

# ACADEMY HILL SCHOOL

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

### Meteorologist Andrew Rosenthal, Class of '93, Visits Academy Hill

This past November alumnus Andrew Rosenthal made a visit to Academy Hill's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Andrew is a meteorologist with Earth Networks (Weather Bug) in Maryland. Students enjoyed his presentation about the different methods of forecasting weather. They also enjoyed interacting with his 22 month old son Zachary who came along as an extra special guest.



Andrew is living in Maryland with his wife Jessica. He graduated from Academy Hill in 1993 and he was proud to note that he is one of the few who attended AHS from K-6<sup>th</sup> grade (6<sup>th</sup> grade being the highest grade offered at the time). Andrew and his classmates, who still stay in touch on social media, buried a time capsule on June 8, 1990 at the school which was then located on the grounds of Wilbraham & Monson Academy. With recent expansions at WMA he and his classmates are unsure of whether or not the time capsule is still there. Wouldn't it be interesting to unearth that piece of Academy Hill history?

### A Conversation with Mary Crist

*Written by: Melissa Pevay, Academy Hill Director of Development*



Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Mary Crist, Academy Hill's founding Head of School. I wish that everyone had the chance to listen in on our phone conversation. After all these years you could still hear the affection for the program in her voice. Interestingly, I learned that when Dr. Crist was first approached by the parents of The Ames Hill Center for Gifted Children (the Saturday program that later became Academy Hill School) she was hesitant. After some time, thought, persuasion and research on gifted education, Mary became The Center's Executive Director and later the day school's founding head. Mary described Academy Hill as the mouse that roared and when asked if Academy Hill was pushing children too hard she would reply that they were not pushing (students) they were running to keep up with them.

Dr. Crist now lives in California with her husband. She is a priest at St. Michael's Episcopal Church. She retired from her position as dean and is now a professor at the Metcalf School of Education at California Baptist University. Academy Hill School is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year and we are thankful to Dr. Mary Crist for everything she gave to AHS at its start.

### Alumni Update

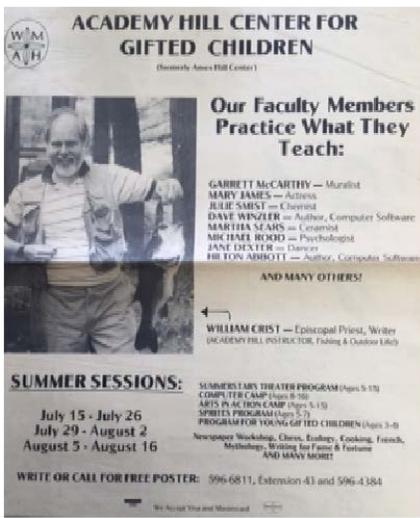
Nicolle (Clarno) Sousa, 2003 AHS graduate, was recently married to Tanner Sousa. Nicholle is attending Southern New Hampshire University pursuing her degree in Health and Information Management while working full time at Baystate Medical Practices. Ms. Desjarlais (5<sup>th</sup> grade AHS teacher) attended the wedding. Congratulations Nicholle!



Elizabeth Sklar recently graduated with a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Manchester, NH program. She will be working as a Physician Assistant at New England Orthopedic Surgeons starting in February.

The AHS Alumni Social, held on November 24<sup>th</sup>, was well attended. Many recent graduates (and a few not so recent) spent a few hours catching up. Mark your calendars now for next years pre-Thanksgiving social, November 22, 2016.





*Flashback to 1985 - local newspaper ad for Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children*

## Keep in Touch

*Have a graduation, promotion, wedding or birth announcement? Send it along for our summer newsletter.*

### Academy Hill School

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## SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for **An Academy Hill Affair**, Academy Hill's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Spring Fundraiser. On April 9<sup>th</sup> AHS friends, family, alumni, current and former staff are all invited to attend. The event will be held at Balise



Hyundai, located in downtown Springfield, beginning at 6pm. The evening will include food, drinks, live music, raffles, live and silent auctions and a look back at Academy Hill's past 30 years. **The school will also recognize Mrs. Carol Rosenthal for her 30 years of service to the school.** Invitations with more information will be mailed later this winter.

## SUPPORT THE ACADEMY HILL ANNUAL FUND

Making a gift to the Annual Fund is the best way to give back to Academy Hill! The Annual Fund supports technology improvements, field trips, continuing education for staff, teaching tools, necessities for building upkeep and maintenance and much more. With the help of our past families and alumni this goal is obtainable. Make your gift online today, <http://www.academyhill.org/support.html>. If you prefer you can mail your gift to **(make your check out to Academy Hill School)**:

Academy Hill School  
1190 Liberty Street  
Springfield, MA 01104  
Attn: Development Office



Thank you in advance for your support!

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