



For a number of years, Andover Elementary/Middle School has sold Earth Day t-shirts. This year third-grader Jared Frost had an idea for the design. He worked with his teacher to create a computer image that sends the message of Earth Day in a first-ever student-designed Earth Day t-shirt.

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ble, designed a “Survivor” game show format, music and all. Students each took on the role of one of the goals and expressed to the School Board members in their own words what that goal’s significance was to them and their future.

After each of the five students had presented their goal it was now time for Board members to play the game. The mission given to the Board was to come to consensus and vote one of the goals off the island of Andover. After an interesting and valuable discussion, Board members all agreed that the five goals were valuable and they could not justify forcing one to leave the island.

Student Leadership team members, with the help of teachers Jennifer Bent and Kristy LaRoche, continue to work on the goals from their perspective. Students have coordinated and led many projects to improve the school community. This year they have also had help from Bryan Partridge from New England College, who has met regularly with them.

In School Board meeting discussions that followed, it was realized that the Long Range Plan had been well designed in 2004. The overarching goals remain just as important and timely today. While there will need to be updates, additions, and changes to the strategies designed to achieve each goal, the basic framework will probably remain intact.

Feedback, ideas, and opinions from the Andover community are being solicited. There are several ways to share ideas with the Andover School Board. Throughout March community members were able to fill out a survey, either with pencil and paper or through the Web.

Currently, all community members are invited to attend the Andover School Board meeting on April 6 to share thoughts in person and be part of the discussion. A portion of the regular School Board meeting will be set aside for long range planning. That session is scheduled to begin at 7 PM. Professor Bill Preble, from New England Center

for School Climate and Learning, will lead the discussion with help from Principal Jane Slayton and a few of the Student Leadership team members.

The current five main goals, in no particular order, are as follows:

- AE/MS will promote a positive learning environment.
- AE/MS will hire and retain a highly qualified faculty and staff.
- AE/MS students will continue to progress in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- AE/MS will maintain a partnership of community service.
- AE/MS will develop a facility and grounds plan with estimated costs and a timeline.

There are many practices and programs that fall under the five goals that AE/MS will continue to maintain. There are new initiatives that will also fall under the five goals that AE/MS will want to move toward. For example, the need for a foreign language experience needs to be addressed. AE/MS is also exploring extending learning opportunities which involves acquisition of knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside of the traditional classroom methodology.

As AE/MS prepares for the future, the need for students to learn essential skills for success in the 21st century within the context of core instruction is critical. Students must have the skills for critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration.

Our task is daunting, but working together as a school community we can tackle it. It is a bit unsettling to think that we are preparing today’s students for jobs that don’t even exist yet. It is therefore important for our students to have it all: core subjects and 21st century themes; learning and innovation skills; information, media, and technology skills; and life and career skills.

Please attend the meeting of the Andover School Board on April 6 at 7 PM and share your thoughts and ideas as we plan for the future educational needs for AE/MS.

PLANO

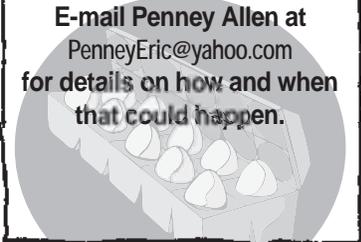
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