Veterans *from page 51*

press our thanks to these brave men and women is running out. Bud recently had the honor of escorting a World War II hero to Washington DC and shared this emotional experience with the audience. The Andover Student Council hopes to have a fundraiser during the school year and donate all funds to Honor Flight New England.

Eighth grade essay contest winners were announced. Samuel Barrett and Maddie Trefethen were awarded books and hats for their winning essays. The topic was "Pearl Harbor Day and September 11 – What do they have in common and what do they mean to our country?" This essay exercise has become a tradition sponsored by Bill Leber.

American Legion Post 40 opened and closed the celebration by posting and retiring the colors. The Andover Middle School Band played several patriotic tunes to the delight of the crowd.

Following the celebration, many veterans stayed behind and enjoyed refreshments and welcomed the opportunity to visit with each other. Andover veteran Sheldon Rich brought in his extensive collection of military memorabilia to display, even though he was not able to attend. Charlie Darling captured on film the annual photo of Andover veterans in attendance (see page 2).

Students and staff members are already brainstorming ideas for next years' celebration. This is definitely one of the most important events at Andover Elementary/Middle School each year.

Bees *from page 52*

Finalists move on to the school level of the Bee.

The assembled group is quiet and tense. Nervous laughter can be heard at times. The students are asked to spell words in order, and our pronouncer and judges follow the same rules as those at the national level. After sometimes many, many rounds, a finalist and runner-up emerge from the group. AE/MS has some very good spellers which often makes for a long contest!

The official list of spelling words is given to the students after the classroom rounds. The list contains 1,150 words divided into sections by language of origin. The division by language of origin enables students to learn several important rules, tips, and guidelines for spelling words in English – the most challenging language of all for spellers.

This year AE/MS kicked off the Spelling Bee by showing *Akeelah and the Bee* to grades four through eight. The showing was Tuesday afternoon before the Thanksgiving break. Do like Akeelah – spell and jump rope!

The AE/MS spelling bee will then take place in mid-December.

HELP WITH H1N1 VACCINATION CLINICS

Seeking medical professionals and others to be vital resources in Greater Sullivan County, a 15 town region from Charlestown to Wilmot, NH. Become a Medical Reserve Corps volunteer. FREE TRAINING provided, including Psychological First Aid, CPR & First-Aid. Help keep your region healthy, while expanding your expertise.

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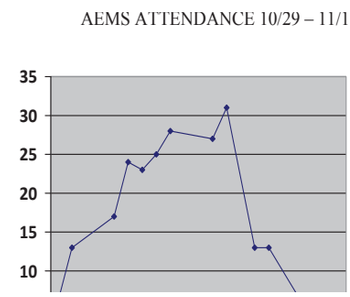
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Flu Peaks And Passes This Fall At AE/MS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

At one point in mid-November, AE/MS had over 30% of its students absent due to flu-like illnesses. Fortunately, as we neared the Thanksgiving break attendance numbers steadily increased until we had a minimal number of students still at home with flu-like symptoms.

For several weeks, New Hampshire has been among the states where the Center for Disease Control has reported widespread influenza-like illness. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is tracking school absences around the state. It is clear that the flu is in our communities, that it is spreading, and that more people will probably be affected before it peaks.



Percent of AE/MS students absent due to flu, Oct. 29 through Nov. 18.

Most cases of flu-like illnesses are now due to the H1N1 virus. We don't know whether the usual "seasonal" flu will arrive later in the fall and winter.

Mrs. Hill, our school nurse, continues to be in close touch with DHHS regarding appropriate policies for prevention and management of illness in our schools. We continue to stress the importance of personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing, coughing into your sleeve, not sharing food or eating utensils, etc.

It is important for children and staff who are sick to stay home from school, as well as from special events such as dances, birthday parties, family events, and other public gatherings. Children should stay home unless seeking medical care until they have no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Sick students were not penalized for staying home. Students have ample opportunity to make up missed work. Parents have been very good about contacting the school to let us know about the status of their child's health and to report whether they have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, body aches, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea).

We continue to encourage all students and staff to get both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines, if possible. This is especially important for children with chronic illnesses such as asthma and other underlying health conditions, as well as for pregnant women.

Unfortunately, vaccine supplies all over the country are limited due to manufacturing delays. We understand that many families have been frustrated by their inability to obtain vaccines for their children after being told how important it is. Vaccine availability changes on a daily basis. Please contact your healthcare provider's office to find out if your child can be immunized there.

There will be a vaccination clinic at AE/MS in early January for students. Vaccinations will be free to AE/MS students. Mrs. Hill hopes to schedule the vaccination clinic for after school or on a Saturday to make it more convenient for families.

Mrs. Hill deserves special recognition from all of us at AE/MS as she has nursed us through the flu battle. Mrs. Hill's care and nurturing has certainly been put to the test this fall. Not only is she vigilant and prepared for those in the building, she is communicating and following up with those who are ill and at home. Of course, Mrs. Hill continues to be an informative and helpful resource for school families.

The New Hampshire DHHS has set up a special flu hot-line – just dial 2-1-1 between 8 AM and 5 PM to talk to someone. There is also a lot of reliable information on the CDC Web site at CDC.gov/H1N1Flu and on the DHHS Web site at www.DHHS.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm.

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