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The 2013 eighth grade graduating class at AE/MS. Photo: Tina Cotton

Twenty-Six Eighth Grade Students Move on from AE/MS

Well prepared for Proctor and MVHS

By Jane Slayton, AE/MS Principal

Twenty-six well-prepared AE/MS eighth graders graduated on June 13 and will move on to Proctor Academy and Merrimack Valley High School.

Following an adorable slide show of baby photos, toddler photos, and early elementary photos, the evening began with a nice welcome from Kaitlyn French and Chelsea Thompson.

Principal Jane Slayton talked about the history of the eighth grade class and remarked that they will accomplish great things next year and beyond. She also said that she knew it wasn't good-bye, as she has been part of the AE/MS school

community long enough to know that these graduates will return to AE/MS with different roles and purposes.

They will be our SHARE Day leaders and assist with middle school sports, whether coaching or officiating. They will gain their required community service hours at AE/MS. Some will do their Senior Projects at AE/MS, and some will simply just stop in to visit and catch up with their AE/MS teachers. They will also remain part of the AE/MS school community.

Speeches expressing gratitude for AE/MS staff members, coaches, and family were given by Carl Hubbard, Logan Farley, Kaitlyn French, and Cope Makechnie.

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Second grader Olivia Glines and a Proctor student plant a shrub at AE/MS. Dave Pilla from the Proctor Woodlands Department visited AE/MS with his students and helped the AE/MS second grade plant some shrubs that will attract and maintain wildlife in the area. Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

Kristi Perreault's Salutatorian Speech at MVHS Graduation

Kristi looks back at 2013's four amazing years

By Kristi Perreault, MVHS '13 Salutatorian

As the senior with the second-highest grade point average over four years, Andover's Kristi Perreault had the honor of writing and delivering the salutatorian speech at MVHS graduation on June 15. Here is the text of her speech.

Our journey together began in the fall of our freshmen year here at Merrimack Valley High School. The year was 2008, and, looking back on these past years of high school, I think it is fair to say that we have seen, done, experienced, and lived through so much more than any of us here would have ever thought. The world around us is forever changing, and we are forever adapting, always trying to keep up.

Since we have stepped foot into high school, we have passed through style after style, trend after trend. Past generations have seen parachute pants, neon colors, and leather jackets. Well, our generation will be remembered for uggs, skinny jeans, yoga pants, and flannels. We have seen blankets grow to have sleeves, oddly resembling backwards robes but we decide to call them Snuggies. We have learned that rubber bands are not, in fact, brown and circular, but come in all different colors and can be shaped to look like giraffes, panda bears, houses, or even lamps. Some of our favorite pastimes have included dougie-ing, Bernie-ing, cone-ing, and planking, and the number one excuse for everything is "YOLO".

When we started high school the concept of the iPhone seemed to be impossible to understand, but here we are asking Siri to do everything from calling our parents to giving us directions to Japan by bus. For the longest time the number one downloaded app was Words with Friends, because why play scrabble with an actual board and tiles

when you can do it virtually and play random, made-up words until the game accepts one of them.

We have seen the end of Toy Story, Harry Potter, and, most importantly, Twilight. We have seen Disney classics shift to include some of our new favorites, Wall-E, Up, and, soon, Monster's University. We have come to dread Fridays, because we know that someone, somewhere, will be singing Rebecca Black's "Friday", which you know will remain in your head for the rest of the day (Sorry).



Facebook is on a steady decline, soon to be completely replaced by Twitter and Instagram. The internet has been completely taken over by memes, to the point where Bad Luck Brian's face is probably more recognizable than Abraham Lincoln's, and grumpy cat is the most popular pet out there.

Instead of texting, we have switched over to Snapchat, where screenshots became the number one enemy, and the phrase "I'm gunna pop some tags" is almost as famous as Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'".

But in all seriousness, it is important
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Local Students Honored at Proctor Commencement

By Chuck Will, Proctor Academy

Local students received 12 awards at Proctor's Commencement and end-of-year ceremonies. From Andover, Hallie Southworth received the award for Excellence in English. Morgan Cartwright received the award for Excellence in Spanish. Nathan French took the Technology Award for contributions to the maintenance of Proctor's laptops as well as the Photography Award for technical skill, creativity, and enthusiasm for the medium.

Emily Morison received the Mount Holyoke Award for academic excellence, leadership, and potential for significant contribution to the

community. Senior Madison Powers received the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, the Andover Lion's Club Award, and the Andover Service Award. Senior Ben Cox received the John Schoeller Award to the senior who embodies our core beliefs about learning and who has been transformed by the Proctor process.

Senior Emily Snyder of New London, junior Sam Barrett of Andover and sophomore Kelsie Berry of Andover received the Music Award for outstanding contributions to Proctor Academy instrumental ensembles.

Congratulations to all!

