

# SPELLING BEE

By Brenda Jurta  
AE/MS Reading Tutor

The AE/MS Spelling Bee was held on February 2 in the school library. Twenty-seven contestants from grades four through eight represented their classes. Words were taken from Paid-eia, the Scripps National Spelling Bee booklet used in the competitions.

It was exciting as the students continued to spell through eight rounds of words. The school champion, Madison Powers, grade four, won the Bee by spelling "varnish" and "ribbon" correctly. The runner-up was Luke Dimond, grade six.

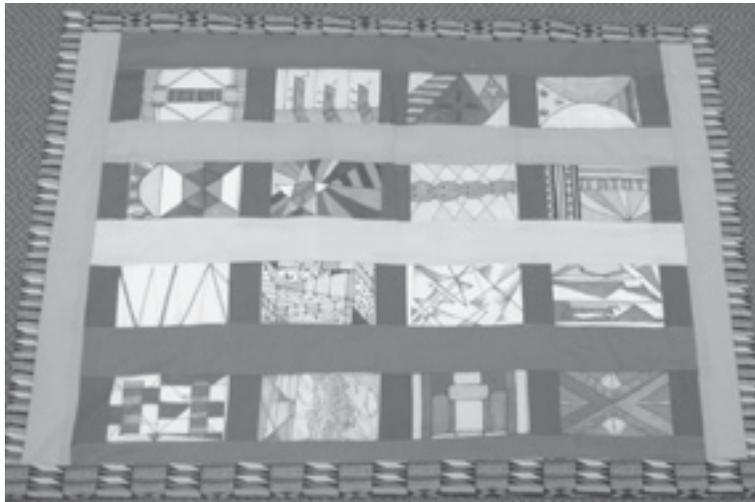


Luke Dimond, Mrs. Jurta, and Madison Powers. Photo by Gretchen Hildebrand

Madison will compete in the Area Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Union

Leader and New Hampshire Sunday News in conjunction with the New Hampshire Elks. The Area Bee will be held at the Franklin Lodge of Elks on Saturday, March 12 at 2 PM.

Madison, we are rooting for you and wish you the best!



A wallhanging made by Creating Cultural Consciousness participants. Photo by Gretchen Hildebrand

## AE/MS Teacher Teaches Teachers

Plymouth State University hosted the 10th Annual Integrated Arts Conference on Saturday January 29. The Plymouth Writing Project (PWP) and the Educational Theatre Collaborative (ETC) co-sponsored this highly successful event attended by teachers from all over New England.

Gretchen Hildebrand, AE/MS second grade teacher and PWP staff, led two sessions of Creating Cultural Consciousness, an exploration of the role that music, writing, photography, storytelling, drama, visual arts, and textile arts play in generating global awareness and in

bringing our already "small world" into a more joyous perspective for students than is usually offered by the media.

Teachers at this workshop were able to peruse Ms. Hildebrand's collection of scores of children's story books, picture books, and song books that help to bring the world to our understanding and appreciation.

Ms. Hildebrand played music of many cultures (including percussion-playing elephants of Thailand), and the participants decorated fabric to recreate a form of Ghana's world-renowned Kente cloth, American style...in a wallhanging.

Asked how teachers can afford to cram more into a full teaching day by introducing curricula that stimulate a child's global awareness, Ms. Hildebrand's response was simple. "How can teachers afford *not to*? As educators, we must consciously impart information leading to understanding, tolerance, and peace if our children and their children are to have a world safe enough in which to live in freedom and good health."

## Science Fair

Don't miss the AE/MS Science Fair and Invention Convention on March 24 at 6:30 PM. There will be a demonstration of Dean Kamen's IBOT Mobility System, which could someday replace wheelchairs.

## Book Review: The Thief Lord

Reviewed by Ben Cox  
AE/MS Fourth Grade

Do you like to read adventures or books about thieves and detectives? Then you should read *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke. The genre is realistic fiction with a little bit of magic.

The story takes place in Venice, Italy, where there are no roads, only canals. So they use boats to get around.

The book has many characters. Some are smart and sneaky, some are greedy and untrustworthy. Here are the main ones:

Prosper is a brave teenager who cares for his brother Bo. He doesn't know what happened to his parents and he doesn't want to live with his aunt, so he ran away from home.

Victor is a detective with bad luck. He is trying to catch Prosper and Bo to return them to their aunt.

Scipio is a teenager who calls himself the Thief Lord. He is very sneaky and clever and although he is rich, he steals a lot of money to help the homeless kids. Barbarossa is very greedy and not to be trusted.

The problem is a missing merry-go-round. Its magic makes people turn young. Everyone wants the merry-go-round. In the end, Barbarossa finds the missing merry-go-round, but he wishes he didn't.

## Family Barn Dance

By Carmen Bates  
For the Beacon

On February 17 teachers, students, and members of the community came to AE/MS to listen and dance to the music of the Two Fiddlers.

The evening started with a potluck dinner and then everyone put on their dancing shoes. Some had never done this type of dancing before while others knew all the moves. A great time was had by all.

We would like to thank all the people that brought food; the Two Fiddlers, Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman; the piano player, Carolyn Parrot; the guitar player, Paul Hubert; and of course all of the dancers!

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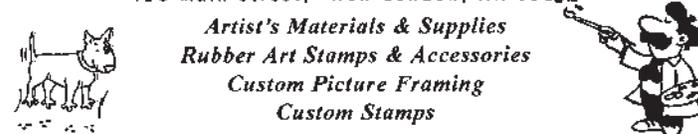
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