

**AE/MS from page 32**

families that could adequately support schooling during the pandemic, and those that could not), diminished trust, respect, and investment in schooling by families and students (resulting in a dramatic increase in strained relationships with parents and the behavior/conduct and academic achievement of students), a widespread loss of connection with families (what had once been a strength for our school community had been almost completely lost), as well as systemic stress, fatigue, frustration, etc., across all elements of our school community. No doubt about it: it was a pretty ugly year at times, and educators everywhere agree that it was the most difficult year of their careers.

Though these difficult conditions persisted at AE/MS for much of the year, thankfully, it is not how we ended our school year, at all. During the spring season, the weather warmed, the days were brighter and longer, the incidence of COVID transmission in our community and in our school decreased dramatically, and all aspects of school life and conditions within and outside of our school community improved dramatically and rapidly.

The result was a vigorous and enthusiastic return to normalcy at AE/MS over the last few months of the school year, and people familiar with the school would not notice much difference between the quality of living and learning at AE/MS this spring, compared to pre-pandemic years.

We offered many student activities, field trips, and school community celebrations. AE/MS became comfortable and joyful again; we re-established our connection with families; staff and student morale improved considerably; students began to respond to learning opportunities with excitement and vigor; and they began to reinvest themselves in good citizenship within our AE/MS school community.

A couple of sports analogies that seem appropriate for characterizing our progression this year would be: "Games are won in the fourth quarter," and "It's not how you start the race, but how you finish that matters." So true, and so emblematic of our experience at AE/MS this past year.

Throughout the past school year, everyone did their best, and we all survived the challenges and endured the hardships we faced, and usually did so with grace, dignity, optimism, with our chins held high, and with the firm belief that conditions would change for us before too long – that we would one day

return to the life that we loved, stronger and better than ever. And so it is now.

Next year we will capitalize on gains made this past school year (there were many, despite our challenges), and work to meet the high bar for school performance that we have always set for ourselves at AE/MS. In the coming year, we'll continue to focus on Whole Child Education (helping kids to grow well, and develop in all the ways necessary for future success and happiness), as well as meeting the learning needs of all of our students every day. We'll make up for lost time and lost ground, and we will do so rapidly.

Additionally next year, we will need to continue our focus on ensuring student and staff safety at AE/MS but, rather than pandemic mitigation, we'll need to make school building security, reviewing and updating our school's Emergency Operations Plan as well as providing related student and staff training, an even greater priority.

We'll continue to grow into our new math program, begin an initiative to review, revise, and improve our school's English Language Arts program, and continue to refine our school's programs in the Arts and STEM, as well. Promoting citizenship, good character, and maintaining a safe, happy, and healthy school climate are always in season, and we'll look to make additional gains in this area of our school community next year, as well.

As fantastic as our school currently is, we look forward to making it even more so in the time ahead. At AE/MS, we have a direction, and our future is bright. Thank you for all the patience, faith, confidence, and support you offered throughout the past year, and let's continue to strengthen the bonds between us over the coming year.

In the interest of improving educational experiences and opportunities for children at the Andover Elementary/Middle School, let's take our collective work to the next level in '22 - '23!

A very happy, healthy, safe, and enjoyable summer to you all!

**Proctor from page 32**

Graduation serves as a culminating celebration of our collective work as a community over the past four years alongside this group of young people. The tears that steadily stream down our faces during the ceremony are this unique mixture of happy-, sad-, proud-, exhausted-tears.

We cry because we care so deeply about these kids, because when we sit on the mountain top we appreciate the difficulty of the climb. We cry because this chapter of our lives with these kids is over, and because we are so excited to see how the next chapter unfolds. We cry because we see now that the Class of 2022 courageously taught us to choose joy when so many others chose despair.

What a gift to their families, their classmates, and to us as a school!

Among those recognized at Proctor Academy's end-of-year awards were the following Andover students:

**Maura Kelly '22:** Clara May Carrier Award for Excellence in English; Visual/Industrial Arts Award

**Brynne Makechnie '22:** Alice S. Fowler Award to the student in the graduating class who best exemplifies strength of character, personal dedication, and commitment to the Proctor community; Robert J. Livingston Community Service Award; Andover Lions Club Award

**Lily Menard '22:** Lyle H. Farrell Award to the senior who has performed outstanding service to the school and to their fellow students

**River Turnbull '22:** June and William Noble Award for Excellence in Creative Writing; Stanley V. Wright Award for Excellence in Social Science; Award for Excellence in Spanish

**RT LAKE, INC.**  
**Complete Septic Service**

- Pump Outs • Reconstruction
- New Construction and Installation
- 24 Hour Emergency Service

Webster, NH 603 648-2497 Office • 603 369-0621 Cell



Lake Sunapee Region  
 VNA & HOSPICE

**SAVE THE DATE**

*It's PartyTime*  
 for Lake Sunapee VNA!

Everything's better when we get together! Join us for a casual in-person gathering ... at long last.

**August 2 • 5:30 pm**  
**Ivey Field • Colby-Sawyer College**

Watch for details and contact Cathy Raymond for information:  
 603.526.4077 x231  
 craymond@lakesunapeevna.org

LakeSunapeeVNA.org

**SMART MEMORIAL HOME**



In Support of  
*The Andover Beacon*  
**Funeral Directors**  
 Scott W. Davis  
 Brian D. Constant

SmartFuneralHome.com

**School Matters!**  
 The Beacon needs volunteers to help report school news. 603 735-6099

This Page Sponsored by **IMAGINATION INN**


