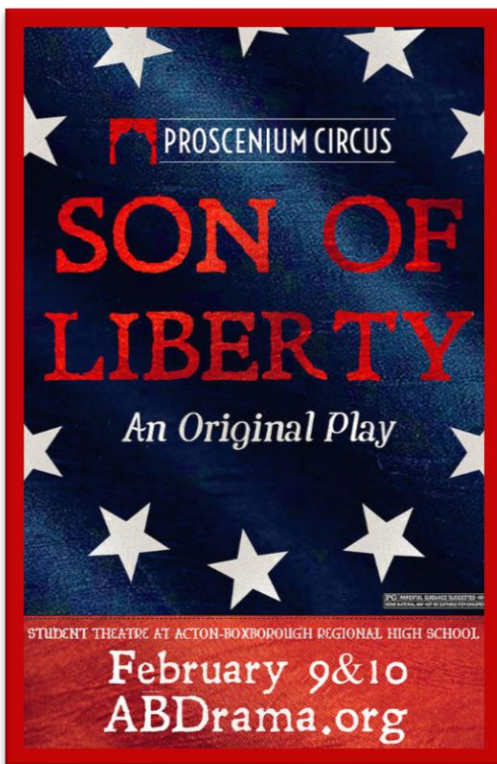


W I N T E R 2 0 1 8

ABSAF Sports, Clubs, & Activities Update

Gift Received - ABSAF is proud to announce receipt of a \$50,000 gift from Middlesex Savings Bank. [Learn more.](#)

PC Presents Son of Liberty



A community on the brink of war, Boston must decide how it will respond to the latest Tea Act passed by Parliament as the Sons of Liberty struggle to maintain order and unity within its own party. A Loyalist's son, Thomas Wells is torn between his allegiance to his family and the dreams he has for his own future. Based on historical events, this show reflects our actual world and depicts violence. It is an original play written by our own PC company members, so it will be spectacular!

**Don't miss it! Shows are February 9&10
both starting at 7:00**

ABSAF pass holders may reserve tickets through [ABDrama.org](#). The online reservation process closes midnight on February 4th, the Sunday before the show! If tickets are still available after the deadline, you may claim your two tickets at the door with your ABSAF pass.

Save the Date!

Girls Varsity Gymnastics 2/5

AB vs. Newton South at the high school lower gym, 6:30

Boys Varsity Basketball 2/6

AB vs. Bedford Public High School at the field house, 5:30

Girls Varsity Hockey 2/7

AB vs. Haverhill at the Nashoba Valley Olympia, 6:00

Boys Varsity Hockey 2/14

AB vs. Andover High School Nashoba Valley Olympia, pool, 8:10

Meet the Coaches!

Recently, some student athletes on the ABSAF committee sat down to talk with three of Acton-Boxborough's newest coaches; Kevin Richardson, head coach for the Boys Varsity Hockey team, Amy Houle, head coach of the Girls Varsity Basketball team and William Kane head coach of the AB Girls Varsity Gymnastics team. The three are all veterans of the AB program, but, this year marks their first year as Head Coach to their respective programs. We wish Coach Richardson, Coach Houle and Coach Kane good luck in their premier year as head coaches for the Colonials!

William Kane – Head Coach of AB Girls Varsity Gymnastics team

Bill was a competitive gymnast from age 12 up through college and started teaching/coaching in 1979 when he was just 15. He was born and raised in New York and moved up to Massachusetts in 1987, He began coaching again in Massachusetts and that became his full-time job. He opened Planet Gymnastics in 1999. He coached all levels of boys and girl's gymnastics. He says he has "enjoyed seeing my gymnasts succeed at all levels". His first experience coaching high school was as the assistant varsity coach for Lincoln-Sudbury team in the early 90s, and later he was the assistant coach under Susie Alex, the former AB Gymnastics coach, for several years, before forming the Parker /Concord-Carlisle / Littleton Varsity team. He is excited for the rest of the season saying he is "very happy to be given the opportunity to coach the Acton-Boxborough team this season."

Bill loves coaching the sport of gymnastics due to that it is an opportunity he can offer to high school athletes that is a healthy outlet in a healthy environment and enjoys being able to give back to the Acton-Boxborough community as well.

Bill is "very pleased with the growth we have seen this season". While the team's record of 4-1 is impressive, he is very excited at the prospect of qualifying for sectionals. He is also very happy with the team's progress and know that next season they will be even stronger as he gets to know the gymnasts better and what their strengths are and how to capitalize on them next season. Bill states that "Their strengths stem from a positive culture and unity within the group that continues to grow." and that "they have plenty of talent and tenacity that will continue to serve them well going forward."

Girls Varsity Gymnastics Team



Gymnastics Show at Planet Gymnastics, Friday night, March 2nd at 7PM, and Saturday afternoon, March 3rd at 3:30PM

Kevin Richardson – Head Coach of AB Boys Varsity Hockey team

Coach Richardson grew up playing hockey in Southern California and Canada. He played 3 years of Tier II Junior Hockey between the Maritime and Manitoba Junior Hockey Leagues before coming to Massachusetts to play for Nichols College where his team earned a bid into the Div III NCAA hockey tournament.

Coach Richardson became involved with the AB hockey program when he started volunteering for the JV team in 2014. As time progressed he realized he had a passion for coaching and helping young players to develop. The opportunity to have a positive impact on his players and level of community involvement are two things he really enjoys about coaching at AB.

When asked about his coaching philosophy, he responded that his main goal is “to help develop the players into men of dignity, integrity, and empathy who make a positive impact on the people around them.” Showing respect and kindness are key parts of his philosophy, and he believes hockey is a sport that can build character in players as they transform into men.

Coach Richardson talked about his team’s strengths and their “fantastic goaltending, solid core of upper-classmen, and great young players that have joined the team.” He believes the overall mentality and chemistry of the team is solid and the team has a never-quit attitude. He expects these strengths to lead to an exciting second half of the season.

Coach Richardson resides in Lunenburg with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.

Boys Varsity Hockey Team



Amy Houle - Head Coach AB Girls Varsity Basketball Team

A 1993 graduate of Acton Boxborough, Coach Houle was a 3-season athlete who played volleyball, basketball and softball during her high school athletic career. She began her full-time teaching career at AB as a Special Educator, and a few years later accepted a position as a Psychology and Sociology teacher in the Social Studies Department. “I have been here at AB for 21 years and can’t see myself working any other place as this is a very special community of colleagues and students to be a part of on a daily basis,” she states.

Excited to get back into coaching and turn this enthusiasm back to the courts, Coach Houle talks about her commitment to the student athletes. “I find the most meaning and satisfaction from watching players grow, develop, improve, and make progress. I love to be able to be a part of this journey with each of the players as they become better and better versions of themselves throughout the season.”

Coach Houle discussed her coaching philosophy, which focuses on the belief that “basketball as a vehicle through which student athletes can develop essential social, emotional, and behavioral life skills that can allow for meaningful experiences on and off the court.” She states that these experiences can ultimately “support success in many facets of one’s life.”

When asked about what impressed her most about this years’ team, Coach Houle responds “how incredibly hard they work for each other and themselves. I am routinely impressed with their work ethic, toughness, and physical as well as mental resilience. I also very much value their willingness to adapt and evolve as players, teammates, and sportswomen.”

Finally, Coach Houle commented that teamwork is the focus for both coaches and players this season. Not only has she been impressed by the team-focus of the players, but, she noted that she is extremely grateful to be working with Assistant Coach Mrs. Katrina Forde. “She is incredibly insightful about our players as athletes and people. She always comes from a place of optimism and joy and is a constant reminder of what is absolutely good about coaching and the sport of basketball.”

Girls Varsity Basketball Team

