

The **Andover Beacon**
Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com August 2013 735-6099



Construction crews were working hard on July 19 to stay on schedule for completion of Proctor's new dormitory by December 1. Wet weather has caused minor delays, but Bruss Construction remains optimistic.

Located on North Street adjacent to Proctor's football field and Mary Lowell Stone House, the new residence will house sixteen girls and two faculty families starting this winter term.

Photo and caption: Chuck Will, Proctor Academy



Five MVHS students have been working really hard at AE/MS this summer. They scrubbed, mowed, cleaned, painted, and spent hours disassembling and moving whole classrooms as AE/MS rearranges itself to handle full-day kindergarten and an additional fourth-grade classroom this year. Pictured are Ben Ladd, Stephanie Laliberte, Sam Bentley, Becca Partridge, and (kneeling) Beven O'Donnell.

Photo: Charlie Darling

AE/MS Bustles, Even Over the Summer

New classrooms, new curricula, new staff

By Jane Slayton, AE/MS principal

It may be the middle of July as I write this, but AE/MS is a very busy place these days as preparation for the 2013-2014 school year is in high gear.

When each school year ends, all classroom materials are boxed and labeled, and the classrooms are emptied. Most classrooms are painted, all are scrubbed clean, and all have carpets cleaned or floors waxed to a bright shine.

This summer, there are many classrooms that are switching locations to accommodate full-day kindergarten

and an additional fourth grade class. We are ahead of schedule, and the building is looking good!

One of the reasons we are ahead of the maintenance schedule this year is because we have had the assistance of five Merrimack Valley High School students. They work with Mr. Farrington five mornings a week. We have appreciated and enjoyed working with the students this summer.

Summer School is nearing an end. Students attending have ranged from third grade to seventh grade. Kim Tilton, Amanda Lauster, and Anne Hewitt provided a challenging work day for them, but also allowed some time for fun. One day, the students even had a dog come to school to read to them. That was impressive!

Preparing for CCSS

However, there is more to do to get ready for a new year than just prepare the building. Teams of teachers have worked throughout July transitioning to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). One group dedicated to middle school math recently enjoyed a Khan Academy presentation. Khan Academy will be a supplement to the middle school math program at AE/MS next year for all students. Educators are also attending workshops and taking mini-courses throughout New England.

The 2013-2014 school year will in-
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Proctor Celebrates 40 Years of Mountain Classroom

PA's first experiential program had a big impact

By Chuck Will

Proctor Academy

In the fall of 1973, a small group of Proctor students packed up a mini-van with tents, camping gear, and rock climbing equipment and set off for the desert Southwest of the United States. Inspired by the Outward Bound program at Hurricane Island, Maine, Proctor's Mountain Classroom program was a novel experiment in experiential education.

The program married college preparatory academic coursework in American literature, Native American studies, desert ecology, and water resource management to dramatic, hands-on, adventure-based learning. Students lived with Navaho people, camped solo in the desert, rock-climbed at Joshua Tree, and delved into border issues on both sides of the Rio Grande.

The success of Mountain Classroom

prompted Proctor Academy to implement other experiential programs, which ultimately shaped the mission of the school. This year, ten students each trimester (a ten-week term) study Spanish from Proctor teachers while living with Spanish families in Segovia, Spain. Twenty-two students spend the fall term on Ocean Classroom, sailing the 130-foot schooner Harvey Gamage from Portland, Maine to San Juan, Puerto Rico. A program exploring European art is based in Aix-en-Provence, France. A handful of students will study at the Cloud Forest School in Monteverde, Costa Rica. And the granddaddy of all – Mountain Classroom – will head west both winter and spring terms.

On October 4 and 5, alumni of the Mountain Classroom program – including several members of that first expedition – will return to Proctor to share stories, photos, and memories as a way to celebrate the program's 40th year!



The Perfect Attendance Bell Ringers at the Fourth of July 10 o'clock ringing were Aidan O'Donnell (6th), Brandon Dukette (3rd), and Miles Hurlbutt (2nd). Brandon's face clearly shows what a hot day it was! Photo: Chuck Will