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FEBRUARY 21

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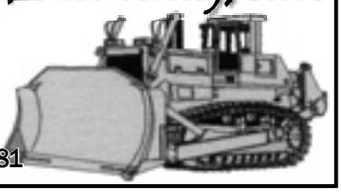

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AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

January is typically a quiet month at AE/MS. The teachers take advantage of the long stretch of weeks before February vacation to accomplish a lot in the classrooms. Many projects and long- term assignments are underway. You can hear the productive buzz of working students Monday through Thursday, but on Friday afternoons AE/MS students hit the slopes, the trails, and the ice.

The children in Andover are very fortunate to have the opportunity during the school week for winter recreation. Due to the generosity of the town, all students have the affordable opportunity to alpine ski or snowboard at Ragged Mountain Resort, or Nordic ski at Blackwater Ski Area, or ice skate at Proctor Academy's Teddy Maloney Rink. We appreciate the collaborative effort of the town recreation committee, AB Transportation, and Proctor Academy as they work together each winter to make this possible for our students.

We are also grateful for the donation and swapping of winter equipment that takes place. Our collection of skates is impressive. Through a grant we received several years ago, we are also able to supply our skaters with helmets.

Of course, without the parent and community volunteers none of this could happen. We have parents who regularly ski and skate with the children and transport all the equipment.

Our Nordic skiers had a treat the first time they skied at Blackwater Ski Area this year. Also, on the trails with them was Andover's very own Olympian – Kris Freeman! It was not that many years ago, that Kris Freeman, a former AE/MS student, was learning as our students are today.

Bees At AE/MS

Bee season is over at AE/MS. The AE/MS Spelling Bee and Geography Bee winners now await the next competition. Derrick Nowell, an eighth grade student, won the Geography Bee at the school level and now awaits results of a written examination he was administered. Students who score in the top 100 advance to the state level of the Bee.

Siobhan Reid, also an eighth grade student, was named champion of the Spelling Bee at the school level. Siobhan now advances to the regional competition in March, and the winner there will go to the state level of competition. Good luck to Derrick and Siobhan!

Congratulations also go to Katelyn Ashburn, a seventh grade student who was runner-up in the Spelling Bee.

AE/MS Web Site

If you have not checked out the AE/MS Web site lately, please do. Chris Connor, our technology person, has loaded the site with lots of news and information. Please visit www.andover.k12.nh.us.

Speaking of technology, many of our parents now receive the weekly AE/MS newsletter through their e-mail. We are pleased that we are able to communicate with parents more quickly and easily while also saving on the amount of paper going out every week. If you want your e-mail address added to the list, please give Gail Parenteau a call at school or e-mail us through the AE/MS Web site.

Parent Breakfast

February will be a busy month at AE/MS. Most importantly, we have the Parent Breakfast on February 21. This is an annual favorite event that brings many parents into the building. Parents are able to enjoy a delicious breakfast with their child. Parents are invited to linger after breakfast and explore classroom displays with an international theme.

SPIRIT Week

Parent Breakfast is during SPIRIT Week at AE/MS. The Student Council organizes SPIRIT Week and gives each day a theme. The favorite day of the week is always Friday – Beach Day! No matter how frigid the outdoor temperature may be, it is tropical in the gym! Students and staff all are caught up in the excitement as they dress for each themed day. Also, during SPIRIT Week is the Andover Idol competition. Who will get the trophy this year?

Invention Convention

Third grade students are starting to think about Invention Convention in March. If you have to invent a contraption to make daily life easier, March is not too far away! The Invention Convention gives students an opportunity to build upon what they are learning in the classroom by expanding their creativity, problem-solving skills, and inventive thinking. Come to the Invention Convention at AE/MS on March 13 at 6:30 PM and see what our young inventors will be unveiling.

Travel Plans

Travel is in the future for some of the students. Plans are becoming firm for the eighth grade trip to New York in June. Fifth and sixth grade students will enjoy a week at Nature's Classroom in March.

Coming up at the end of February is the Andover One Wheelers' big trip. The One Wheelers will fly to Arizona accompanied by parents, coaches, and supporters. We are proud of their efforts and know they will impress all in the west.

Graduation Plans

Eighth grade graduation had been tentatively set for June 10 but

See News *on page 33*