factory! The middle school was still able to express many things that truly made it a wonderful experience! A lot of us can agree, it was amazing!



WILLY WONKA AND THE OOMPA LOOMPAS. #CHILLVIBESINTHEFACTORY

REPORTER, DAZE ZHU ASKED THOSE ATTENDING THE PLAY:

"Do you have a favorite character? If yes, who is it?"

- **"WILLY WONKA WAS MY FAVORITE"- OWEN LUTZ**
- "My favorite character is Charlie"- Leah Luis
- "Violet"- Elanie Melendez
- **"THE OOMPA LOOMPAS"- BRADEN MONTGOMERY**
- "Yes, Augustus"- Richard Gordon

MRS. THOMAS: THE HEART OF MES

Valerie Espinal and Lucy Lennon

Mrs. Thomas has an important job. So the MES Times went to the core of our school, to find out more.

Many people have been curious about Mrs. Thomas' job and past employment. Many have wondered: *What does her job really consist of outside of wearing funny hats and dressing up? What has she done in the past to make her such an amazing principal?* Lucy and Valerie dove deep into the head spot of MES.

Long before she became a principal, Mrs. Thomas was a teacher at S.S. Seward High in Florida, NY. But from what she told us she must have been a really good teacher at high school too. Some of her students at that school have gone on to do big and amazing things. For example, one of her former students, used to bring Mrs. Thomas' food and baked goods. Mrs. Thomas would give her kind, honest feedback and that student was inspired to go to culinary school and became a great chef. This student is just one of an ongoing list of proof of how great of a teacher/principal Mrs. Thomas is.

A few years after that, Mrs.Thomas went up to our high school: MHS! She became an assistant principal there. She only spent two years as assistant principal. As her skills as a principal improved, she decided to come down to the elementary school and be our principal.

Mrs. Thomas has always loved working with kids. "I think love cannot be overstated," she said with a smile. Mrs. Thomas clearly loves all her students here at MES. She loves the kids, so it must be hard for her that the 5th graders are moving up to go up to the middle school. She cried a little bit. It is an emotional time for us all. But Mrs.Thomas will have us in her hearts.

To wrap it up, Lucy and Val asked Mrs. Thomas to describe a normal day for her. She said,

"It changes alot!" She describes her day as unpredictable but good. The first half of her day goes by like this:

1. She always tries to start her day by greeting her staff in the morning.
2. She is part of the welcoming committee, so she goes to see the students.
3 . This next period for her is for meetings with faculty/staff and parents.
4. She likes to drop by and see the students in the cafeteria before lunch
5. Lunchtime!

In conclusion, our principal plays a very important role in the school. Now we all know the behind-the-scenes of the very special part played by her.



ASIAN LADY BEETLES, FRIEND OR FOE?

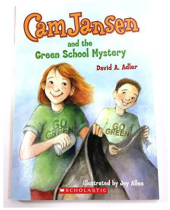
Hailey Kotchie

The multicolored Asian lady beetle [Harmonia Axyridis] is an invasive species, native to Asia, introduced to North America and Europe for biological pest control. They can be identified by a black "M" or "W" behind their head and they can vary from orange to red. These lady beetles are very invasive; while introduced intentionally for agricultural pest control, they have spread rapidly. Asian Lady beetles are household meanies, especially in fall when they are on and inside homes. Native ladybugs are all gentle species that have been displaced by the Asian lady beetle. The most common native ladybug in North America is the Convergent ladybug but it too has been dropped in numbers because of the invasive asian lady beetles.You might be wondering why these ladybugs are bad and how they are good; they are bad because they invade in other people's homes. And they are good because they keep away mites that damage gardens and crops. They can also be harmful and bite if they feel threatened.

An Asian lady beetle bite can hurt but you will not hurt for long. Usually it will feel like a little sting or pinch. Do not worry if you get bit by one you can apply some of anti-itch cream!



ATTENTION 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD GRADERS, CAM JANSEN AND THE GREEN SCHOOL MYSTERY, IS THE BOOK FOR YOU! READ MORE TO FIND OUT.



A book review by Logan Simmons.

This book is amazing. It has everything: a mystery, funny jokes, and a character with a cool super power. Cam's school has worked really hard collecting dimes from recycling bottles to pay for a skylight that will make the school cleaner for the environment. But when the principal goes to look for the dimes, they are gone. In the book it says, "Dr. Prell looked in the box. When Cam and Eric looked, several bricks were in the box, but the dimes were gone!" Where could the dimes have disappeared to? Read this story to find out!

This book was a delight and the characters were memorable and hilarious. Cam Jansen and the Green School Mystery was a phenomenal book and I would recommend it to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders 100%!

WHAT'S ON YOUR LUNCH PLATE?



By: Bianca Massarone

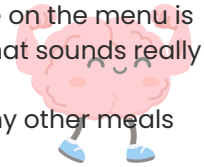
Have you ever wondered which lunch is the most popular choice here at MES? Well, I can answer your question. I asked Ms. Cunningham's third grade class which lunches were their favorites and which were...NOT! Read to find out the best and the worst.

The favorite lunch choices, surprisingly, were cheesy bread sticks and grilled cheese. The least favorite choices are all the chicken lunches, burgers, and meatballs. The student feedback centered around flavor and texture. They found the chicken to lack flavor and would like the cheese melted on the burger.

One thing these hungry kids would like to see on the menu is an Asian offering of chicken with fried rice. That sounds really good as a meal for lunch.

Next month, we will vote to see if there are any other meals that you guys want to see in the cafeterias.

Remember to eat healthy so you can grow big and strong!



SAY "HELLO" TO THE DUKE DOG

Amelia Lawrence

How do you feel about the current school mascot? Do you think we could use a change? The current school mascot is scary or even a little creepy. The head is too large and doesn't match up with the size of the body. Also, it is a tad unwelcoming. I think we need a change in our mascot. I think others most likely agree that the mascot is scary.

A group of friends came up with an awesome idea, what if our mascot was a dog? A dog would make the perfect mascot. After voting, the students selected dachshund (wiener dog) over a golden retriever.

The name of the new mascot would be **The Duke Dog**. He would be a boy because a duke is a boy. The Duke Dog would be cuter and more welcoming than the Duke mascot we currently have. One quality that the Duke Dog has that the current Duke doesn't is, appearance. The Duke may seem like the right mascot but is he really giving off the message we want? We all have seen the cartoon version of the Duke that we use here at MES, but he looks much different than the high school Duke. One last quality that would make the dog a better mascot is that the dog is more friendly and welcoming. I hope the mascot matters to you as much as it does to me. Maybe one day our mascot will change and when that day does come, you can know that you were part of the change.





Our current mascot and our dream for the future

Spring Has Sprung BY: MARKIELIA BOSWELL

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PARADE
GRASS
BOING
BLOSSOM
TREE
FLAG
FLOWERS
CARNIVAL
BBQ
SUN
WATER
WARMTH
PARK
POLLEN
TRAMPOLINE



Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9627276/

MEET THE NEWSPAPER CLUB



Zoey Bagatta, Hudson Barley, Markielia Boswell, Valerie Espinal, Hailey Kotchie, Amelia Lawrence, Lucy Lennon, Bianca Massarone, Tristan Sapida, Logan Simmons, Lauren Tubbs, and Daze Zhu

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