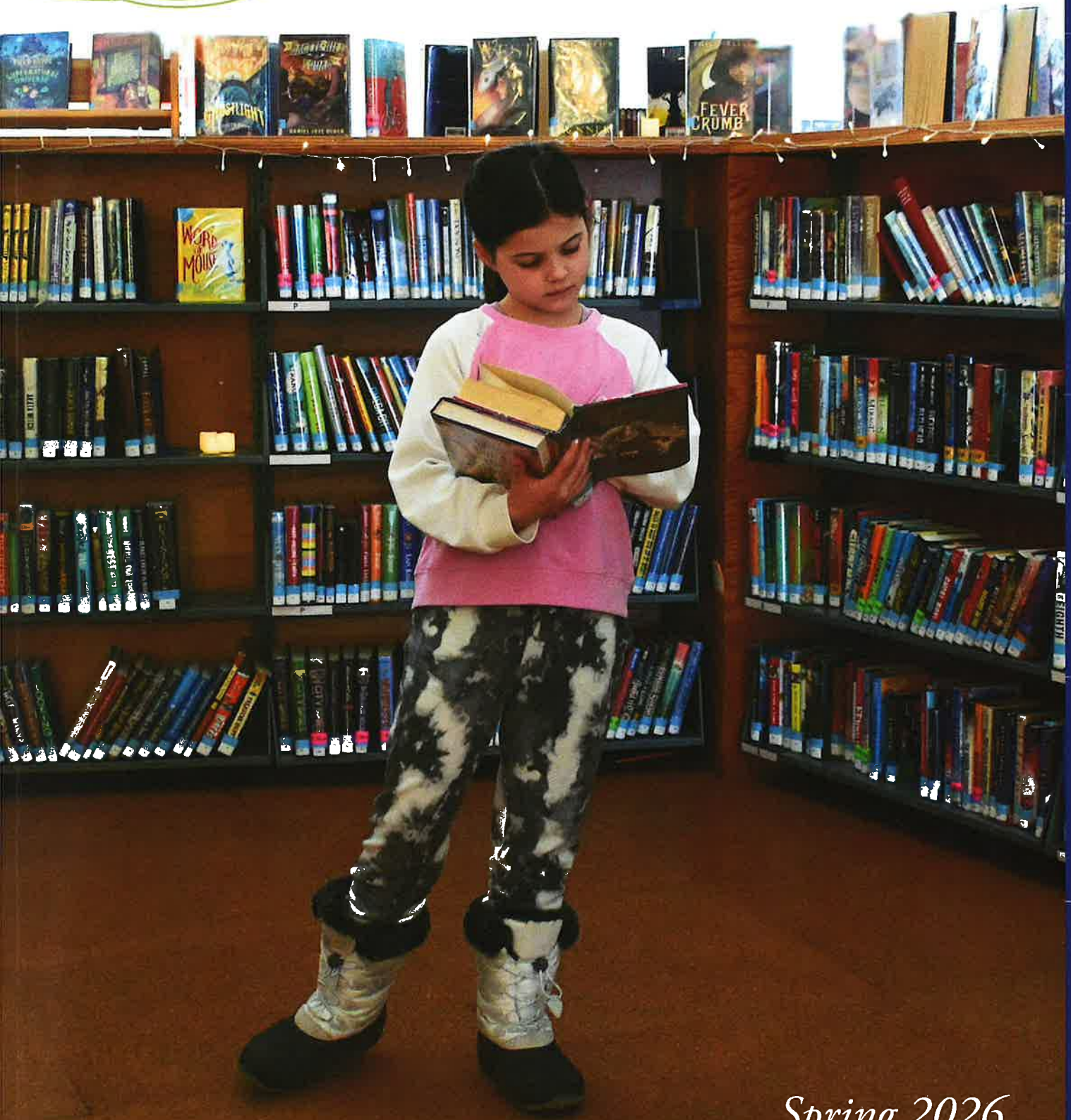




Sharing Our Stories



Spring 2026

Our Alumni

Sharing Their Stories

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s



James Goodale '48

James Goodale, known as the "Father of Reporters' Privilege" has had a tremendous impact on American journalism. He was selected by *The New York Times* at 29 years old to be general counsel, and later, represented *The Times* in four Supreme Court Cases, including the "Pentagon Papers case".

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Len Clarke '52

Len Clarke looks back with pride on his participation in the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march. "In 1963, as a young Washington staffer, I attended the rally when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his 'I Have a Dream' speech. I remember feeling hopeful—we all felt justice was coming."

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Steve Grossman '60

"Shady Hill helped define me," said Steve Grossman, a Shady Hill alum who graduated in 1960.

Steve was a student at Shady Hill from Grade III-IX. He remembers much about his time here, especially Central Subject, which he describes as an immersive way to teach and educate where students "become the people they are studying."

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Jennifer White-Callaghan '79

Jennifer White-Callaghan attended Shady Hill from Grade VII-IX, back when the school went from Beginners to Grade IX.

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1948

James Goodale

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"Shady Hill is the tool for everything I've done", he says, and he attended Shady Hill for ten years. Grade VI was the most important year to him because it was the year that determined the rest of his life. He was asked to go to the Library to read an extra book on top of their curriculum. The librarian introduced him to *Boy on Horseback* and the rest of the books in the series, but he was told that he was too young to read the entire collection. He disobeyed and the book introduced him to a world of being a fighting journalist. This sparked his interest in journalism and led to him reading several more autobiographies and novels about the First Amendment, such as *Yankee from Olympus*. This was the starting point for his momentous career shaped around the first amendment.



Times lawyers Lawrence J. McKay, Floyd Abrams, Alexander Bickel, James Goodale and William Hegarty leaving the Supreme Court following argument of the case. Immediately before that argument, Solicitor General Irwin Griswold surprised the *Times* by claiming 11 new violations of national security in the Pentagon Papers. New York *Times* Photo.



After Shady Hill, James attended Pomfret School, Yale University, and the University of Chicago, where he later was inducted into the Pomfret Athletic Hall of Fame and received the George H.W. Bush '48 Lifetime of Leadership Award, given to outstanding Yale athletes for the example of leadership they set since graduation. These experiences gave him a strong foundation of courage and work ethic. He was also chosen as one of 200 future rising leaders in the United States by *Time Magazine*.

This fearlessness was needed when James was at the Supreme Court for the Pentagon Papers case. The government tried to scare him with the Espionage Act which could leave him imprisoned. He wasn't petrified because he knew he was in the right. After countless hours of preparation and presentation, they accomplished a huge victory with a 6-3 ruling in their favor.

"Fighting for freedom of the press all started at Shady Hill where I was encouraged to think critically," he says. In November of 2025, *Harper's Magazine* inaugurated the James C. Goodale First Amendment Award to honor "those who exemplify courage, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to the free exchange of ideas."

As he looks back upon his long and storied life, James cites the part Shady Hill played in his career. "The great thing about Shady Hill School is not the curriculum but the attitude. The attitude back then was don't believe everything you are told. Be a contrarian." ●