

AE/MS NEWS

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By Jane Slayton
Principal, AE/MS

I love turning into the school parking lot from Main Street on a winter evening. In that moment, as you turn the corner, you see many of the special offerings for children in our community.

In the distance, Blackwater Ski Area is brilliantly lit as it hosts a ski event or is in the process of making snow. The basketball court on school grounds, also lit, is now an ice rink, and there is always a hockey game in progress or families ice skating.

If it is early enough in the evening, the Andover After School Program is still in session and children are inside playing games and doing homework. And when you look toward the school building, the gym is aglow and basketball players are scurrying up and down the court to the delight of a packed house.

Some evenings the school is the place for Boy Scout pack meetings or Girl Scout activities, and the town library has evening hours and shelves full of great books for young readers. There is no doubt on a winter evening that Andover is a great community for families.

Family Writing Night

The First Annual Family Writing Night was held on January 21. Families were asked to bring with them a special photo or memento of a good family experience. Children and adults spent the time writing together, sharing their stories, and enjoying refreshments.

Supporting Our Troops

The grandmother of one of our first grade students works with a woman whose son has been deployed to Afghanistan. He is a helicopter pilot. The first grade classmates created holiday cards and sent them to the soldier in December. He loved the cards and shared them with others.

When it was explained to the students that it really makes the soldiers happy to receive cards, they wanted to do more. Together they decided to put together a care package filled with snacks, games, and even a book created by the students. First graders may be small, but they have giant hearts!

Spelling Champs

Congratulations to Maya Haynes, our AE/MS 2010 spelling champion! Congratulations also to Noah Berry, who came in a very close second. It was probably the most exciting spelling bee we've ever had, with back and forth action throughout. All of our spelling finalists did a commendable job. Maya will next compete in March in Plymouth at the regional level.

Class Pictures

Class pictures will be sent home after February vacation. All students receive class photos, whether they purchased picture packages or not. Spring pictures will not be done this year.

Breakfast And Lunch

Be sure to keep school breakfast in

mind this winter. Breakfast is available to all students in the morning. The breakfast menu is varied and delicious! There is time to get breakfast and still make it to class on time.

Free and reduced school lunch applications can be completed at any time during the school year. Those with seasonal jobs who have a decrease in income in the winter should definitely consider applying or reapplying. Information shared is confidential. Please contact me, and I can send home a form.

Parents, be sure to mark Thursday, February 18 on your calendar for Parent Breakfast. It is always a treat!

Basketball

Our Andover Eagles are off to a great start! Check out the schedule on our Web site and come to a game. There are many home games in February. We can't lose with our great new gym floor!

New Stage Curtains

We are nearing the end of our fundraising efforts for new stage curtains. Thanks to generous donations, fundraisers, and our amazing PTO, we are at the point where we are now choosing the color and material. I have color swatches in the office. Stop in, as I would love your opinion.

The goal is to have enough funds to order a stage curtain and have it installed before spring. It would have been nice to have them before School and Town Meeting season, but we weren't able to raise the funds quickly enough and work within the six week order and installation schedule.

Relief Funds For Haiti

Students have organized themselves to provide relief funds to Haiti. There are coin-filled canisters throughout our school. The eighth grade students are donating ice cream sale profits, and there is a Movie Night planned for the near future. Students and staff have many more ideas of how our school community can lend a hand.

It is very touching to see children arrive in the morning and come to the office with baggies full of pennies that they gathered the night before to share. I am always impressed with the care and empathy our children show for others.

H1N1 Vaccinations

An H1N1 Vaccination Clinic was held at AE/MS on December 21. It was open to the public. A follow-up clinic is scheduled for early February.

Honor Rolls

Hearty congratulations to all of our middle school students who were named to the honor roll for the first trimester. I was also pleased to see the large number of our high school students who received academic honors at MVHS, Proctor Academy, Tilton School, and Bishop Brady High School.

Ski New Hampshire

Fourth grade students who participated in the Ski New Hampshire pro-
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