Cleaning the channel is dirty work! Photo: Beth Frost

Wyldlife & Young Life

By Beth Frost
For the *Beacon*

On Monday afternoon, October 29, the Andover Young Life/Wyldlife youth group plus a few other youngsters gathered at the East Andover Fire Station after school. They were met there by Tim Frost of the Highland Lake Protective Association who handed out rubber gloves and plastic garbage bags. Their mission was to clean along the shoreline of the Highland Lake channel.

The lake association had contacted Cathy Ellis, the youth group leader, the week before asking if the kids would be interested in cleaning up the channel while the water is drawn down and offering to make a contribution to the youth group in return. The kids thought it was a great idea!

It was a sunny, but very chilly, afternoon. There were about 20 kids accompanied by five or six adults. They spent almost two hours and collected 30 bags of garbage…plus a few other items they dragged out of the water like a stop sign (post included), pieces of rusted metal, and an old motor!

The group worked hard and were quite wet and muddy when they were finished. Tim opened the fire station, and a hose was made available to wash the mud off the kids before their parents picked them up. The kids did a great job and had a lot of fun doing it.

The youth group meets every Sunday at the Andover Fire House at 5 PM for a weekly supper and Bible study. On November 4, the kids met at the fire house earlier than usual and raked the leaves around the fire house before their meeting.

By Robin Rego
Wyldlife/Young Life

The Mount Kearsarge Area Wyldlife/Young Life group has had a busy fall! In addition to the community service events of cleaning up the channel of Highland Lake and raking the Andover Fire Station lawn, the youth of Andover and surrounding towns have been enjoying the weekly youth group gatherings on Sunday nights from 5 to 7 PM and had a great time at our November Wyldlife Club.

Our usual crazy games and skits were followed by a yummy meal and inspirational message about how we can all shine God's light to the world around us. God requires action! Thanks again to all the parent volunteers who help us in so many ways – you all are great!

The next Wyldlife Club is Saturday, December 8, from 6 to 7:30 PM at the AE/MS gym; it will of course be a Christmas theme.

Camp Scholarship Donations Needed

We are once again planning our "Deep Freeze" weekend at Camp Berea on Newfound Lake for February 8 through 10. Donations are needed for children who would not be able to attend except for the generosity of others. These camps are message-driven, jam-packed, fun-filled experiences that leave an impact on all who attend. All area middle school (grades five through eight) and high school youth are invited. Bring a friend!

Fifty-dollar deposits are due by December 8. The total cost is $120. Please call Cathy Ellis at 735-5025 or Robin Rego at 735-4183 to help sponsor a child or for information about any of these youth activities. Thanks for your support!

While learning about measuring and exploring different textures, the children colored macaroni and experimented with cups, spoons, and funnels in our rice table. Back (l-r): Sadie Barton, Aidan Collum, and Noah King. Front: Hannah Tripp, Jazlyn Perkins, and Haley Dukette. Photo: Doreen Perreault

East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault
East Andover Village Preschool

This month the children enjoyed learning about being thankful and learned about giving. To celebrate Thanksgiving, the children collected non-perishable food items for the Franklin Food Pantry. We made pilgrim and Indian hats and celebrated the true meaning of the season. The children decorated a turkey box and cards that were added to our box of goods.

During December, the children will be decorating our classroom with Christmas ornaments and signs of the cold winter months. We will be having several holiday events where we will be enjoying some hot cocoa and cookies. A special letter to the North Pole has been sent in hopes that Santa will be able to make a quick trip to visit the children at the preschool. Visions of sugar plums and signs of Jack Frost are all around our preschool.

Preschool II children enjoyed a trip to the Franklin Fire Station, where they learned about fire safety and the jobs of our local fire fighters. The children enjoyed the chance to ride the school bus and visit our everyday heroes.

Preschool I children are growing more rapidly each day! We are learning about sharing and being a good friend. The children enjoyed helping with our recent Book Fair. We are finger painting, wrapping holiday surprises, and enjoying some holiday music through out the month.

Special thanks to the East Andover Marketplace and the East Andover Post Office for our October trick or treat visit. The children really enjoy visiting our neighbors. Thank you to Gavin Elliot and his family for sharing his wonderful blow-up haunted house. It was a great way to enjoy our Halloween celebration. All our little goblins loved it!

On behalf of all of us here at EAVP, we wish you all the very best this holiday season. Remember to be good to yourself and those around you. Have a wonderful Christmas and all the very best in the New Year.

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Thank You, Andover Lions!

The Andover Lions Club recently screened all AE/MS students for vision and hearing. This is a big help !

THANK YOU from AE/MS!