



**The Andover Beacon**

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Fourth grade students had a chance to try on fire rescue gear on Fire Prevention Day at AE/MS. Front (l-r): Koby Perreault, Scout Armstrong. Back: Finn Weber, Luke Weber, Alan Thompson, Danika Kolesar, Katelyn Barton.

Photo: Jane Slayton

## Future Firefighters And EMTs Check Out The Equipment

By Cope Makechnie  
AE/MS Grade Five

It was an exciting day at Andover Elementary/Middle School. The fire trucks and the Andover ambulance were parked outside the doors. A little first grader walked by and started screaming, "There's a fire!" But there wasn't really, the trucks were just there for a day of demonstration.

The firefighters and EMTs were treating AE/MS students to a special tour of both the fire truck and the ambulance. Heather Makechnie (my grandma!) did a half hour of demonstrating on a stuffed doll named Esmerelda. She did CPR, took Esmerelda's blood pressure and her heartbeat, gave her a stuffed animal for comfort, and gave us a tour of the ambulance. There was so much stuff to see. We were told we were the

next generation of EMTs.

The Lieutenant and his wife Diane, a firefighter, let us put on firefighting gear. It was very heavy. He also told us what all the equipment in the fire truck did – this took awhile! We saw body bags, face masks, oxygen tanks, and even face masks for dogs. We held the fire fighting hose, and it took four kids to hold up five feet of it, and that was without any water. The Lieutenant said it takes four grown men to hold up the hose when the water is going.

The EMTs and fire fighters were there all day, except for a lunch break. I think everyone had a ton of fun, and we all learned a lot. We learned that the EMTs and fire fighters are all volunteers, so they don't get paid. I'm really thankful they spend their free time helping Andover be safe.

## AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton  
Principal, AE/MS

The sidewalk that we have talked about for two years is nearing completion. Thank you for your patience. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony and a parade with the AE/MS bands and the One Wheelers to celebrate the new sidewalk, which runs from Main Street, past the skateboard park, past the AE/MS Annex (the building formerly known as the Hamp House), and

to the sidewalks in front of the school.

The AE/MS Eagles' soccer season has come to an end. The season ended with an action-packed game between students and parents, followed by burgers from the grill and awards. Thank you to all the parents who helped throughout the season.

Athletic Director and Coach Jim Tucker coordinated a tournament held on Carr Field. The teams were evenly  
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## Local Students Stay Very Busy At Proctor

By Chuck Will  
Proctor Academy

For local "day" students, the school day at Proctor begins with first classes at 8:15 AM. (Of course, many attend breakfast in the dining room starting at 7:30.) That school day continues until approximately 5 PM, because every student is committed to an afternoon activity – even on Saturdays!

For many, that activity is a team sport. For example, Eva Berton, Meredith Cline, Breanna Davis, Hannah Frantz, and Summer Good Morning play on girls soccer teams. Ben Cox, Ricky Dansereau, Caleb Frantz, Madison Powers, and Andrew Young play on boys soccer teams.

Ben Berton (Captain), Kayla Dansereau, and Maddie Pfeifer run for highly successful cross-country teams. Elliot Fleming and Derrick Nowell play varsity football. Patrick Allen and Tuckerman Ferris compete in mountain biking.

Other students participate in non-



Tim Braley works on the set for *Anatomy of Gray*. Photo: Chuck Will

competitive activities. Truman Fleming is on woods team, while Jim Hanlon is editor of the yearbook. Sooki Vercellotti is a rock climber. Canon Brownell and Haley Peters are actors in the fall drama production, *Anatomy of Gray*, which plays November 6 and 7 at 7 PM (call 735-6870 for seats).

Finally, Tim Braley (pictured above) is building the set for the play. Our days are full!

## MVHS Student Of The Month Nominees

Alexis King, Elise Goodwin, Charles Barry, Tenzin Dickinson, and Mariah Lansdown-Howard were each nominated by the faculty at Merrimack Valley High School to be recognized as finalists for Student of the Month for September 2009.

## AE/MS Ponders Potential Of Alternative Energy

By Gretchen Hildebrand  
AE/MS Second Grade Teacher

On the morning of October 19, Jeff Dickinson came to speak to the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders about the possibility of alternative energy resources for AE/MS and the town of Andover.

Principal Jane Slayton had invited him because she thought students would

benefit by knowing more about the various energy options. She had recently invited Jeff to address the Andover School Board and was most impressed with and excited by the discussion that took place.

Jeff, a resident of Andover Village, has spent 20 years in countries in Asia working on sustainable fuels projects.

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Boy Scout leader Kathy Bennett (l) gets a kick out of the chair made at Community Night by (l-r) Nick Kennison, Austin Marceau, and Brendan Coll. The chair was designed by Nick. Staff photo: Bob Bussey