

AMAGANSETT SCHOOL
320 Main Street
Amagansett, NY 11930

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Amagansett School News



Fall 2023

Creativity Inspired by Nature

Student artists have been inspired by nature and used their drawing and painting skills to render flowers and plants that we see in our backyards. In Mr. Fargione’s art class, students studied small bouquets of flowers on their tables and, with an artistic eye, rendered colorful drawings in their sketch books of the individual plants and flowers.

Younger students stamped ferns, flowers and other pieces of nature’s bounty onto colorful paper canvases. Additionally, students cut out a construction paper butterfly and pasted geometric shapes and flowers on it to create a collage. Using this inspiration, they created artistic works that decorate the hallway for peers to admire.



Learning About Fire Prevention



The Amagansett Fire Department welcomed each Amagansett School grade level for a fire safety presentation on Oct. 11 and 12. The district is lucky that this amazing resource is a short walk from the school. Classes journeyed to the fire department, where the volunteer firefighters and ambulance members demonstrated fire safety techniques and introduced the students to the inner workings of both the fire trucks and ambulances. At the school’s “Wake Up Amagansett” assembly on Oct. 13, the Amagansett Fire Department was enthusiastically thanked, and the field trips warmly remembered by students. Amagansett School’s Mr. McElroy, also a member of the East Marion Fire Department, reinforced fire safety at the school assembly.

Leadership Council Continues to Serve

The Amagansett School Leadership Council, led by advisors Kelly White and Shawn Mitchell, recently embarked on an afternoon of gleaning for the benefit of local churches and food pantries. Gleaning is the collection of leftover crops from farmers’ fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest crops.

On Oct. 19, Sadie Morris from Quail Hill Farm discussed gleaning with the sixth graders and instructed them on how to bunch kale and pick potatoes. The students took to the fields to help harvest extra produce that would be used to feed those in need, collecting 55 pounds of potatoes and 27 pounds of greens.

Leadership Council members are not new to serving. After last school year’s “Soup”er Bowl collection, the group helped stock donations at the East Hampton Food Pantry.

The Leadership Council is comprised of sixth grade members. Each student applied by completing a leadership application and describing how their individual strengths would benefit certain responsibilities of the group.



Amagansett School Recognized as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education announced that Amagansett School is officially recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2023. The school was one of only three Long Island schools and 22 New York schools that received this remarkable recognition.

The National Blue Ribbon School award for Amagansett School is based on the overall academic performance of all students. Amagansett School qualified as a National Blue Ribbon School in the Exemplary High-Performing School category, as it is considered among New York State’s highest-performing schools on measures of state assessments or nationally normed tests. To meet the standards for nomination as an Exemplary High-Performing School, Amagansett School students performed in the top 15% in New York State in reading/English language arts and math.

During the 2022-23 school year, Principal Maria Dorr led a team of Amagansett educators through a comprehensive application process. Throughout the process, the team

focused on how the school continually assesses and adjusts curriculum and teaching strategies to meet the evolving needs of diverse students.

Upon learning that the U.S. Department of Education selected Amagansett School, Principal Dorr remarked, “Through unwavering dedication to academic excellence, innovation and the nurturing of young minds, Amagansett School has truly earned its place among the elite. This National Blue Ribbon recognition is a testament to the motivated students, dedicated teachers and supportive community that make our school a beacon of inspiration and achievement. This award symbolizes our commitment to raising it even higher.”

According to the U.S. Department of Education, “National Blue Ribbon School leaders articulate a vision of excellence and hold everyone to high standards. They demonstrate effective and innovative teaching and learning, and the schools value

and support teachers and staff through meaningful professional learning. Data from many sources are used to drive instruction and every student strives for success. Families, communities and educators work together toward common goals.”

In November 2023, representatives from Amagansett School will travel to Washington, D.C., for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Ceremony where they will receive the National Blue Ribbon School flag and a commemorative plaque.



A Message From the Interim Superintendent

RICHARD LOESCHNER, FALL 2023

Dear Amagansett School Community,

Like the coming of fall, the 2023-2024 school year has been one of excitement and change.

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I assume the role of interim superintendent of schools and have already begun to call Amagansett School my home. I would like to thank the Board of Education, administration and faculty for welcoming me to this new leadership role. I am eager to build upon the outstanding accomplishments of the school district. Working together as a school community, I believe we will successfully continue our tradition of preparing our students for academic success and a lifelong love of learning.

The school year is in full swing and students have become acclimated to their daily schedules and courses of study. The crisp fall weather has allowed students to learn outside of the classroom, whether

on the playground or during several field trips. On Halloween, students and teachers took the annual trek through the village, parading as ghosts and goblins, superheroes and movie characters. The fun-filled activity forged even stronger relationships between home, school and the community.

The holidays are approaching, and we look forward to the many activities that this time of year brings. In honor of those who have served, Amagansett School held the Veterans Day Assembly with presentations and songs, followed by coffee and bagels for local veterans. We will also hold the annual Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving Feast and holiday concert, events that will surely place our spirits in the mood for giving.

The holiday season is an important time for all of us to come together and take care of those in our community who are in need and are less fortunate. I encourage each of you to perform one

act of kindness, whether you collect food or clothes for the needy, volunteer at a food bank or take care of an elderly neighbor. By performing these simple acts of kindness, we teach our children the importance of giving back to the community, one of the cornerstones of our school district.

If we have not had the chance to personally meet, please stop to say hello while picking up or dropping off your children or at any of the district's various events and activities. My door is always open, and I look forward to meeting all of you. On behalf of the district's Board of Education, administrative team and staff, we thank you for your past support and hope you and your family have an exciting and successful school year.

Sincerely,
Richard Loeschner
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Amagansett Welcomes Richard Loeschner

The Board of Education and the Amagansett community welcomes Richard Loeschner, who was recently appointed interim superintendent of schools for what is anticipated as an engagement that will last through the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Loeschner retired earlier this fall as superintendent of the Brentwood Union Free School District where he had served in his role as superintendent since 2017. During his 24-year career in Brentwood, Mr. Loeschner served as math department chair and principal of South Middle School and Brentwood High School. In 2016, he

was named New York State's Principal of the Year.

"We believe that Mr. Loeschner's vast professional experience and congenial demeanor make him an excellent choice for this appointment," the Board of Education said in a letter to the community. "We will embrace the positive aspects that this leadership change will ultimately bring to the Amagansett School and community."

In the coming weeks, the Board will interview search consultants and select a firm to create a customized process for the district's search for a permanent



school superintendent. This will include community engagement, creation of a candidate profile, advertising, recruitment, screening of applications and consultation

with the Board through interview rounds and selection. The Board will communicate regularly with residents about the progress of the search.

A Trip to LongHouse Reserve

Amagansett School's field trips to LongHouse Reserve were full of wonder and discovery. Students explored the fascinating world of sculpture within the gardens, appreciating the diverse forms and materials artists use to create. Notable favorites included Ai Weiwei's "Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads," Buckminster Fuller's "Fly's Eye Dome" and Yoko Ono's "Play it by Trust." Students had a blast sharing their interpretations of some abstract works on display, like De Kooning's "Reclining Figure" and Dale Chihuly's "Cobalt Reeds." Students were

also treated to an up-close encounter with J. Oscar Molina's "Children of the World" installation, which focuses on migration.

Enroute to each sculpture, students engaged their senses to connect with nature. A quiet moment at Jack's Pond helped to spot dozens of frogs warming up on lily pads. A careful touch allowed students to discover the soft, textured bark of the towering redwoods on site. Students even spotted a tiny turtle crossing one of the footpaths.

The experience sparked creativity and provided a newfound appreciation



for this local gem and its offerings. To keep updated on upcoming education experiences and family events, visit Longhouse.org.

Third Grade Community Relations

Amagansett School third grade has partnered with the East Hampton Historical Society to design experiential endeavors and field trips centered on the school's social studies curriculum.

Their current unit of study in social studies is Communities Past and Present, where third grade historians are studying how architecture, transportation and recreation in a community change over time, specifically in our local community.

The students visited four local museums through our community relations with the East Hampton Historical Society: Clinton Academy, East Hampton Town Marine Museum, Gardiner Windmill, and Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran Studio/Historic

Artists' Homes & Studios. After their trip to the Gardiner Windmill, student researchers engaged in a multidisciplinary curriculum extension back in the classroom. Students conducted inquiry research on the structure and purpose of the windmill and crafted beautifully drawn pictures to accompany their published pieces.

Third grade was also selected to showcase research and artwork at the History Festival that took place at the historic Mulford Farm in East Hampton on Oct. 1.

Thank you to the East Hampton Historical Society for partnering with our third grade team to make learning so meaningful this year.



Amagansett School Hosts the ANNUAL RAG-A-MUFFIN PARADE

After a schoolwide dance party, the Amagansett School's annual Rag-A-Muffin parade took off at 2 p.m. on Halloween day. This charming tradition had students and teachers parading through the village in costume, trick-or-treating along the way. The generosity and the enthusiasm of the local community was unparalleled. Students walked from across the school, down Main Street and crossed at the Mobile station. Classroom decorated pumpkins and colorful mums adorned the school steps. This year, the PTA also held a bake sale on the front lawn. It was a day of celebration that was enjoyed by everyone and not soon to be forgotten.

