

**Worms from page 24**

- Choose a bin to suit your needs. (You will need about one square foot of surface area for each pound of food waste a week.)
- Drill two rows of holes, not too big, about two inches apart around the top of the bin for fresh air.
- Dampen shredded newspaper, mix it with a few large handfuls of soil and place it in the bin about six to eight inches deep.
- Put your worms in your bin, add some garbage, and cover it with more newspaper. (We also cover the newspaper with a piece of corrugated cardboard, to ensure a dark, damp environment.)
- Put the bin cover on and store in your basement, heated garage, or under your sink.

Red wigglers, unlike earthworms, can't be left outside in the cold. They do best in 50-degree to 80-degree environments. Your worms' population will adjust to whatever space and food you provide. Don't worry, they won't try to escape.

Other hints for happy worming:

- Cut your fruit and veggie garbage into smaller pieces. This helps the worms enjoy their fresh food feasts.
- Be sure the bedding is moist (not dripping) because worms need water, too, and they absorb it through their bodies.
- If the food isn't gone within a few days, your worms are either

- dieting, or you're giving them too much. Too much food may cause an odor. Happy worms don't smell.
- Worms are healthy eaters. No meat, bones, oils, fats, vinegar, or chemical-laden food.
- No dog or cat wastes. Yuck!
- Go easy on acidic foods like orange peels and tomatoes.
- If you see other little creatures in the bin, don't be alarmed. They're good helpers in the decomposing process.

There are many great reasons to keep worms, but if you ask these fourth graders, "Why worms?" here are some responses:

- "They're not picky eaters."
- "You'll save room in your trash."
- "They're automatic garbage disposals that don't use electricity."
- "You can go fishing with them."
- "They don't need a litter box."

So, if you eat a lot of vegetables but don't always finish them; if you like squiggly, slimy things that you can get your hands dirty with; and if you want to put your garbage to work for you, then you need a worm bin. We have some extra worms to share with a few good homes.

To learn more about vermiculture, look for the wonderful resource *Worms Eat My Garbage*, by Mary Applehof. She also has a Web site with more wormy info at HappyDRanch.com.

**Family Barn Dance**

The Andover Elementary/Middle School PTO is sponsoring a Family Barn Dance on February 17. The popular Two Fiddles team – Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman – will play fiddles and call dances to brighten the spirits and drive the doldrums away.

The Laufmans will spend the day at AE/MS teaching some basic dances, like the Virginia Reel, to students in grades two, three, and four. At 6:30 that evening all students and families and the Andover community are invited back for dancing. No prior dancing experience is necessary!

A pot luck dinner will be held prior to the dancing. Call Jane Slayton at AE/MS (735-5494) for more information.

**Former AE/MS Teacher Named NH Teacher Of The Year**

Randy Wormald, a mathematics teacher at Belmont High School and former Andover Elementary/Middle School math teacher, has been chosen as the 2005 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year.

"This national and statewide award builds community awareness of our state's finest educators, while providing positive messages about the teaching profession. The Department of Education hopes that by recognizing the state's many excellent educators, more people will consider a career in education, and local communities will invest enough resources to attract the highest caliber professionals. Mr. Wormald represents the high quality educators we have in this state. It is only with such educators that our children will learn the skills so necessary to succeed," said Commissioner of Education Nicholas C. Donohue.

Randy, who is known as "Worm" at his schools, has taught at both the middle and high schools in Belmont, and he was a contributing member of the academic strategic planning committee for the school district. He is co-coach of the math team and co-advisor for the class of 2005.

Shari Lemeris, middle school Language Arts teacher at AE/MS, remembers Randy fondly. "Randy was an enthusiastic and wonderful teacher. Working with Randy was always an adventure. He was inventive in his approach to education and definitely made learning fun for his students. He is one of those teachers that students will always remember," said Shari

Randy also left a lasting impression on Gretchen Hildebrand, second grade teacher at AE/MS. "Randy worked overtime to reach all students. He even had math work sessions at 6:30 in the morning on test days. Randy was engaging, friendly, happy, hardworking, and well-liked. You never knew how he would come to school dressed. He might come in a toga and teach Pythagoras' Theorem, or he might come dressed in a tuxedo or surfer shorts!" recalled Gretchen.



Randy Wormald, 2005 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year, jokes with some of his geometry students.

For the 1999-2000 school year, Randy and his wife Jodi taught in Taichung, Taiwan. "Having taught math and computer education in New Hampshire, the Virgin Islands, and Taiwan, I've seen that all kids share the same qualities. Children want to learn and the same things get them hooked." Wormald said. "An element of competition - either internal or external - hands-on learning, and excitement are the keys to success when teaching children of any age."

Charline Brown, fifth grade teacher at Danbury Elementary, was also a finalist in the 2005 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year program. Gretchen Hildebrand was a finalist for New Hampshire Teacher of the Year in 2003, and she has been nominated again for 2006.

**Names from page 24**

that the bullying will be stopped. Be a good role model within your own relationships with relatives and neighbors, and in handling your anger with others. Often we as adults name-call and make put-downs without realizing that this gives the message to our children that it is acceptable behavior.

As part of our Parent Education Series at AE/MS, we will be looking at the issue of bullying in a presentation later this year. Look for more information on this in the future.

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