

The **Andover Beacon**  
Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com June 2013 735-6099



SHARE Day 2013, Tie-Dye Class: First and second graders tie-dyed shirts for themselves, plus a special one for Gisela Darling in honor of her having planned and organized SHARE Day for many years. Photo: Mike Wiley



The AE/MS PTO showed the community's appreciation for AE/MS staff members in many creative ways during Staff Appreciation Week. Teachers were presented with cards which read "We can see clearly that we have the best teachers and staff around," with a ribbon attached. Those who wanted their windows washed displayed the ribbon on their car. The students had fun washing the car windows, and the staff was thrilled. Pictured are Chloe Methven, Katelyn Barton, Finn Weber, John Maynard, Noah Newton, Aiden Cox, and Principal Jane Slayton, all hard at work. Photo: Carmen Bates

## AE/MS School Year Draws to a Close

Many exciting activities in store

By Jane Slayton,  
AE/MS principal

It is a bittersweet time at Andover Elementary Middle School as the year starts to wind down and anticipation for next year begins to build. Our eighth grade students are ready and eager to move on to bigger things – Merrimack Valley High School and Proctor Academy. Our kindergarten students are ready to make the transition to first grade. And our fifth grade students are eager to jump further into the middle school. At the end of August, we will welcome a new group of five-year-olds arriving for kindergarten.

End of the school year can also mean a change for the AE/MS faculty. Mr. Paul Hubert, music teacher and band director, will be leaving AE/MS to pursue his own music. Mr. Hubert is a talented musician who entertains locally and throughout New England. Retirement will give him more of an opportunity to enjoy his own music and perform even more often. Mr. Hubert has been sharing his love of music with AE/MS students since 2002. There is a plethora of applicants for the music position, but we realize Mr. Hubert will be a hard act to follow.

Our Middle School Band will once

again perform in Wilmot's Memorial Day ceremony. This has become a valued tradition, and we are honored to be included.

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... to advance a class of capable, confident, caring students to the next grade every year. In honor of the entire community's achievements in this area — and most of all, in honor of the students themselves — the following have helped underwrite *The Andover Beacon's* continuing coverage of our schools:

## Congratulations, all, from:

- Nance Barrett
- Loretta & Bill Bates
- Luann Clark
- Charlie and Sharon Darling
- Jim Goody
- Bruce and Jean Hammersley
- The Lances
- Irene Nowell
- Diana Phillips and Tim Gallagher
- Timothy and Darlene Tilton

## MVHS Art Students Make Lifelong Gifts for Children in Need

Memory Project creates original portraits

### Press release

Art students at Merrimack Valley High School have joined, for the second year, the Memory Project (MemoryProject.org), a nationwide initiative in which art students create original portraits for children around the world who have been orphaned, neglected, or disadvantaged. Three MVHS students from Andover – Stephanie Croteau, Lexie King, and Rhiannon White – were among those who participated in this worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Given that children in such situations often have few personal keepsakes, the purpose of the portraits is to provide them with a special memory of their youth, to honor their heritage and iden-

tity, and to help them build a positive self-image. The project also provides an opportunity for young Americans to open their hearts to children who have endured many hardships and to promote the value of sharing kindness with others.

The Memory Project has been featured on national television several times, most notably when Katie Couric concluded her very first broadcast of the CBS Evening News with a story about the project's success at an orphanage in Nicaragua. The project has also been covered by major newspapers and magazines throughout the country, all telling the story of students who have participated.

The MVHS students who participated are all members of the 1172 chapter of the National Art Honor Society. The

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