

AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

Three of our middle school students have become grade-level champions in the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge. Mariah Lansdown-Howard, grade six, Caleb Frantz, grade seven, and Haley Peters, grade eight, have answered oral and written questions challenging their vocabulary skills in the school component. They now take a qualifying test to determine the top scorers in the state.

The top one hundred scorers in sixth, seventh and eighth grade will be invited to compete in the State Championship on March 19 for title of State Champion. Reader's Digest will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Orlando, Florida, for state champions and their respective teacher/escorts to participate in the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge Championship in May 2007.

The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship. The second- and third-place winners will receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships, respectively. We wish our vocabulary all-stars luck and will keep you posted as they progress.

This is a sample challenge:

The students were distressed by the *desultory* lesson because it was

- a) random and disconnected.
- b) fatally inaccurate.
- c) dull and dated.
- d) culturally insensitive.

Andover Idol

Andover Idol contestants are now only weeks away from taking the stage and performing at AE/MS. The big day is February 16 for both our junior and senior divisions. Andover Idol winners are then scheduled for a special performance on Beach Day, February 23. Students and staff will dance and sing their way into the February vacation.

Parent Breakfast

An important tradition in February is Parent Breakfast. All parents are welcome to come to school early on February 22 and have breakfast with their children. The AE/MS staff will be cooking and serving breakfast favorites. Stop on your way to work or linger and stay the morning with your child. It is always a fun day for all involved.

Getting Ready For MVHS

Representatives from Merrimack Valley High School visited our eighth grade students in February. Scheduling for ninth grade classes is in progress. Parents of incoming freshman have been invited to an informational meeting on February 1 at 6:30 PM in the auditorium at MVHS.

MVHS Athletic Director Kevin O'Brien and several coaches talked with our seventh and eighth grade students regarding expectations and offerings within the high school sports program. Many of our Andover students continue their sports participation when they get to the high school level. AE/MS sev-

enth and eighth grade students have been invited and encouraged to come to a home basketball game at MVHS.

Reading Week

Reading Week is just around the corner, February 5 through 9. Guest readers from the community are always welcome! The theme this year is Read to Feed. We are participating in a reading incentive program designed by Heifer International, a non-profit organization. Our second grade classes have participated the last few years and found it to be a rewarding experience.

Read to Feed inspires children to get involved in a real hands-on way to solve global problems like hunger and poverty. Children are welcome to get sponsors for the books they read from January 8 to February 16. The goal is to increase our students reading.

If we are able to raise money to buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources and need an ongoing source of income, then that will be a bonus. It is not necessary for children to fundraise to participate in the program. Come to Reading Night on February 8 and enjoy the literacy activities!

Girls Writing Club

The Girls Middle School Writing Club has been meeting on Tuesday afternoons. Ms. Fitzpatrick and girls in grades five, six, seven, and eight look forward to spending this time writing and sharing their work.

LEGO Club

The LEGO Club is going strong under the leadership of Brandy Collette. We are investigating the possibility of taking the LEGO Club members to the SEE Science Center in Manchester to see the LEGO Millyard Project.

The LEGO Millyard Project is the largest permanent LEGO installation at mini-figure scale in the world. It represents Manchester's Amoskeag Millyard as it might have looked when it was a large textile manufacturer. There are approximately three million LEGO bricks in the project. If all the LEGO bricks in the project were laid end to end, they would reach from the SEE Science Center to the Museum of Science in Boston and back.

If the LEGO Millyard project is not exciting enough, add to it the fact that a new dinosaur exhibit just opened at the SEE Museum. This is one field trip I won't miss!

Proposed Building Project

The Andover School Board has worked hard to provide a safer, more secure, improved educational environment for the students. Stop in at the school and I will show you the plans for the proposed building and renovation project. Any community members who would like a tour, please stop in any time and we can walk through together.

The bond vote takes place at the School District Meeting, which starts at 7 PM on March 5. You must be present to vote.

Answer to Word Power Challenge: a)



Rhianna Newton (l) and Ashley Lamson lead a group of Andover One Wheelers past parents and relatives counting laps for the AOW Ride-A-Thon.

Photo: Bob Bussey

Andover One Wheelers

By Lisa Hanscom
Andover One Wheelers

On Saturday, January 6, seventeen members of the Andover One Wheelers Traveling Team participated in a Ride-A-Thon fund raiser at the AE/MS gymnasium. In front of a large cheering section of friends and family, the eager riders rode laps for nearly two hours, taking breaks when needed to get a drink or have a snack.

The results were amazing! The team completed 3,658 laps which, at 28 laps per mile, equal 130.64 miles. Twelve riders completed 200 or more laps, and five made it to 250.

Congratulations to Robyn Boisvert, who rode the equivalent of nine miles by completing 253 laps; to Meaghan Reid with 251 laps; and to Megan Hanscom and Michaela Trefethen with 250 laps each.

Parent Booster Director Alan

Hanscom entertained the team by trying to keep up on his unicycle. He completed ten laps without assistance.

Coach Michelle Keezer said, "I was blown away at the dedication of the riders to keep pushing themselves. From what I hear, those who have ridden in the past beat their own personal records."

The Team would like to thank all sponsors who donated to the Ride-A-Thon and their family members for their support. Proceeds from the Ride-A-Thon will go toward the annual spring trip. Donations to the team may be sent to the Andover One Wheelers, PO Box 87, Andover 03216.

Donate!

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