



AE/MS held its first annual Family Writing Night on January 21. Preschool through grandparent-aged writers attended the event. Response was very positive, and sharing memories and stories was really fun! Pictured: First-grader Gavin Elliot and his mom work on their stories.

Photo and caption: Gretchen Hildebrand



AE/MS Spelling Bee participants. Front, l-r: Max Kolesar, Devynne Dlubac, Luke Weber, Noah Berry (runner-up), Carl Hubbard, Thaddeus Bicknell, Matt Braley, and Jacqui Morris. Middle: Fiona White, Eli Shedd, Haley Adams, Shannon Haley, Maddie Trefethen, Maya Haynes (champion), Annika Johnson, Ceridwyn White, and Logan Marcus. Back: Vincent Bolte, Taylor Duquette, Tristan McNeil, Jake Hubbard, Trenton Bonk, Sam Barrett, Kelsey Allen, Alyssa Smith, Alicia Barry, Brittany Bezanon, Bailey Powers, Kelsie Berry, Riley Anderson, Emi Morrison, Max Barrett. Missing: Katelyn Ashburn, Emily Lance.

MVHS Ski & Snowboard Club

By Becca Lance
Beacon staff and MVHS '11

With such a great Winter Activities Program at AE/MS, it's no surprise that many Andover students continue to hit the slopes after they enter Merrimack Valley High School. Freshmen Cody Barton and Daiquiri Przybilla; Sophomores Brendon Coll, Adam Ellis, Joseph Rego, and Kyle Wiley; Juniors Shawna Barton, Emily Bentley, Elizabeth Daneault, Becca Lance, and JJ Santiago; and Seniors Josh Bond and Roger Laro are all members of the MVHS Ski and Snowboard Club, advised by Jeff Neilsen.

Shawna Barton has been skiing for about 12 years and says, "Ski Club is what I look forward to every week, to

have a good time and hang out with my friends."

"It's a great program," praised boarder Josh Bond, "and you get a whole day to just be with your friends and ski or snowboard."

The Ski and Snowboard Club is non-competitive and meets five Saturdays in a row, from January 9 through February 6. Leaving MVHS around seven in the morning, the Club is bussed to Waterville Valley, where they enjoy more than six hours on the mountain.

J-J Santiago, an avid snowboarder, proclaimed "Spending all day outside getting exercise and fresh air is definitely worth waking up earlier than I normally would for school."

Dr. Michael Martin, NH Superintendent of the Year

The New Hampshire School Administrators Association, in coordination with the American Association of School Administrators, has announced that Dr. Michael J. Martin is the New Hampshire Superintendent of the Year for 2009-10. Dr. Martin, who is Superintendent of Schools in SAU 46 (the Merrimack Valley and Andover School Districts) will receive a special award during the National Conference on Education in Phoenix, Arizona in February.

Dr. Martin was selected for this honor by a panel of his peers and from a distinguished group of nominees. Dr. David Longnecker, Chair of the School Board for SAU 46, offered this praise with respect to Dr. Martin: "You will not find a superintendent who, over such a relatively

brief time span, has accomplished more or had a greater impact on the students, the community, and the school districts he leads."

State Representative and City Councilor Elizabeth Blanchard referred to Dr. Martin's success in championing a district-supported charter school, noting, "The results of his leadership are seen in the proud faces of the approximately 40 students who have since graduated from the CSI Charter School. A great deal of that is due to Mike's leadership."

Retired School Administrator Curt Sokness had this to say about Dr. Martin's collaborative approach to district initiatives: "Mike is not a caretaker or keeper of the status quo. His tenure at

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AE/MS SPELLING BEE

By Amanda Lauster
AE/MS Reading Teacher

On January 12, 35 AE/MS students in grades four through eight participated in the local 2010 Scripps Spelling Bee. There was a great effort by all the students, who had to pass a preliminary written test to qualify, but this year was the battle of the fifth graders.

Noah Berry and Maya Haynes were the two remaining spellers after Round

7. They proceeded to go back and forth for 30 more rounds, both with a few opportunities to clinch it.

Finally, in Round 37, Maya correctly spelled the word "farce" to win this year's bee. Maya will continue on to the Regional Level in Plymouth on Sunday, March 7. Noah will compete at the next level if the winner is unable to do so.

Good luck, Maya! We will be R-O-O-T-I-N-G for you.

A Special Soul: Laurie Zimmerman

By Grace Beah
Proctor Journalism Class

"To me, poetry is what says that which we cannot say." The essence of Laurie Zimmerman's poetry is to lead a reader to the understated conclusion. Laurie became inspired to write poetry in the seventh grade after listening to *Norwegian Wood*, by the Beatles. The poetry of the song spoke to her, although she had no idea what the lyrics meant. She states, "I don't know why, but I wanted to write like that."

For many years, writing became a way of expressing herself. "I grew up in a very secretive family, so poetry used to be an outlet. Now, it's not so much an outlet, although it is that, but it's a way I walk in the world."

As a poetry teacher at Proctor, Laurie inspires her students to interpret their feelings into poetry. She states,



Laurie Zimmerman receives a teaching award from Proctor Head of School Mike Henriques.

"It's so important to allow young students of poetry to find their own voices and their own way – but I always try to teach excellent technique."

In the grading process, Laurie
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