

AE/MS Receives \$10,000 Donation from Proctor

Generous donation earmarked for technology

Jane Slayton, AE/MS principal

"We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher's hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world." – David Warlick

Andover Elementary/Middle School is again the recipient of a generous donation from Proctor Academy. Ten thousand dollars has been given to AE/MS and will be earmarked for technology. The previous donation enabled AE/MS to replace all the desktop workstations in the Computer Lab. This new donation will be directed toward classroom utilization of technology.

So much of what is now taught in the classroom is enhanced and reinforced with technological tools. Whether you walk into a kindergarten classroom or an eighth grade classroom, you will witness students and teachers effectively using technology as part of a lesson.

Tablets, smart boards, iPads, and other technologies have found educational uses in all our classrooms. The

students and teachers use technology for collaboration, communication, assessment, presenting, and reporting. The uses are limitless.

Our middle school students will now have the opportunity to learn a world language through the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School. The students will have certified teachers leading them through Spanish, French, or Mandarin Chinese.

Chromebooks are already in constant use in our building as we try to share among classrooms. A common sight is an empty iPad cart parked outside a primary classroom, while students in the classroom use iPad applications that individualize their math curriculum.

The middle school interacts daily through Google Docs as they share work with teachers and peer edit. Our teachers create an authentic learning environment – one where students ask questions, do research, and explore subjects that fascinate them. Students and teachers make global connections from their classrooms. All of this will be enhanced and further encouraged through an infusion of additional technology.

AE/MS is appreciative of the generosity of our neighbors.

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local veterans take an active interest in attending this assembly.

And then there are the grandparents! It is so much fun to watch the interaction between the students and their adoring grandparents. Grandparents tour the building and spend time in the classrooms, and all the while their grandchildren are excitedly showing them everything they think is important. A fabulous turkey dinner is enjoyed while new friends are made between families, volunteers, and staff members.

December brings the kindergarten through fifth grade Holiday Concert, which was held on Thursday, December 11. This is a fun and festive night, as students take the stage and sing Christmas favorites while wearing their finest holiday attire.

Speaking of music, we are always looking for musical instruments. If you have an instrument in good shape that you no longer use, please consider donating it to the school. Contact Ms. Brittney Fournier, AE/MS music teacher, if interested. Playing an instrument can be unaffordable for some families, so we try to have instruments available for students.

Holiday Shoppe

The Holiday Shoppe will be held on Thursday, December 18. This is the much-anticipated shopping day for all students. It gives the students an opportunity to surprise their family members with gifts they pick out all by themselves. Due to the generosity of the community, the local individuals of the New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family, AE/MS staff, and PTO mem-

bers, we are able to have a bountiful Holiday Shoppe every December. AE/MS school nurse Christine Frost coordinates this magical day.

The Town of Andover, through the efforts of the Recreation Committee, is again generously making the ski program available and affordable to Andover families. The first ski day is Friday, January 9. Students have the opportunity to alpine ski or snowboard at Ragged Mountain Resort.

Those students who do not ski on Friday afternoons will have the opportunity to skate at the Proctor Academy rink. We appreciate Proctor Academy staff for making this possible every winter.

Students must have skates and helmets. We do have some skates available at school. Consider donating skates that children have outgrown at the end of the winter. We have a good collection, and we are happy to share skates with community groups.

Help us recycle and earn money for the school playground at the same time. We are collecting toner and ink cartridges from printers and copiers. If there is a parent or community member who would like to help with the collection, please let me know.

A school can never have enough LEGOs. If you have any to spare, please consider donating them to AE/MS. They are treasured by students, young and old, for inside recesses and other activities.

Congratulations to our big Box Tops for Education winners, Cameron Chevarie and Garrett Barton, who will receive Monarchs tickets. We have earned \$770 dollars just this fall!

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the school building.

The younger children love seeing their buddies and mentors throughout their school day. It gives them purpose and a sense of importance and belonging. It allows the older students to experience themselves as caring, competent,

and valued, while the younger students can experience themselves as worthy of special attention and kindness. These children are not just coming and going to school each day, they are now an even closer part of an extended school family.

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this fall. As goalie for the varsity field hockey team, Taylor Methven '16 was recognized as Most Valuable Player on the varsity field hockey team which earned a New England playoff bid for the second straight year.

Taylor's younger sister, Chloe Methven '18, earned Most Improved Play-

er honors for the junior varsity field hockey team; while Kelsie Berry '15 was recognized as the junior varsity girls soccer Most Valuable Player and recently opened for rock star Matt Nathanson when he sang a benefit concert on Proctor's campus in October.

The depth, talent, and contributions of Andover students are critical to the success of the Proctor community!