



The Andover One Wheelers wind down Main Street during the Fourth of July. Photo and caption: Alan Hanscom

Andover One Wheelers Plan To Scale Back On Travel

By Alan Hanscom
Andover One Wheelers

Andover's Fourth of July Parade marked the end of another chapter in the Andover One Wheelers' story. After 20 years of parades and travel, the traveling team is becoming a club sport in the school, with more emphasis on learning unicycle skills and less on parades and traveling.

The economy has taken its toll in recent years. Appearance fees have largely remained stagnant over the last

The Bahamas, Ontario, California, and Arizona. Being on-time with all of your stuff and keeping your act together will help you throughout your lifetime.

The team has experienced many things over the years. They have touched or ridden a Humvee, schooner, cruise ship, airliner, Amish horse and buggy, coach bus, oddly-designed bicycles, roller coasters, the Budweiser Clydesdales, and an air boat. They have visited Smithsonian museums, Washington monuments and memorials, the Grand Canyon, narrow and winding scenic roads, the Everglades, and a rickety sightseeing tower in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Team members learned to wait patiently with indoor voices in terminals and restaurants. They know how to kill time before a parade with a jump rope, bouncy ball, or hula hoop. And they know just how much noise it takes to get the hotel swimming pool all to themselves.

But most of all, they learned how to put on a great show for an appreciative line of spectators along a parade. They never disappointed.

The team wants to thank Principal Jane Slayton for her unwavering support through the years as an administrator and as a team parent. Thanks also to Gail Parenteau for writing all of our checks and for counting our pennies.

We owe a huge "Thank you!" to Armand Boisvert and AB Transportation (and our personal bus driver, Teri Lee) for cheap travel for many years. All bus expenses were donated to the team for many years, including the annual overnight trip to North Adams, Massachusetts, and our trips to Maine and upstate New York.

We need to thank our coaches, past and present. Michelle Keezer is stepping down as traveling team coach to spend more time with her family. For See AOW on page 46



AOW's four eighth graders pause for a photo at their final parade. L-r: Hannah Veinotte, Alan Hanscom, Bailey Powers, Michelle Keezer, Erin Hanscom, Lisa Hanscom, and Alicia Barry.

few years. On a couple of occasions the organizer's funding has run out before the team's fee was set, forcing a decision of staying home or going anyway for the joy and experience.

Transportation costs sometimes consume over half of the appearance fee, cutting into the amount deposited in the team's travel account. Instead of parades being the major source of income for the group, many more typical local fundraisers are required, putting more pressure on families and friends.

We do this for the kids. The team's motto is "Learning through Commitment and Travel." And you learn a lot traveling to the following places by land, sea, and air: New York, Washington DC, Maine, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Vermont, Florida,

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new space-themed mural.

Keep AE/MS in mind whenever you have an overabundance of fruits and vegetables in your garden. We always welcome adding them to our lunch program. We are always looking for new, cost-effective, delicious, and nutritious recipes. If you have a great recipe to share, please contact Joanne Young, AE/MS kitchen manager.

Speaking of gardens, please feel free to stop in and weed the school garden at any time. While here, be sure to pick some fresh veggies to take home with you.

Kindergarten Orientation is Friday, August 26. The morning session will come in at 8:30 AM, and the afternoon session will arrive at 10 AM. The new kindergarten students will get to explore their classroom, meet Mrs. Witt and other staff members, and take a short ride around town on the school bus.

Our school community will continue to learn, play, and interact within the Eagle Code.

THE AE/MS EAGLE CODE

- Always be Respectful
- Everyone is Responsible
- Make Good Choices
- Safety: First, Last, and Always

All-school meetings and grade-level meetings have been scheduled throughout the new year. At all-school meetings

AE/MS WELCOME BACK!
First Day of School
Monday, August 29

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252 Switch Road, Andover
"Mike's Hobby Means Savings To You"



Caroline (l) and Patti Pond painted a space-escape in the AE/MS boys' bathroom last month. Caroline, who graduated from AE/MS in 2005 and Proctor in 2009, is beginning her junior year at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where she is studying molecular biology. Patti is a math teacher at Proctor. Staff photo: Charlie Darling

We share and celebrate news important to the whole school community. At grade-level meetings, we continue to define and role-play Eagle Code components. There is always time to celebrate, recognize, and acknowledge students and staff members. There is always time for students and staff to learn from each other.

Enjoy the rest of summer vacation!

Correction

In the July *Beacon*, the Proctor Honor Roll omitted Madison Powers of Andover, who is on Head's List for high honors.