

# MVHS Pride Welcome New Football Coach

By Henry Bendel  
MVHS '11

Hailing from the Constitution State, now known as Connecticut, newly appointed Head Coach Erik Anderson has been selected to lead the Merrimack Valley Pride football team in its 2010 season. Coming from Spaulding High School in Barre, Vermont, where he coached and led his team to a championship title in Division II in 2008, Coach Anderson is also known widely throughout New England as assistant and head coach at Fair Haven, Vermont; Orange, Massachusetts; and most recently at Barre, Vermont.

Coach Anderson was raised in Manchester, Connecticut, only a few miles from Hartford. Shortly after graduating from high school, he joined the United States Army. After complet-

ing his service as an Airborne Ranger, he enrolled in Castleton State College, graduating with a degree in Physical Education in 2005.

Looking forward to the 2010 Merrimack Valley High School football season, Coach Anderson would like to "feel his way through it." His main focus is to "allow the kids to have fun, produce a clean-cut program, and come out of the season feeling that they accomplished something great and have learned important things throughout the whole process." Coach Anderson will also teach Physical Education at MVHS.

As the season unfolds, it begins a new chapter in Merrimack Valley High School history and promises to be a great experience for returning players including, from Andover, senior Henry Bendel and junior Nick Shaw.

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ting some much-needed trimming and brush removal.

The most noticeable difference at this point has been the removal of the ugly, twisted fence that separated the afterschool program from the parking lot. John Champagne did a super job removing the fence and putting large boulders and tiger lilies in its place. It is such a nicer entrance now.

Keep AE/MS in mind whenever you have an overabundance of fruit and vegetables in your gardens in early fall. We always welcome adding them to our lunch program.

Our school garden is flourishing! Thank you to those who have stopped in to weed this summer. The students were able to enjoy lettuce, swiss chard, and kale before the school year ended.

We still have lots of lettuce. If you are in the neighborhood, feel free to pick some to take home.

Peas were delicious! Some of the carrots didn't thrive, and Kat Darling has planted more. Soon there will be lots of squash. There is already zucchini.

We are grateful to Kat Darling for establishing the school garden program.

Interested third grade students were given cabbage plants at the end of the year to either plant and enjoy or to take part in growing the biggest cabbage ever.

I planted one at school, and it is pretty huge already. Unfortunately, I planted it in the flower garden, which now does not seem like the best location.

Those interested in the contest should be ready to creatively photograph their cabbage at the end of August. Cabbages do not need to be brought in to school. We will be certain to share some cabbage photos with *The Andover Beacon*.

### Tutoring

Summer school and math tutoring are still in session. Many students have

been coming and going and taking advantage of these opportunities. The math tutoring is new this year and appears to be working out nicely. Students are receiving an hour of individual attention rather than working within a group or class. The tutoring began after the Fourth of July holiday and will run through mid-August. The tutoring was grant-funded and does not come from school budget.

Kindergarten Orientation is Monday, August 23. The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 25. The 1st through 4th Grade Open House is September 23. The 5th through 8th Grade Open House is September 9. School Picture day is September 24.

I know for many it is still hard to see summer come to an end on August 25, but having the students start summer vacation on June 15 was a wonderful pay-off for the early start. Our building is not conducive for learning in the hot days of late June.

Soccer season will start in late August for 7th and 8th grade students. Be sure students have had physicals and that we have a copy. Jim Tucker will send out a mailing to all 7th and 8th grade students regarding soccer practice dates and specifics.

I must admit I am starting to look forward to August 25, when classrooms are full of students and the school building comes alive. The start of a new school year is such a special time. Everyone returns energized, enthusiastic, and ready to get back into the academic routine that the school year brings with it.

It is nice that our calendar is designed to ease everyone back into the routine. Students will attend three days in August, followed by two four-day weeks as we maneuver around Labor Day.

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tures and full sunshine kept everyone seeking shade and refreshments, but all left happy.

Next was a fun-filled day at Mystic Seaport in Mystic, Connecticut. The kids enjoyed touring the re-created 19th century village by horse and carriage. They experimented with ropes and knots, learned about rope making, and explored the last surviving wooden whaling ship, the *Charles W. Morgan*, built in 1841 and under restoration.

The trip also included visits to the Beardsley Zoo and the PT Barnum Museum, which celebrates the life of the showman of Barnum and Bailey Circus fame. Barnum attracted patrons by promoting human and animal oddities and was the first to move his circus by train.

The travelers visited Seaside Park on Friday for an afternoon of play in the ocean. Fireworks scheduled for the evening were cancelled because of damage from a small tornado that had touched down in Bridgeport the previous day. We observed damaged billboards and chimneys. One gallery of the Barnum Museum was closed during our visit because of two broken plate glass windows.

The team members were once again proud ambassadors for the town of Andover. Wherever we went, they were courteous and respectful. The team works hard during the year and appreciates the continued support of our community that makes these special experiences possible.

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