

Andrew Burnell
APC Graduation Speech – 2018

Good afternoon!

First, I'd like to congratulate the seniors for their accomplishments and for their commitment to APC. I'd also like to recognize APC staff and administration for all of the work they put in behind the scenes to make events like this possible.

If there was a word to sum up the 2017-2018 school year, it would be **COMMUNITY**. Since September, this group of students has spent every Tuesday and Thursday building their community. They've supported our local community by helping to repair bicycles for one of the 400+ young people who access

the CBC each year, fixed and repaired 20+ bicycles for Healthy Kids Day at Primary School, worked on projects tidying up the shop by organizing parts, painting our work benches, re-finishing tool boards to be easily navigated by kids, prepared garden beds for spring planting, and kept thousands of pounds of metal out of landfills by recycling old bikes.

Additionally, these students impacted the statewide community. The CBC, with the help of APC students prepared and sold over 50+ bikes at the Great Maine Bike Swap. Students priced, sized, identified, and inventoried all bikes gaining insight into real world business practices. All 50+ bikes were sold to attendees from all over the state and beyond.

One of our greatest accomplishments this year however goes far beyond the local and statewide community-- this project went global! From September to January APC students collected, folded, and prepared 60+ bicycles for shipment to Bikes-not-Bombs in Boston, Massachusetts. In mid-January students and staff transported the 60+ bikes to BNB headquarters, in March those bikes along with 450 others were loaded into a shipping container, and about two weeks later shipped to Nairobi, Kenya to support Bikes-not-Bombs international partner, Cycloville. Cycloville is a network of cyclists and bicycle shops in Nairobi, Kenya that is working to grow the bicycle industry in Kenya to create employment for young people and to build the critical mass of cyclists to organize for policy and infrastructure change. Now that is impact!

It wasn't always work, work, work because a community is only as strong as the relationships within it! Getting to spend so much time with one another—relationships were bound to be formed. I know I will miss the conversations about sports, rap music, and foolish youtube videos. I'll miss the foursquare games, chess matches, and cycling in the quarry. I'll miss absolutely dominating Tom, Mike, and Cam in basketball! Most of all, I'll cherish each of the relationships that were formed and hope that they can continue to grow as you enter the next chapters of your lives.

In closing, if I had to offer up a bit of advice as you enter into the next phase of your lives it would be-- take the job! Similar advice I received from a mentor, and had I not taken it, I may have never had the opportunity to meet you all!

Thank you all so much for instilling a little bit of trust in me and letting me and the CBC be a part of your experience at APC!