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time is quick for teachers to have the test results to use.

Which grades are being tested at AE/MS? We are presently testing all students in grades 3 through 8.

What is the MAP NWEA Assessment? NWEA's computerized adaptive tests are called Measure of Academic Progress, or MAP. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answered all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

What subjects does MAP assess? We are using the MAP tests in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language assessments.

How long does it take to complete a test? Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each test.

What are NWEA assessments used for? NWEA assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next.

NWEA assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your student's growth in mathematics, reading, and language usage skills. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch unit). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale, much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your student's academic growth from year to year. Scores can be added together to calculate accurate class or school averages.

Science Fair from page 36

was strengthened by your hard work and excellent presentations. Next year's science fair will be the field study where all students need to create quantifiable studies within an outdoor field plot.

How do teachers use the test scores?

NWEA tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

When will my student be tested and how often? Districts have the option of testing their students up to four times a year. Districts typically test students at the beginning of the school year in fall and at the end of the school year in spring. At Andover Elementary/Middle School, we are testing in the fall and spring.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test? No. NWEA assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. If a school uses MAP, the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

What can I do as a parent? Parental involvement at home is consistently associated with higher achievement. You can:

- Actively organize and monitor your child's time.
- Help with homework.
- Discuss school matters with your child.
- Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss your child's progress.
- Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home.

Did you know? ... Parents cannot assume that schoolwork makes up for too much TV. Children of all ages watch as much TV in one day as they read for fun in an entire week. According to the US Department of Education, children under age 13 spend 90 minutes a day in front of the TV – one-quarter of their free time.

Where can I learn more about NWEA? Visit www.NWEA.org.



The Andover One Wheelers begin their trademark Pinwheel routine on the Bucksport, Maine, waterfront on June 23. The old and new Penobscot River bridges and historic Fort Knox provide a beautiful backdrop.

Photo: Alan Hanscom

Andover One Wheelers

By Alan Hanscom
Andover One Wheelers

The Andover One Wheelers Travel Team had a relaxing and enjoyable trip to Downeast Maine at the end of June. The centerpiece of the trip was the Penobscot Narrows Bridgefest, the official celebration of the \$85 million cable-stay bridge carrying US Route 1 over the Penobscot River. The 19-member team performed admirably despite the 150-foot height above the river, 30 MPH wind gusts, and random musket fire.

Following the bridge procession, the group explored 19th century Fort Knox and performed for an appreciative crowd on the Bucksport waterfront with the bridge and river as a terrific backdrop. The team showed once again that they can put on a great show in small, odd-shaped spaces.

With the performances completed, the One Wheelers were then able to relax. The team was invited to a barbecue hosted by Wendell and Carolyn Hanscom in Orrington, Maine. The paternal grandparents of team members Megan and Erin Hanscom were assisted by maternal grandparents Delmar and Marilyn Fogg and many uncles, aunts, and cousins. The kids were free to roam around, playing games, chasing frogs and other creatures, toasting marshmallows, and riding unicycles.

Other highlights of the trip included a rainy excursion on a four-masted schooner out of Bar Harbor, a trip up Cadillac Mountain and shoreline exploration on Sand Beach and Bar Island, all in Acadia National Park. Before heading for home, the group toured the production facilities of the *Bangor Daily News*, where they were able to watch the presses in action. Our final stop was Funtown/Splashtown family fun park in Saco.

Through it all, the team members showed their patience, resilience, and maturity. Whether waiting to be seated or served, riding the bus, or trying to stay dry on the boat or beach, the kids put on a happy face. "Please" and "thank you" are common words. We continue to receive great comments from other patrons commenting on how well-behaved the One Wheelers are.

The founding principle of the Andover One Wheelers is "Learning through commitment and travel." The kids prove it every day. Many thanks to all AOW supporters before and during the trip. A lot of fun for everyone!

Watch for the One Wheelers performing at the Andover Historical Society's Old Time Fair in Potter Place on August 5; at Belmont's Old Home Days Parade on August 11; and at Wilmot's Bicentennial Celebration on August 18. Come on out and support our parade sponsors.

Andover Academy of Self Defense

Come check out a FREE class!

Little Tigers (from age 4)	Mon/Wed 5:30 - 6:00 PM
Tigers (beginners)	Mon/Wed 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Dragons (advanced)	Tue/Thu 6:00 - 7:00 PM
All Kids	Saturday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Adults	Mon/Wed 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
	7:00 - 8:00 PM

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Andover Recreation Soccer

By Alan Hanscom
Andover Recreation Committee

The Andover Recreation Committee is getting geared up for a terrific soccer season. We are adding a little excitement this summer with open-play soccer at Blackwater Field on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 PM beginning August 8.

Any third to sixth grade Andover student who is registered for the 2007 soccer season is welcome to play. Please come with cleats, shin guards and a water bottle. It will be great!

The final opportunity to register for fall soccer will be on Wednesday, August 8, starting at 5 PM at Blackwater Field. Remember, only registered athletes will be allowed to play summer fun soccer, and league requirements dictate that final team numbers must be to them by August 15.

The Andover Recreation Committee meets on Thursday, August 9, at 7 PM in the AE/MS science room. Likely agenda items might include fall soccer and winter basketball plans.

We appreciate your suggestions. Please come join us!