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good books, biking, walking, gardening, volunteering, and most of all to “get up when I want to.”



Holly Gagne, Special Education Teacher, 27 years

Currently, Holly has been working with students from kindergarten through the fourth grade, but at one point she worked with all grades. She described her work as having “the honor of working with students requiring specialized instruction,” as well as their therapists, other classroom teachers, and para-educators. About AE/MS and the Andover community in general, she feels that they “have created an atmosphere where students can learn and flourish. There is much shared in a very supportive environment. I hope this is able to continue and grow.”

For all the students she is leaving behind, her wishes are for them to “have fun. Be open to new adventures and learning experiences. Show kindness whenever you can. And always, always, have a good book close at hand.”

Holly had many words of praise for Principal Slayton. She said that she “has been a constant, steady presence these past 20-plus years. She has done so much for AE/MS, but I think her shining star is the way she has blended the school and town together into a wonderful learning community. Jane

has created many opportunities over the years for the two to blend together, sharing skills and teaching each other. There is a strong sense of acceptance felt by each group.”

About Gail Parenteau, she also referred to her as “Saint Gail.” Their school “motto” is to ask Gail when in doubt. “She can rattle off needed addresses and phone numbers from memory, tell us where to look for specific supplies, and organize breakfast for 400 in 30 minutes.”

For retirement, Holly said she isn’t sure what she will do. These are “uncertain times.” Working part-time in a small shop is a possibility, but mostly she has “two beautiful granddaughters who are looking forward to spending more time with their Grandma.”



Lynn Tiede, Special Education Teacher, 23 years

In her role as a middle school special education teacher, Lynn said what she most loved was “working with students who are struggling and helping them become stronger learners; and the staff – they are the greatest!” Her wish for AE/MS is for it to continue its strong partnership with the community “because without that community support, we would not have seen the success we have experienced over the years.”

When asked about what she would say to her students, she said her goal has

“always been to teach students a good work ethic that would prepare them to be successful community members throughout their lives. I know I could be tough and had high expectations for them, but I wanted them always to be happy and to feel good about themselves in school so that they could become anything they set their minds to.”

She would also like to thank the Andover community for being so supportive of her as a teacher and “for giving me the chance to work with your children over the past 23 years. The

friendships and memories that have been made while at AE/MS will always be cherished memories for me.”

Lynn’s memories about working with Jane Slayton as the Principal of AE/MS are very complimentary. She said that they “have shared some wonderful experiences over the years” and that Jane always gave her good advice and support. “Her friendship is one that I will cherish for years to come.”

About Gail Parenteau, she said that “Gail is one in a million. Her giving
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