

AE/MS Community Comes Together At Monthly Meeting

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

All AE/MS students and staff members gather together once a month to recognize and celebrate contributions made by students, teachers, classes, and teams.

There are traditions within the assembly that are followed. Paul Hubert, music teacher, opens the gathering by strumming the AE/MS song accompanied by the voices of all members of the school community.

The community meeting is then divided into three sections following Principal Slayton's welcome. There is an information section, followed by presentations, and always ending with recognition. The community meetings alternate between morning and afternoon in order not to always disrupt the same class period and to allow for participation of both morning and afternoon kindergarten classes.

The school mascot, Ernie the Eagle, is often present and dancing, clapping, and being very celebratory during the recognition part of the meeting. Ernie is a favorite among the younger students and "being" Ernie is a coveted eighth grade responsibility.

The most recent community meeting had a jam-packed agenda. Mrs. Gaudette talked about Halloween and urged students to enjoy but be safe. She shared several safety tips.

Then Keith Davis, Nick Keniston,

Will Cox, and Adrian Bolte updated the audience on recycling efforts within the school. They explained the latest endeavor of recycling plastic bottles and explained how this works. They talked about why it is important to recycle and urged everyone to do a better job with it.

The Proctor Academy Nordic Team, represented by Coach Buz Morrison and skiers Taylor Pearlman and Maddy Pfeifer, reminded students about the Monday after-school opportunity



Environmentally conscious eighth grade students Nick Kensiton, Keith Davis, Adrian Bolte, and Will Cox talk with the AE/MS school community about the reasons to recycle more and how they are making it easier for them to do so.

for AE/MS students to learn to cross country ski. A Proctor bus transports interested students to the Blackwater Ski Area on Lawrence Street, where they are met by members of the Nordic ski team.

Students receive ski lessons, have tons of fun playing games on snow, and enjoy the snack bar. This will be the third year this has been offered, and participation has grown every winter. Students were amused by a funny ski video and viewed a slide show of last years' participants having fun on snow. Informational registration paperwork was then made available.

Student athletes on the AE/MS seventh and eighth grade soccer team summarized their recent season that had just ended.

Principal Slayton then showed students a short *USA Today* video featuring Dave Cummings and the Hoops for Heroes program. Mr. Cummings would be the guest speaker at the Veterans Day celebration later in the week, and it was important that students had background information to make the experience more meaningful.

The recognition portion of the meeting began with celebrating the Summer Math Superstars. Middle school students are given the opportunity to do extra math work over the summer. All participants were given praise and math-related goody bags by Michelle Keezer, math teacher.

Many students choose to do most of the math work, and four students did *all* the math assignments. Those four students – Ben Yusko, Liz Labrie, Alyssa Smith, and Reilly Walsh – received further honor by being appointed official Veterans Day rebounders for Hoops for Heroes' Dave Cummings.

The cabbage growers were then recognized for their efforts in growing *huge* cabbages during the summer. At the end of third grade, each student is given a cabbage plant to take home, plant, and nurture. In the fall, students return to school with photographs of their humongous cabbages. They are then entered into the Cabbage Contest sponsored by Bonnie Plant.

This year's Green Thumb Awards were given to Cyrus King, Hannah Asbury, Chase Keyser, Ronan Walsh, William Furtkamp, Garrett Munson, and Hunter Hawks. Each grew an amazingly big and beautiful cabbage! Ronan

Walsh's Cape Cod-grown cabbage was chosen to go on to the next level and represent all seven cabbage farmers.



Proctor Academy seniors and Nordic skiers Taylor Pearlman and Maddy Pfeifer skied in and around the AE/MS gymnasium to excite and inform AE/MS students about the Proctor-AE/MS Thursday After-School Cross-Country Ski Program beginning in January. Photos: Jane Slayton

Third grade students in the audience are already excited to receive their cabbage plants in June and to put their gardening skills to work.

The community meeting came to a close with congratulatory and appreciative cheers for Ms. Hildebrand's class who had entertained all with a Halloween play earlier in the week.

It was also announced that an all-time high had been accomplished with Box Top collection, which translates into the school receiving a check for \$565. Box Top collection continues, and if the pace holds steady, the recent record will easily be surpassed. Money will go toward field trips and playground equipment.

The community meeting came to a close; students put away chairs and returned to classes. Everyone left with a better understanding and appreciation of the many things that take place within their school.

Another tradition that often accompanies the community meeting is the passing of the eagle among staff members. The eagle is given to a staff member who exemplifies the Eagle Code. The eagle recently nested in the kitchen with Ms. Young due to the above-and-beyond efforts by the kitchen team. Ms. Young then passed the eagle on to Mrs. Frost, the school nurse. Ms. Young creatively wrote a poem for Mrs. Frost:

Ernie our Eagle
Has flown from the edge
Of the spot in the kitchen
Where he perched on the ledge.
Watching with pride
As the children would near
He would hear them exclaim
Yay! Lunchtime is here!
True that Fadden & Young
Have shared Ernie's time,
But fly on he must
Before changing his mind.
But we think his next journey
Will be greatly served
As Chris Frost gets a visit
From this glorious bird.
And with each visit
Great honor he brings
For a vote from your peers
Is why Ernie takes wing!

Kids like *Molly* need
families like yours.

Become a foster
or adoptive
parent.

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