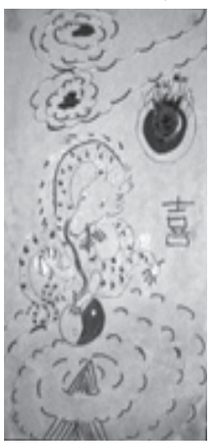
AE/MS art teacher Linda DeMinico helps Hannah Asbury and Jacob Duquette with the Year of the Tiger decorations. Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

AE/MS Celebrates Chinese New Year

By Linda DeMinico
AE/MS Art Teacher

AE/MS students have been learning about Asian culture. We have focused on the lunar calendar, art styles from Tibet and China, the dragon as a mythical animal, and the zodiac signs.

While the lunar new year holiday is often referred to as Chinese New Year, it is truly much more international than that. The lunar new year is celebrated in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Taiwan, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Tibet, Korea, Vietnam, and Japan and in many cities in Australia, Canada, and the US. It is a festive celebration in which the emphasis is on wishing peace and happiness, longevity, prosperity, forgiveness, and good luck for all.



Art by Robert Smith

Students have learned some Tibetan and Chinese schemas for nature in art class. The schemas represent the energy of the object being drawn. Clouds have multiple colors, mountains have textures of lotus leaves, rivers are drawn as undulating parallel lines, and trees are full of branches representing snowflakes, half moons, or deer antlers.

We have also learned a bit about Chinese writing and how they do not "spell" a word, but they draw an image of a word. And we have learned about the much-loved mythical dragon who embraces goodness, vigilance, dignity, and good luck.

The fourth graders made paper dragon puppets, and we had our annual parade on February l8. The parade is accompanied by lots of drumming and noise making. The myth is that our dragons will help any bad luck from last year leave, and we will then enjoy a happy new year.

The students have enjoyed learning about and understanding art from another culture. Happy New Year in the year 4707!

MVHS Honor Roll

2009/2010 - Second Term • Andover Students

2010 • High Honors
- Gregory Hewitt

2010 • Honors
- Curtis Blodgett
- Joshua Bond
- Amy Lamos
- Timothy McDaniel
- Elizabeth Stearns

2011 • High Honors
- Shawna Barton
- Brianna Keniston
- Rebecca Lance

2011 • Honors
- Henry Bendel
- Norbu Dickinson
- Jacob Frost

2012 • Honors
- Danielle Adams
- Chantal Caron
- Brendan Coll
- Ashleigh Fife
- Rhianna Newton
- Joseph Rego

2013 • High Honors
- Jason Ashburn
- Alexis King
- Mariah Lansdown-Howard
- Kristi Perreault

2013 • Honors
- Ethan Barton
- Stephanie Croteau
- Jenna Davis
- Marissa Laro

(Clockwise from left) Erin Frost, Pat Frost, Linda Bolte, Jared Frost, and Christine Frost enjoy the annual Parent Breakfast at AE/MS.
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

(L-r) Dennis Labonte, Ryan Labonte, Dan Labonte, and Justin Renfrew lighten the snowload on the middle school wing of AE/MS.
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

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