

AE/MS Crowns 2012 ANDOVER IDOL

By Paul Hubert
AE/MS Music

Friday, May 25, is a day that will go down in memory. In the AE/MS school gym, the ninth annual Andover Idol contest was fought, and the winners were many. Oh, but there can be but one idol.

The judges were set and ready to rumble. This year we had K-Slash, direct from the fourth grade, Lady Goo Goo of fifth grade fame, Iron Mad Mike from the gym itself, and even the inimitable "A Nonna Mouse" crept forth from the computer lab, ears perked for talent. Of course, The Mathter Blathter was also on hand with her super computer powers for tabulation purposes.

The show kicked off with our own Chef Supreme, Ms. Young, on harmonica; Mrs. Annas from our library singing and playing guitar; and Mr. Hubert, the music guy (and genial host). They played a rousing version of Stephen Foster's *Oh! Susanna*, and although as staff they couldn't compete for the prize, they certainly set the stage for what was to come.

Next on the program was Maya Haynes singing a powerful *Make You Feel My Love*; Brandon Jackson, accompanied by Logan Marcus on guitar, crooning Gotye's *Somebody That I Used To Know*, and the duet of Tiffany Poulin and Betsy Abrahamson on a stunning *Call Me Maybe*. If the original stars had heard these versions of their hits, they might have had pause to worry over their futures.

Up next was Mrs. Annas again, solo

this time, with a heartfelt rendition of *This Old Guitar*.

Mackenzie Donovan did a fine rendering of Evanescence's *Missing*, and Scout Armstrong tore up the stage on *Part of Me* by Katy Perry. And then another first for Andover Idol, returning 2008 Andover Idol Megan Hanscom treated the audience to *Jar of Hearts* by Christina Perri.

And for any in that audience who were thinking they'd seen it all, there were three more acts yet to come. The team of Max Barrett, Emma Davis, Logan Marcus, Reilly Walsh, and Cookie Monster performed a hilarious send-up parody of *Somebody That I Used To Know*; Cope Makechnie sang a sweet version of *On My Own* from *Les Miserables*, and Mr. Murphy had the crowd chanting along to his *African Homage*.

And that was the show. It was all over but the judging, so the judges did what they do best: putting their heads together to determine our winner. It was a hard-fought battle, but there could be only one, and when the air cleared, our third place winner was Maya Haynes with 8.4 points (out of 10). Second place then fell to Max, Emma, Logan, Reilly, and Cookie Monster with a score of 9.15. And finally our 2012 Andover Idol is Cope Makechnie with 9.25 points!

Congratulations to all – the winners, the participants, and the audience members who were probably the biggest winners of all. What an afternoon of entertainment, and what talent on display!



Tyler French, Cassidy Piroso, Damien Fuller, Aaron Weeks, and Rylee Sweeney put on their best "Arrggghhh!" pirate faces behind their pirate ship prop from the recent AE/MS production of *The Box*, starring all of the second grade. The pirate ship and other play props were crafted by second graders with the artistic influence of our wonderful volunteer, Deborah Emeny.
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

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Personally, I am relieved that Shari wouldn't let us make a fuss over her retirement, as many of us are having trouble saying farewell to her. Students were not prevented from celebrating Shari's retirement, however, and an organized effort through Facebook resulted in 30 to 40 students surprising Shari after school in mid-June. She was appreciative and spent hours catching up as they updated her on their lives.

Language Arts

Interviews have started for the seventh and eighth grade language arts / reading position. The response to our advertising has been overwhelming as we meet candidate after candidate, all highly qualified and all with lots to offer our school community. We are thrilled with the candidate pool.

More changes are ahead as three other members of our AE/MS family move on before the new school year begins. Carmen Palmquist will be staying home in the fall to care for one-year-old Connor and the soon-to-be new arrival. Middle school students will miss her pleasant manner and helpful way. We hope she returns some day.

Brenda McDonald is leaving the AE/MS kitchen after 17 years to run her own business. She has promised to come back and help with Grandparent Thanksgiving, one of her favorite days. We hope she will come back even more often to visit.

Ron Quintal, our day custodian, will be moving on at the end of the summer for other business ventures. His daily presence will be missed. Bus drivers, parents, and students will miss his crossing guard skills in the morning.

The new school year will be here shortly, and we are already getting excited about it. We have a great new flock of kindergarten students who will be joining us. We have seventh grade students ready to step into eighth grade leadership roles. We have teachers in new positions next year who are enthusiastic about their new responsibilities. And as a school community, we are excited about the new Common Core State Standards and the changes it will bring with it for integration, technology, and assessment.

Stop in at the end of August and see all our new improvements!

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