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Vienna and Claudio Marcus were two of many students and parents to challenge Mr. Murphy as he played up to 12 simultaneous games of chess at AE/MS Math Night.
 Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
 Principal, AE/MS

AE/MS students and staff participated in the National Day on Writing on October 20. All school community members wrote a piece based on a place that was special to them. It could have been a spot in their house, a place in nature, a place they may have visited, or any other kind of place that has special meaning or importance to them.

The writing has been collected and will be shared and displayed in the building. The various pieces of writing are very thoughtful.

Art is everywhere in our building. It is definitely worth stopping to see. As always, Mrs. DeMinico and her art classes are producing some amazing pieces of work. Soon some of our incredible art work will be on display at the Blackwater Coffee House on Main Street.

Math Night was a huge success. Who knew a couple hundred people could have so much fun coming back to school in the evening and doing math! Family Book Fair Night was well attended, too, and many purchases and donations were made. The evening was

also the first opportunity to register for the town ski and snowboard program at Ragged Mountain.

The Andover Recreation Department Ski Program is scheduled to begin on Friday, January 7, and run for five Friday afternoons. The program includes downhill skiing and snowboarding. Bus transportation will be provided to Ragged Mountain for first through eighth grade skiers. Kindergarten students are welcome to enjoy the program but only with an adult accompanying them at all times.

The ski program is a great way to introduce your child to these winter sports and enjoy our winter environment. Children learn and enjoy the sport with their friends.

The Andover Recreation Department Ski Program is a wonderful opportunity provided for the youth of Andover through the continued generosity of the town and the involvement of many volunteers. All ski program questions should be directed to Howard and Ellie George, 735-5590, or to David Powers, 735-5361.

The QSP Magazine Drive kicked
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(L-r) Brenden Miller, Colby Jones, Braden Keyser, and Aaron Weeks take a break during Community Safety Day after climbing around inside one of the town's fire trucks. More Safety Day photos: page 25. Photo: Jen Bent

AE/MS Winter Concerts

By Paul Hubert
 AE/MS Music Director

It's October again, and things are buzzing in the AE/MS Band Room, and it's not just lips in trumpet mouthpieces. Lessons are scheduled and up and running, and the bands are working on music for Veterans Day and the Winter Concert. New this year, AE/MS now has a chorus!

The instrumental program this year begins in the fifth grade and is represented by two bands, the Fifth Grade Band and the Middle School Band (grades six through eight). Together

they involve almost 40 students.

Fifth Grade Band is coordinating their efforts towards *Boil That Beat*, a band arrangement of the old favorite *Boil That Cabbage Down*, while the Middle School Band is working on *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again* and the *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers*. Upcoming plans are for *Saxcapade*, featuring the saxophone section.

In September, when the call went out for students interested in forming an AE/MS chorus, 20 students showed up with their voices raring to sing. Since

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John Siemanowicz, owner of Siemanowicz Farm (soon to be Highland Farm, located across the street from the lake), generously donated pumpkins to the first and second graders at AE/MS. After reading several stories about pumpkins, the students painted and turned their pumpkins into different animals and creatures. They were all so proud of their artistic talents!

John is also donating a six-foot tree to the school to put out in the courtyard over the holidays. We are hoping to make edible ornaments for the birds. Many thanks to Mr. Siemanowicz!

Shown here are the first graders with their pumpkins. Back (l-r): Morgan Quinn, Lily Menard, Anastacia Marriner, Breanna Fredette, Sophia Reynolds, Sasha Mackenzie, Lilly Carlson, Bryson Cate, Colby Jones, Rylee Sweeney, Michael Miller, Joey Upton, Nevaeh Quintal, Sierra Provost, Brenden Miller, Aurora Przybyla, Brynne Makechnie, Braden Keyser. Front: Logan Smith, Julianna Baptiste, Jesse Niemyer, Tyler Champagne, Aaron Weeks, Madison Colby, Adam Barry, Dana Buswell, Fenn Davis, Tyler French, Cassidy Provost, Jeremy Johnson, Garrett Niemyer.
 Caption and photo: Jen Bent