



Friday Memo 06-22-18

Steppin' Up into Summer Vacation!

Ahhhhh! Summer vacation has arrived at last. After a full week of year-ending activities and events, we have reached the end of the 2017-18 school year. Wednesday's Pre-K and Kindergarten Fun Day, Thursday's Year-End Assembly and Friday's Step-Up Ceremony were the final three events of a year that was filled with learning, growth, friendship and fun. Special thanks to all of our teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff, custodial crew, kitchen staff and everyone else who helped make this year so memorable! Be sure to check out the pictures at the end of this memo and the video from Field Day 2018: <https://goo.gl/RoqJYV>



From the Superintendent's Desk - June 2018 End-of-the-Year Updates

Dear Andover Elementary School Parents & Guardians,

No question this has been an unusually long school year with our many snow and other storm days factored in. Let's all hope that the 2017-2018 year was a very rare occurrence and won't happen again for a long time.

This has been a very busy year for the Board of Education and the school in general, and I want to present some of the basic challenges we all faced:

Andover Elementary School Budget - No doubt you remember the fiscal crisis the State of Connecticut faced in the fall of 2017, resulting in weeks of uncertainty at AES in terms of what funding we would be receiving for this school year. Each possible reduction or State change brought new projections as to how we would remain open and staffed for the current year. In the end, when the State finally resolved the budget and provided us with approved numbers, we were able to adjust our own budget and move ahead. This crisis took a great deal of time, but thanks to our business manager and everyone's patience, we were able to move ahead with a big sigh of relief.

The budget for 2018-2019 ended up with a reduction of approximately 3% after the Board of Education made reductions, as did the Board of Finance. As you may remember, the first budget referendum did not pass and subsequent cuts were made. AES ended with an extremely workable budget for the 2018-2019 school year.

Planning Ahead - At the final Board of Education meeting for the current school year, we reviewed enrollment projections and tentative plans for using our facilities wisely through the upcoming years. We've been working hard in compiling the many advantages of living in Andover and the opportunities that Andover Elementary School offers to children and families. We will soon be rolling out information on many positive aspects of our community under the heading, "*Thinking of Moving to Andover?*" Our website will contain this information and we are exploring other avenues of getting the word out. One of the attractions approved by the Board of Education at its recent meeting is the development of a unique student learning lab known as a Makerspace.

What is a Makerspace? - A Makerspace is a location within a school that is devoted to student creativity and the development of actual items/products that students make to reinforce their learning in creative ways. We will be working this summer and into the fall on a "Makerspace Triangle" in the downstairs hallway that will pull together the resources of the Library Media

Center, Art Room, and Technology Room. Makerspaces provide an opportunity for students and teachers to integrate concepts from Science, Math, Engineering, and Technology.

Summer Activity - Summer weeks give us the opportunity to pursue projects within and around the building itself. This summer we have several projects going on, including interior painting, work on our water tank and controls, and moving around some classrooms and other spaces. So, even without students around, it's a very busy time for Andover Elementary School.

Finally, thank you all for your involvement in your children's education over this past year and all that you have done to support Andover Elementary School. Your support makes AES a unique, welcoming, and happy place. Have a wonderful summer!

~ Sally Doyen, Ed.D.
Superintendent



The preschool and kindergarten classes spent a beautiful day participating in Fun Day - their version of Field Day. This event included activities that were specially geared towards the development of younger children. The students rotated through eight stations, including Duck, Duck, Splash; Messy Backyard; Scooter Car Wash; Gym Obstacle Course; Relay Races; Fireball Sponge Toss, Clothesline Relay, and Toe Fishing for Marbles. The stations were guided by preschool and kindergarten family volunteers and a group of sixth graders. Fun Day was followed by a Preschool Picnic on the hill and a Kindergarten Pavilion Pizza Party with families. The weather was perfect, the students were perfect, the help was perfect, and all the fun was perfect!



Bow Wow Biscuit Company



The Bow Wow Biscuit company was again in business for its 17th year. The 2nd graders learned about running a business while raising money for the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. Students recently visited Fidelco to learn about how they raise and train German Shepherds for people who are visually impaired. Using ingredients they bought at Big Y, the students made dog biscuits that they sold to staff, family and friends. Students presented Fidelco with a check for \$385 to be used to purchase a harness for a guide dog. "Lyric" enjoyed listening to the kids sing a song about Bow Wow Biscuits and even enjoyed eating a biscuit. Congratulations to the 2nd graders for a job well done!

Calling All Early Birds

The COOL Morning Program runs on school days from 6:30 until 8:30 am.

We accept Preschool through 6th grade students at AES.

Activities and art along with games and projects keep us busy. Morning Snack is provided.

Organize yourself for next school year before this year ends.

If you might be interested in the Morning Program please contact us ASAP at:

coolaes35@gmail.com

The School Readiness Council is seeking preschool parent representatives. This organization oversees and makes decisions regarding our Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center. If you are interested in joining us once a month from 3:15-4:00, please inform your child's teacher or contact our school principal, Mr. John Briody.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Andover Elementary School is registering preschool students for the 2018-2019 school year. Andover's preschool program is full day. Parents of children who will be age 3 on or before December 31, 2018, are asked to contact the school office at (860) 742-7339 to obtain a registration packet. You may also download a registration packet from our website at: [www.andoverelementaryct.org.https://sis-et.tylertech.com/AndoverCT/TSI_Live/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FAndoverCT%2FTSI_Live%2FCustomWebPart%2FHomePageWidgets%2FHomePage.aspx](https://sis-et.tylertech.com/AndoverCT/TSI_Live/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FAndoverCT%2FTSI_Live%2FCustomWebPart%2FHomePageWidgets%2FHomePage.aspx)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2018-2019 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before December 31, 2018, are asked to contact the school office at (860) 742-7339 to obtain a registration packet.

Reminders from the Office

We are in the process of streamlining our registration procedures using our new student information system. Families will be given the opportunity to update their contact information through an online parent portal. They will also be able to complete the required forms online before the start of school. This will minimize the number of forms we need to send home and collect each year. Stay tuned!

Let's Recycle Old Magic Markers: Crayola ColorCycle will accept all brands of plastic markers, not just Crayola markers. That includes dry erase markers and highlighters! ColorCycle will eliminate placing hundreds of tons of markers into landfills. Clear out the old, tired markers

from your classrooms and from home, drop them off in the box in the front lobby, and help Andover go green.

Have a great summer!

John

Here are some pictures from our final week:









