



## **Superintendent's Corner**

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Interim Superintendent

June 3, 2016

Although this was a short week due to the celebration of Memorial Day, it was a busy one. It will continue to busy over the next few weeks as schools are winding down, celebrating student accomplishments, and finishing off end of year projects and assignments.

### **End of Year Celebrations for our Seniors**

We continued to celebrate our seniors this week. On Wednesday, they went to Six Flags. I was told by Mr. Hamond that he had received many compliments about our students and their behavior during this activity. I am proud of how our students represent the community of Amesbury.

Thursday evening, the seniors held their annual Senior Dinner Dance. This event is a little more relaxed than a prom, and the students take this opportunity to have their yearbooks signed, wish each other well, and of course, do a little dancing!

Friday evening, we held the Class of 2016 Graduation Ceremonies. While the weather looked a little bleak in the morning, we were confident that nothing would "rain on the parade" of this senior class... and it didn't. As we approached the start of the ceremony, the sun was shining! I was particularly impressed with the speeches of Cole Legg, Spencer Moavenzadeh and Chris Cioffi. This was a bittersweet event for Mr. Roy Hamond, Principal, as this will be his last time conducting graduation ceremonies. We wish him well in retirement and are excited to welcome Ms. Elizabeth McAndrews as the incoming principal.

Immediately following graduation, many of our seniors boarded a bus to attend the all-night graduation party. This is a fun event that is coordinated by our parents. The location of the event is a secret, even to me! It's a great, SAFE way for our students to celebrate their accomplishments.

### **Staffing Updates**

As Ms. McAndrews gets ready to settle into her role as the new high school principal, we are excited to announce that Ms. Danielle Ricci has been selected to replace Ms. McAndrews as the Assistant Principal for curriculum and instruction. You may recognize Ms. Ricci's name, as she is currently an English teacher at the high school. She participated in a rigorous interview process that included opportunities for participation and feedback from high school staff. We look forward to Ms. Ricci's contribution to our academic programs at the high school. I am thrilled with the team that has been established at the high school, between Ms. McAndrews, Ms. Ricci and Mr. Gearin. The high school's future looks very bright!

We are continuing to move forward with our search for a Director of Finance and Operations. We conducted more interviews this week and hope to have a candidate recommended to the school committee within the next few weeks.

**Amesbury Rotary Teacher of the Year**

On Thursday afternoon, I had the pleasure of attending a Rotary luncheon celebrating one of our teachers, Ms. Maryanne Dower. Ms. Dower is a preschool teacher from Amesbury Elementary School. She was nominated by a number of staff members to receive this acknowledgement. I appreciate the Rotary Club for their continued support of our schools and the community.



**Lead Water Testing**

There has been a lot of discussion in the news recently about testing of drinking water in schools. I just wanted to make sure families were aware that our water was tested in November 2015 and all areas tested were within normal limits, with the exception of one bubbler at the middle school. This bubbler was removed and replaced.

**End of Year**

Just a reminder to families that the last day of school is June 24, 2016. It is a half day for students.

Be well and have a great weekend!

Gary