A Midsummer's Night Dream
The AE/MS fourth grade staged an elaborate production of Shakespeare's beloved comedy. In this scene (l-r): Bailey Powers as Demetrius, Kelsie Barry as Helena, Eli Shedd as Duke Theseus, Jesika Heath as Hippolyta, Dustin Holmburg as Egeus, Alyson Mullett as Hermia and Molly Comrie as Lysander. Photo: Gail Fitzpatrick

Columbia Shuttle Astronaut To Speak At AE/MS Graduation

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

Jay C. Buckey, Jr. has orbited the Earth 256 times, flown more than 6.3 million miles, logged over 381 hours in space, and will now visit Andover Elementary/Middle School. Jay Buckey will be the keynote speaker at the eighth grade graduation on June 12 at 6:30 PM.

Dr. Buckey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University (1977) and a Doctorate in Medicine from Cornell University in 1981. He interned at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and completed his residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC). Currently, Dr. Buckey is a Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School. He is also a flight surgeon with the US Air Force Reserve.

In 1998 he was a Payload Specialist aboard NASA Space Shuttle Columbia flight STS-90 as part of the Neurolab mission. He was the Payload Specialist for the experiment "Cardiovascular Adaptation to Zero-Gravity" and assisted with other Spacelab Life Sciences experiments. During the 16-day flight, the seven-person crew served as both experiment subjects and operators for 26 life science experiments focusing on the effects of microgravity on the brain and nervous system.

Along with serving as medical director for hyperbaric medicine at DHMC, Dr. Buckey teaches at the Dartmouth Medical School and at Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering.

Dr. Buckey will certainly have words of wisdom to share with Andover's eighth grade scholars.

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AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

It is a bittersweet time at Andover Elementary/Middle School as the year closes and anticipation for next year starts to build. Our eighth grade students will be moving on to Merrimack Valley High School and Proctor Academy. At the end of August, we will welcome a new group of five year olds arriving for kindergarten. Some of our staff members will be leaving the state, and we will fill those positions. It is always difficult to lose staff members.

Staff members who will put on the most miles are Shannon Gray and Dennis Wright. Shannon will relocate to the San Francisco Bay area in California and Dennis to Silver Springs, Florida. Shannon has contributed a lot to AE/MS. In addition to teaching fifth grade for a number of years, she has also coached the Andover One Wheelers and headed up the Yearbook Committee.

Dennis, of course, has been the head custodian for many years and has contributed to almost every aspect of our school community. I am sure I will have him on speed dial next year and will be asking him where this or that is for awhile.

Our Advanced and Intermediate Bands performed in Wilmot's Memorial Day Observance. This is becoming a nice tradition. We also enjoyed the music from all three bands at the AE/MS Spring Concert on May 31.

AE/MS yearbooks will arrive in early June!

Colonial Williamsburg is the destination on Tuesday, June 5 for the eighth grade students and staff. They will board the bus on Tuesday morning and return Thursday evening.

At Colonial Williamsburg, we will find living history in a town much as it was in the years before the American Revolution. The students will meet interpreters of all ages who will help them understand the customs and ways of life in the 1700s. The excursion will be a nice way to end the year with our eighth grade students.

The kindergarten class will officially become first grade students on Monday, June 11 at 6:30 PM at a magical ceremony. Come early for good seating!

The eighth grade graduation is Tuesday, June 12, at 6:30 PM. This is a semi-formal occasion and is usually before a standing-room-only crowd. Twenty-six students will move on to the secondary education phase of their lives. It is a very special evening with student involvement in the program.

The ceremony ends with a slide show that begins with baby pictures of the graduates. Gretchen Hildebrand and Chris Connor compile this sentimental journey every year.

The last day of school for students in kindergarten through grade eight is Friday, June 15. The morning will consist of cooperative and competitive outdoor games. Students and staff will enjoy the annual barbeque provided and hosted by Armand Boisvert and the bus drivers.

A mini-concert by Andover's number one rock group, The Long Tailed Monkeys, will be followed by the seventh grade catapults demonstration and competition. There may even be some surprise entries in the catapult competition this year!

The second grade field trip to Harvard's Museum of Natural Science is a tiring day. Among the students catching a few winks on the bus ride home were (l-r) Jared Duquette, Kevin Barry, and Noah Berry. Photo: Beth Chamberlin

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