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prized and enhanced.

By exercising a long-term, community-based commitment to the quality of our school and the education it affords, we can collectively realize:

- Increased performance by our children
- Increased opportunities for our children
- Increased population growth within our community
- Increased building opportunities to meet the influx of future citizens
- Increased remodeling opportunities to meet the needs of existing citizens
- Increased opportunities to realize new businesses and create new revenue streams
- Increased numbers of taxpayers contributing to the public till
- Decreased individual tax burdens as a result of a greater number and variety of contributors

We have before us the opportunity to create a diamond in the rough, a school program that outshines those around us and attracts people from around the region and nation to our community. In doing so, we can effectively make our town, community, and children's future brighter than we could ever imagine.

Please support my vision for a greater Andover, a greater AE/MS, and greater educational opportunities for our children and adult citizenry. Join me in this

commitment to our future and vote, make your voice heard, and let's collectively do what is right.

Kent Armstrong

Parent and School Board Member

Positive Relationships

A good relationship between a school and the community it serves is key for the children's success as learners and citizens. The staff of AE/MS continues to work very hard to maintain positive relationships with both the citizens of Andover and the boards that govern the town.

There are many examples of the employees of AE/MS spending hours beyond the school day requirements to foster positive relations with the citizens of Andover, such as Grandparents' Thanksgiving, Math Night, Poetry Night, Reading Night, SHARE Day, Writing Night, and countless phone calls and notes by staff to parents expressing concerns and notes of praise.

One such example happened on Thursday, February 17. For the 20th year in a row, most parents in the community were here enjoying a breakfast prepared and served by the AE/MS staff.

The staff of AE/MS also wants to thank the many volunteers and supportive parents who help to make learning a wonderful experience for the children of Andover. Let's continue to give our children the best we all have to offer.

Come to the School District Meeting on Monday, March 1, at 7 PM in the gym to participate in this community's future with your questions, concerns, and support.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Hildebrand

Jay Hubbard

AE/MS Teachers

Adequate Education

Education reform, which is a topic near and dear to my heart, has become a major drive in this new state legislative session. From tax credits for home schooling families to the redefinition of an "adequate education," the agenda is packed, but where do we want to go?

Apparently, world languages, technology, and health education are slated to become the towns' burdens, leaving the state to help pay for what the legislature considers the basics: math, English, sciences, social studies, and gym. Sound fair to you? Children in towns A and B, for example, can afford our current definition, but those in town B would not be able to if this bill passes. Who will go to college, who will be accepted at colleges with a variety of programs? More important than that, who will be prepared to be a citizen of the world? Which children will communicate with other-language speakers and grasp new technologies? Those who wish to be trained in plumbing, construction, engineering, and mechanics of all kinds will still need skills to communicate with an increasing variety of people in this state.

Kindergarten? Didn't we just mandate public kindergarten in 2007? Let's keep it and give all children the advantage, not dump it! I've been an educator now for almost 40 years, and I see what's necessary: strong adult-student relationships, high expectations, challenges, and preparation for the larger

world – for all kids in New Hampshire, from kindergarten to age 18.

Think about this when you go to the school and town meetings, and let your local representatives know how you feel, often.

Janet Moore

Why Do I Recycle?

Why I recycle. Well, I believe that this family should reduce the waste we produce, and recycling reuses some of the material we waste. I still recycle, despite the following:

A. Being honked at by a commercial trash collector/hauler after I finish putting trash in the compactor and then run down to put my used oil in the oil bin.

B. The terrible traffic pattern and flow of our Transfer Station.

C. My wife being chastised by a Transfer Station employee for attempting to put a keyboard in the compactor and then watching the same employee greet a friend by name and watch him blatantly put recyclables into the compactor.

D. Helping an elderly lady unload her recyclables into the paper dumpster while two employees chat with themselves and watch me help.

E. My son accidentally dropped a garbage can into the compactor, and I watched an employee begin the compaction process. I asked him to stop so we could fish that out with their pole. He told me there was no stop button. He recanted when I began to call the Fire Chief to report an unsafe problem – no stop button would be dangerous.

F. NPR's guest informed the audience that recycling is the environmentalists' dirty little secret because the process of recycling puts more carbon in the air than if we just deposit our trash in land fills.

Come to think of it, why do I recycle?

Todd Donovan

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The Beacon reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

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