



(L-r) Curtis Chamberlin, Carl Hubbard, Lauren Boisvert, and Nick Stiles rehearse for the fourth grade musical, *How to Eat Like a Child and Other Lessons in Not Being a Grown Up*. The fourth graders performed this show to an enthusiastic crowd on May 28. Photo: Beth Mulleavey

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the families and reflected a bit on the history of the class since their arrival in 2000. "This class arrived enthusiastic, curious, and eager to learn from Mrs. Pellegrino in kindergarten. Tonight they leave here just as enthusiastic, eager, and curious as they embark on a new adventure."

Ms. Slayton closed with a short piece from a new Curious George book that fit the occasion. "This class reminds me of Curious George – good little monkeys, but always very, very curious." The students also received *Curious George's First Day of School* book in with their graduation certificates.

Several eighth grade students shared their appreciation for teachers, parents, and learning through poetry and prose. Alexis King remarked, "Students, AE/MS staff members, friends, and family have made this journey to high school possible and fun. That's what counts in my book. The journey should be just as awesome as the destination." Trisha McDonald delivered a beautiful recitation of a poem titled *Each of Us Must Climb Our Separate Mountain* by Nicholas Gordon.

Teachers distributed many academic awards among the 29 graduates. Some

of the teachers were humorous, while for others it was an emotional moment.

Mr. Brandon Adams, guest speaker, delivered a humorous speech filled with important advice for the students to take with them on their journey. Mr. Adams has worked in the middle school this year, and the students have a lot of respect for him. Mr. Adams graduated from AE/MS and then went on to MVHS and eventually college. Mr. Adams has been a very positive role model for the students as well as a teacher and friend.

Graduation certificates were then presented by Principal Jane Slayton, Superintendent Michael Martin, and Andover School Board Chairperson Donald Gould. Students came forward when called to accept their certificate while cameras flashed constantly in the gymnasium.

Families lingered after the ceremony to enjoy the slide show compiled by Gretchen Hildebrand and Chris Connor, which showed the graduates from their newborn year right up through graduation.

The 29 well-prepared students will now attend Merrimack Valley High School, Proctor Academy, Tilton School, and Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut.

New Hampshire Technical Institute.

Kellie St. Jacques will study dairy management at the Thompson School of Applied Science at the University of New Hampshire in Durham.

Keith Towle will study graphic design at the Lakes Region Community College in Laconia.

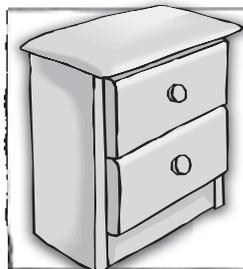
Joshua Wilterdink will attend New Hampshire Technical Institute.

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in Castleton, Vermont.

Abigail Lance won the President's Award, the Principal's Award, an Andover Service Club scholarship, and an Immaculate Conception scholarship. Abby will attend Northeastern University in Boston.

Kevin Roark will study English at



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