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AE/MS Recognizes Volunteers Of The Year

By Jane Slayton
Principal, AE/MS

It has become an annual tradition at the eighth grade graduation to bestow the AE/MS Volunteer of the Year Award. The Andover Elementary/Middle School is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers, so choosing one person or a group is always difficult. AE/MS runs on volunteers and their contributions.

Proctor students Tim Braley and Madison Powers are among the many AE/MS graduates who have returned to volunteer at AE/MS over the years. The AE/MS Volunteers of the Year for 2012 are all those AE/MS grads.
Photo: Chuck Will

The Volunteer of the Year Award for 2012 was awarded to a group – a very large group. AE/MS recognized the high school students who continue to contribute so much to their former school. It is not unusual for our high school students to return and volunteer, but this particular year we have been amazed at the vast number of students and the time and energy that they have given to AE/MS. The students return to our school from Proctor Academy, Merrimack Valley High School, Bishop Brady High School, and other schools.

Proctor students Tim Braley and Madison Powers spent a week in the first grade this year helping with reading, writing, mathematics, and recess. This was coordinated through Brenda Godwin, who also spent the week at AE/MS helping wherever needed. Brenda has brought her students over for years to help, and Proctor's week of community service is always appreciated. Madison even returned after his own school year ended and finished out the school year at AE/MS in the first grade.

Rosie Snyder volunteered in grade two for a week and then continued to check in with "her" second graders for the remainder of the school year. Jake Hubbard volunteered in the third grade. Steele Henderson has come back several times from Bishop Brady High School and focused his work on improvements to the school grounds.

MVHS students Nick Terwilliger and Beven O'Donnell faithfully show up after school every Monday and Wednesday to update the lobby calendar board and help with recycling.

SHARE Day, a community day overflowing with volunteers, brought several high school students back for the day. Emily Lance helped with a craft workshop. Maddy Pfeifer assisted Mrs. Pellegrino with a cake decorating workshop, while Nick Barton and Hannah Munson served as assistant Zumba teachers. Becca Lance, Shawna Barton, and Brianna Keniston were all workshop leaders. Nick Terwilliger and Sam Barrett contributed to the musical entertainment in the afternoon.

Michaela Trefethen spent three weeks in grade two teaching sign language and assisting Ms. Hildebrand. Her help was valued when it came to play and prop production. Michaela and the students made an entertaining DVD to share with their families. Michaela also helped chaperone the field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. Second graders *love* Michaela!

Megan Hanscom spent three weeks in grade six focusing on science and art. Unfortunately for her, she was here for the puberty unit (always interesting in sixth grade). Megan then returned to AE/MS in the evening and spent hours painting a beautiful mural in the first grade hallway. She also shared her impressive photography skills with the art classes, performed in Andover Idol, and helped lead the sixth and seventh grade field trip at the end of the school year. She also made herself available on very short notice to present an award at graduation.

Breanna Davis transformed the AE/MS courtyard in a day! Breanna raised the funds and provided the labor to landscape the corner of the courtyard near the front entrance. She labeled the bushes and perennials to make it more educational for the students. It really looks nice! Please come for a garden tour anytime.

Several of the seniors from Andover returned from MVHS this spring to share with the seventh and eighth grade students what to expect from the Senior Project experience. Their advice was helpful, and their presentations were interesting. The seniors who returned included Jesse Coffey, Brendan Coll, Chantel

See Volunteers *on page 47*