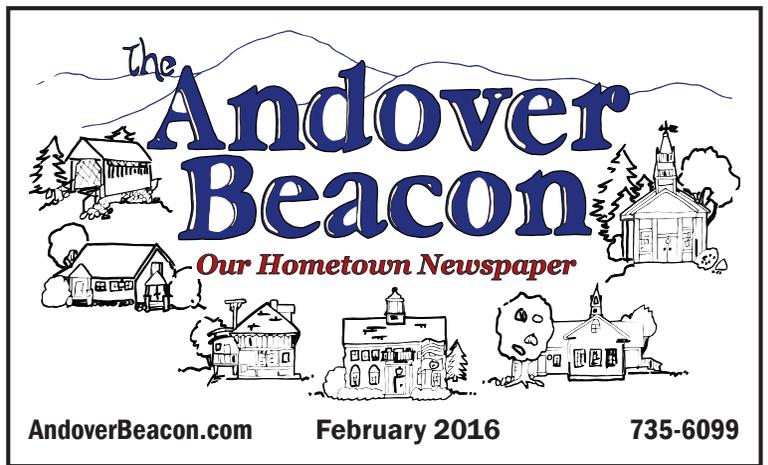




The AE/MS Class of 2016: (front) Desiree Langlois, Kayla Meserve, Hunter Hawks, Tori Braley, Robbie Schwendler, (middle) Alexis Guyer, Dillan Reed, Will Furtkamp, Elijah Wakeman, Ryelle Jenifer, (back) Riley Keezer, Caleb Chevarie, Madalyn Goodwin, Ronan Walsh, Chase Keyser, Garrett Munson, Cyrus King. Missing: Vienna Marcus, Ethan Hughes, Ethan Davis.



Thank You, Andover!

Many generous people make Andover special

Jane Slayton, AE/MS principal

"You won't understand the unabashed power of community, until you are part of one." ~Anonymous

Most Beacon readers knew Don Gross, who died on January 7, as an embodiment of community spirit. Don holds a very special place in our hearts.

Our last visit with him at AE/MS was when he stopped by the school office before Christmas to generously offer money to help families. We could count on Don.

As generous as he was, Don was by no means the only bighearted guy in town. As we say farewell to both Don and 2015, our Andover community spirit and sense of caring remains strong. Your generous support this year has been overwhelming.

During the holidays, the Andover Elementary/Middle School office again became a community distribution center for the gifts, meals, clothes, money, and gift cards you brought in to be matched with families. The annual process is extraordinary to watch and always reassures both Gail Parenteau and me that our community is indeed extra special. It is always handled with confidentiality and respect for the recipients.

What is also heartwarming to witness is that several families who were the recipients of help in the past now come forward to extend that same generous help to others.

During the holidays and throughout the year, many individuals, families, and organizations regularly receive support. The help and assistance is appreciated.

Thank you for your continued generosity.
See Thank You on page 39

AE/MS Eighth Grade Plans an Amazing Trip to NYC

Fundraising ideas needed!

Jane Slayton, AE/MS principal

*Start spreading the news
We're leaving in June
We want to be a part of it
New York, New York ...
(with apologies to lyricist Fred Ebb)*

Eighth grade students and staff members will spend June 1, 2, and 3 in New York City. Fundraising efforts are underway. You will see students out and about selling raffle tickets, babysitting, putting on breakfasts and dinners, and hosting movie nights and dances. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas.

We have been taking our students to New York City for the past few years, but this year much more has been added to our itinerary.

Day One finds us arriving at AE/MS very early and boarding our bus. Other than a few necessary rest area stops along the way, our first real stop will be Grand Central Station. All aboard!

Next up is Rockefeller Center and St. Patrick's Cathedral, followed by a little window shopping along Fifth Avenue. Students will see Saks Fifth Avenue, Trump Tower, Tiffany and Company, and the Apple Store while getting fresh air and exercise.

Then we have a backstage tour of
See Trip on page 39

Sophia Reynolds in Championships in New Mexico

Running with Granite State Flash team

Jim Tucker, AE/MS

On Saturday, December 12, Sophia Reynolds finished her cross country season at the National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After the Middle School State Meet, Sophia joined the Granite State Flash Club's 11- and 12-year-old girls team.

Sophia qualified for the Region 1 Championship Meet with a team victory and 9th place finish in the New England Association Meet. The Flash Club also won the Region 1 Championship, and Sophia placed 19th to qualify the team for the National Meet.

The National Championship was held at the Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Race day was 35 degrees and rainy, but the team was excited. Sophia had her best start of the year, and the team ran well. The team exceeded expectations, getting 10th out of 23 teams. Sophia ran a great race, coming in

139th out of 301 athletes. It was the best performance ever for a Flash Club team at the 5,000 feet altitude in Albuquerque. Congratulations, Sophia!



Sophia Reynolds ran with the Granite State Flash team in the Junior Olympic Cross Country National Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 12. Sophia ran a great race (at nearly a mile in altitude!), finishing 139 out of 301 racers and helping her team to 10th place out of 23 teams.



The annual Torch Light Parade will be a highlight of the Proctor Ski Area Celebration again this year.

Proctor Ski Area Celebration on February 5

Community invited to an evening of skiing and boarding

Press release

Proctor Academy invites the Andover community to join us at the Proctor Ski Area on Friday, February 5, for an evening of skiing, food, and fun to celebrate the unique role the Proctor Ski Area plays in the ski world. Bring

your alpine skis, nordic skis, and snowboards to enjoy freshly-groomed trails and outdoor fires blazing to keep you warm. A hearty meal will be served at Yarrow's Lodge, free of charge.

Nordic skiing will begin at 3:30 PM, and lifts will be running for alpine skiing from 5 to 8:30 PM. Please RSVP to Debbie Krebs at Events@ProctorAcademy.org or 735-6215.

