



Becca Lance and Meredith Cline ponder their results in Science class.
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

Of Pillbugs and Earthworms

By Ryan Murphy
AE/MS Science Teacher

Andover Middle School science students have spent the last two weeks designing their own scientific investigations with pillbugs and earthworms. The Pillbug (*Armadillidium vulgare*) is also known as a Rolley-Polley or Woodlouse. Students are also working with the common earthworm (*Lumbricus terrestris*) and redworm (*Eisenia foetida*). All of these organisms respond to their environment in many ways.

Students are designing experiments to study the effects of the non-living environment on these organisms. Some of the scientific studies include the effects of light, moisture, and temperature on pillbug and earthworm movement. Other studies include the examination of foraging rates in different environments and levels of homeostasis.

Once data collection is complete, students will be writing a formal lab

report. Each lab group will also be presenting their findings to the class as part of the consortium on pillbugs and earthworms.

The lab reports will mimic the style of professional science papers and will be bound into a binder and placed in the school library. Many of these lab reports will become the first volume of the AE/MS student science periodicals. Future AE/MS science students will be able to access the findings of past science students and use the information to prepare for the possibility of the next pillbug and earthworm consortium two years from now. These investigations will become the first of many volumes of student work that will grace the school library.

If you want to learn more about pillbugs and earthworms, or are interested in attending the science consortium, contact me at rmurphy@andover.k12.nh.us or talk to a middle school student about their findings.



Jessica Underdahl and Kristi Perreault. Photo: Doreen Perreault

Become A Beacon Reporter Today!

Fifth-graders Jessica Underdahl and Kristi Perreault found a great way to do something they love and give back to the community. They put their brains together and decided to become *Beacon* reporters. This month they interviewed and wrote an article highlighting fourth grade teachers Ms. Kidane and Ms. Fitzpatrick.

If you have news to share and love to write or take pictures, consider becoming a reporter for the *Beacon*. It's a great way to get your hard work published.

Kristi and Jessica will be writing and watching for Andover news and happenings around AE/MS. Be sure to let them know how you can help.

Basketball from page 21

the team played and look forward to seeing the team continue to improve.

Boys A-Team

The Andover Boys A-Team played at Franklin on December 15. It was the first game of the season, and the boys took a 15-53 loss against a much taller team. Andover matched Franklin's speed, but they were out-rebounded on the boards. During the second half, Franklin's height and fast breaks caught up with Andover, as they scored only two points to Franklin's 35. The Heart, Sportsmanship, and Hustle award went out to Henry Bendel for his all-around effort and play.

On December 21 the team had a tough match-up against Winnisquam with the final score of 47-17. Great hustle and determination goes out to the entire team, as well as great sportsmanship.

The Boys A-Team traveled to Laconia Christian on January 10 and came home with a win. They also played at Newfound on January 11 but lost this one.

The team hosted their first home game on January 17 against Franklin with a tough match-up. Unfortunately, the Eagles came up a bit short with a final score of 36-18. Defensively, Andover was really tough and worked really hard to shut out Franklin's tall team. Great efforts go to the entire team for never giving up!

Boys B-Team

After a slow first half, the Andover Boys B-Team played a strong second half on January 12 against a powerful Winnisquam team. Mike Donovan and Henry Bendel helped break the Winnisquam press, while Greg Hewitt, Corey Wiley, Zach St. Jacques, Roger Laro, and Sooki Vercellotti assisted the offense. Cannon Brownell, Josh Bond, and Gary Mason helped grab some needed rebounds. Gary also scored an important basket deep in the fourth quarter. Nice second half to all of the boys.



S.H.A.R.E. DAY

See How Arts Reach Everyone (S.H.A.R.E.) Day at Andover Elementary/Middle School is coming on May 15. S.H.A.R.E. Day is a great success every year because of the many community members who are involved. Students are exposed to many arts, crafts, and activities brought in from the community.

Think about offering a workshop or just being a general volunteer and helping out with the day. Call Gisela Darling at 735-5681 or Jane Slayton at 735-5494 to see how you might become part of this special day.

Proctor Honor Roll - Fall Term

The following local students earned academic Honor Roll status for the fall term at Proctor.

Andover: Ashley-Marie Hanlon, Emma Jones, Tristan Jones, Coco Loehr, Eliza Loehr, Ian Makechnie, Anne O'Byrne, Taylre O'Byrne, Caroline Pond, Blair Southworth, Stephanie Talkington, Samantha Veysey, Kindley Viandier, and Allegra Zimmerman.

Elkins: Annie Durkin, Tyler Erickson, John Kiernan, and Rebecca O'Connor.

Georges Mills: Taylor Berns

New London: Nick Aiken, Chris Bishop, Geoff Bonewald, Erin Clayton, Mike Ferguson, Rebecca Freyman-Bucchieri, Joe Goulart, Kate Homan, Ethan Okma, and Kiersten Wulff.



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