

Abraham High School Principal Walter Simmons will be replaced by Vice Principal Patricia Waterstone for the rest of the school year after Simmons broke his leg on the last day of a planned school skiing trip in Keystone Colorado .

Simmons, as a first time skier, took lessons with other students for the first portion of the trip. On the last day he took a hard fall and was rescued by ski patrol then was transported to Keystone Hospital where the medical staff set his broken leg. He rode the bus back to AHS with the students.

"The students were amazing. They really took care of me on the long bus ride home and made me as comfortable as possible, considering the situation," Simmons said.

Simmons will be on bed rest for the remainder of the year to allow for a full recovery. With the school year coming to a close, Waterstone will step in to take over his duties. She'll be in charge of events like Student Body elections, hiring new teachers, and prepping the summer school schedule. Waterstone, who has been with AHS for 15 years, said she's ready for the challenge.

"I've been trained for this role, and I know the students and staff will step up in Mr. Simmons' absence," Waterstone said. "I love events like prom and graduation, and I'll work hard to make sure everything goes smoothly. I know Mr. Simmons will miss being there, but I'll keep him updated every step of the way."

The trip is considered a success even despite injuries being involved. The trip was the result of a year of fundraising, where students raised \$3,000 from car washes, bake sales, and candle sales to cover the costs.

"You never think something like this will happen, especially on the last day when we all thought we'd made it through without a scratch," Student Council President Wanda Brandman said. "But we still had a great time, and it was nice to relax after such a busy year. It's definitely a trip we'll all remember. Even though Simmy got hurt, I'm glad we got to go."