

Retirements from page 27

to others through support and encouragement have always been something I could rely on to get me through my school day. Oh! the laughs we have had over the years, of which many still bring tears to my eyes. She has helped me over the years become a better person, parent, and teacher just by always giving me support and guidance.”

Some of the other memories include a “cruise to Nova Scotia, fairy dust in bathrooms, very early morning Parent Breakfasts, Grandparents Thanksgiving, Saturday Night Live Christmas video, and the conversations that have always brought me back to reality.”

Her retirement plans include lots

of relaxation. She will work part-time closer to home, “do some traveling, and I will hopefully be taking my photography to the next level. My goal is to sell my photos in a unique way through craft fairs and online.”



Michelle Stanhope, Math Teacher 15 years

Michelle has taught middle school math at AE/MS for 15 years, and prior to that she taught math for seven years at Newfound Memorial Middle School. When she retires, she will have been teaching math for 22 years.

During her time at AE/MS she not only taught math, but organized the annual Math Night, tutored students, helped to organize many dances at which she was a chaperone and DJ, coached the Andover One Wheelers and basketball, mentored prospective

teachers, and served on many committees aimed at helping AE/MS “grow as a community.”

For Michelle, AE/MS is a “special little school.” She enjoyed and will miss many aspects of what she experienced there, from the “caring, loving, and family-oriented staff members and students,” to the collaborative nature of the teachers in coming up with “fun activities that will get our school and community together (parents breakfast, Veteran’s Day Assembly, Grandparent’s Thanksgiving, Math Night, Art Shows, band/chorus recitals, SHARE Day).” She said she “truly loves the people who make this place a great place to work” and will “miss everything about AE/MS.” Return visits are definitely in her plans.

Growing as a community and keeping traditions is her vision for AE/MS. To her past students she said that she cherishes the memories of students returning to share their lives and stay connected. For her current students: “This sure has been an interesting year! I feel like my time with you has been cut short due to the pandemic. We are all in this together, and I will make sure that at some point, I will visit AE/MS next year to say good-bye in person. I really hope that you stay in touch with me, and always remember to work hard and never give up!

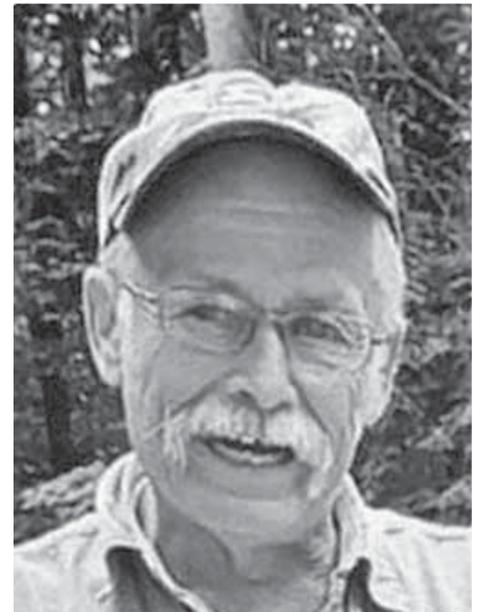
“Always remember to set your goals high. You can make a difference if you try. Don’t be afraid to ask for help.” For the future students of AE/MS, words of encouragement include to “strive for the best and always remember that the only obstacle you see is when you take your eyes off the goal. Reach for the stars!”

Michelle has many fond memories of her time working with Principal Slayton, including the times they chaperoned dances and field trips, Zumba in the gym, student activities, Secret Santa gifts, challenging physical plant problems, working weekends, and birthday celebrations. But most importantly, she “loved working for Jane. She always allowed me to be the teacher I wanted to be. She was always supportive and open-minded and always pushed me to be the best educator I could be. I could always count on her to help out whenever needed. She will be missed in our AE/MS community.”

Gail Parenteau will be remembered as being “so kind, happy, easy to talk with. Honestly, she runs that school.” The list of everything she does is very long. Michelle loved being able to sit in her office talking about their kids, Maine, the school kids, and many other topics. Like her, Gail has roots in Maine and is hoping she will come to visit her.

For retirement, Michelle plans to move back to her home in Downeast Maine. Her son Riley will be starting college in the fall, so she will help him prepare. While she doesn’t have a “set plan” for retirement, she is “glad to be moving back home to Maine to enjoy the sights and smells of the ocean that I have so greatly missed,” and helping her husband on his lobster boat. She

may even do some substitute teaching because she loves the classroom.



Vic Stewart, Head Custodian 8 years

AE/MS Principal Jane Slayton wrote the following tribute:

Vic Stewart was a key figure at Andover Elementary/Middle School for the past eight years. Vic could be counted on to be at school by 5:30 AM and have the building ready for students and staff members. In the winter, he would have the classrooms warm and the walkways shoveled. He would be outside by 7:30 AM to welcome parents driving their children to school, and he’d wave to the buses.

Students knew they could go to Mr. Stewart and he would retrieve balls on the roof without complaining. He’d re-adjust swings on the playground and fix the gaga pit. He was there at lunchtime to help with clean-up. He was just always there!

Our school community was devastated when Vic passed away during the first weekend that schools in New Hampshire were closed for remote learning. It was very difficult for us to not be together as a school community to mourn Vic’s passing. Vic was very much looking forward to his retirement next month. He had lots of plans for hunting and family. We are so sad he never got to enjoy his well-deserved retirement.

Vic was a friend to all at AE/MS. He is missed.

Robin Heins, SAU Business Administrator, 19 years

By her own account, Robin started as a receptionist and worked her way up to her current position. She will miss everyone she has worked with, many for more than 30 years. “Wonderful folks.”

She believes that “nothing is impossible if you work hard, can laugh at yourself, and care about other people.”

About Jane Slayton, she said that she “is an outstanding person and principal.” They have shared many memories. Her take on Gail Parenteau is that she is “the face of AE/MS.” When she leaves she’ll be taking her “historical knowledge with her.”

Her retirement plans include spending time with her grandchildren, reading books that she has been waiting for time to read, and not setting the alarm at night.

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