



MapleStone News

A Non-Profit Special Purpose School Providing Innovative Approaches to Education

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Upcoming Dates:

- * Feb 20-23: February Vacation
- * April 6: End of 3rd Quarter
- * April 17-20: April Vacation

Environmental Science by the Group

We were keeping busy this quarter with a whole bunch of stuff. Everything from wood working to jam making and everything in between. With winter comes snow which means a lot of shoveling and salting to make safe for everyone to get around the campus. Apples were a huge part of this quarter from raw apples to delicious and crisp cider. But when working you need to take a break now and then so we took a couple of trips to exhibits and museums on World Wars I and II which is also stuff we were doing in class.

Apples have been our biggest thing we did this quarter. The group picking apples from Acton's wild seedling trees and locally grown orchards. The first step in making cider is to sanitize the cider press and then the apples go into the sanitizer then we wash them off. The last step before we crush the apples is one final dip into the sanitizer then we crush them up. Finally we squeeze the chunks of apple till all the juices come out and the pieces are bone dry. We catch the cider in a 6 gallon bucket with a spicket the last thing to do is bottle up the cider which needs to be stored in a cool places then the students and teachers can have fresh made cider.

The second quarter gave us a chance to try to make peach jam for the first time. The process starts with washing off the peaches or whatever fruit you're working with to get it clean. With peaches you need to get the hair off the skin so none of it gets in to the final product. Now you need to slice it up into fourths so it's easier to smash up the fruit. Next is to boil water and put the fruit into it to start softening it up. Finally to add the correct amount of sugar and smash them up to make the jam.

We did some repair work on the green house, as well. We were pushing snow off the green house roof, an ice ball slid down the glazing and broke one of the vinyl battens at the bottom that holds the glazing on the green house. If you didn't know what vinyl is, it's plastic wood that doesn't rot away? We had to cut and shape the batten. We also had to pre drill the batten and put the caulking in the old holes. Then we bolted the batten on the green house.

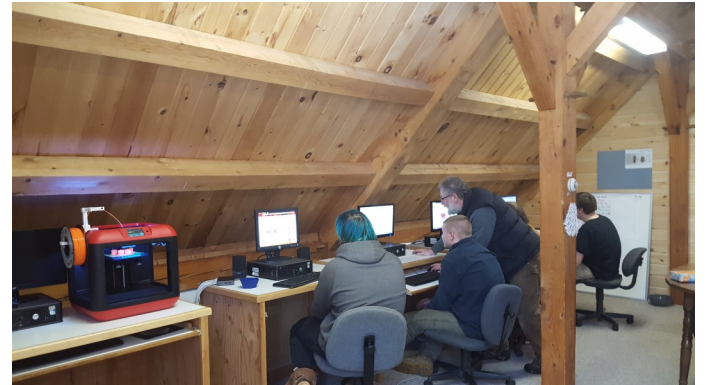
With everything we accomplished this quarter, we have been very successful. With shoveling all the snow we got this winter, it has affected our plans from time to time but we manage to work around it.



Although apple season is over and there will be no more apple cider till next Fall, we will have a good bit of pruning to do later in the Winter. The group also wants to do more with food as we are all interested in it. We got a lot of projects completed this quarter, learned a ton of stuff and there is much more to come.

Thanks to Tom Ledue and a grant proposal that he sent to Dave & Sandy Perloff, we got three brand new 3D printers this fall. We have printed lots of different things like Max's fancy chicken, a Yoda head pencil holder also Ryan's blue hexagon bowl. We can design whatever we want to 3D print using TinkerCAD. When printing your design, you can't always get what you want - sometimes structural problems are the result of a design flaw and we need to learn how to modify the design. We would rather design our own than use pre-made designs - we can fix the problems. We

will continue using the 3D printers for the rest of the year. Thanks to Tom and Dave and Sandy!



Animal Science

LL Bean Fieldtrip: We went to a Fly fishing exhibit where they should us how flies were made and how they act in the water to attract fish. There were all kinds of hunting & fishing gear to look at. They explained to us how responsible hunting & fishing practices benefit the environment.

DeLorme Fieldtrip: We looked at a giant globe (3 stories high) inside the building and saw different types of GPS equipment used for tracking movement & map travel destinations.

Heavy Equipment: Dakota has started to learn how to operate the Mini-Excavator (TB-125) & the New Holland TC40DA farm tractor. He is continuing to develop his skills operating the John Deere 6X4 Gator.

Pottery: We learned how to make Ocarina whistles out of clay. In order to make sounds, the hole shape and size had to be just right. We also practiced making "Pinch" pots and how to add detail and decorate them.

Animals: Winter time always presents an extra challenge to caring for and working with the animals. Severe cold, heavy snowfall/clean-up and frozen water buckets added to the problems we have to overcome. Dakota is getting ready to learn how to drive Flint in harness using the Road Cart.

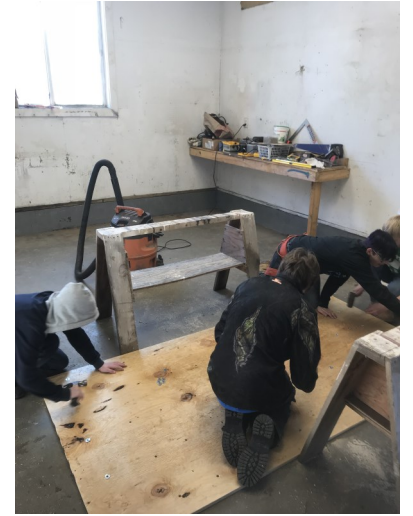


Outdoor Adventure by the Group

This quarter, in addition to our outdoor adventures, we undertook a few big long-term projects, for example, expanding the rock gym. One day we were all in the rock gym and Conner thought that the rock gym felt a bit small and he had the idea to expand it. Then we all talked about it some more and now we're doing it. We went to Lowe's to get plywood and it was hard to find just the right one, that wasn't warped or full of knots. We also had to get T-nuts at Marden's. We drilled 75 holes in the board, then we turned it over and hammered in the T-nuts. It was a group effort and everybody worked together really well.

We also did fire training. We had so many minutes to collect the materials and so many minutes to start the fire. We based this fire training on Jack London's short story "To Build a Fire" which we read after our first attempts. Then we went to Hobb's Farm and did it again. It was fun and kind of easy.

We went to Cabela's and bought Christmas gifts for ourselves and our loved ones. After Christmas, we started another big project: How to Be a Mountaineer. We're planning to go to the White Mountains for an overnight winter camping trip. We did a show-and-tell about gear that we're going to need. We are really looking forward to this camping trip.



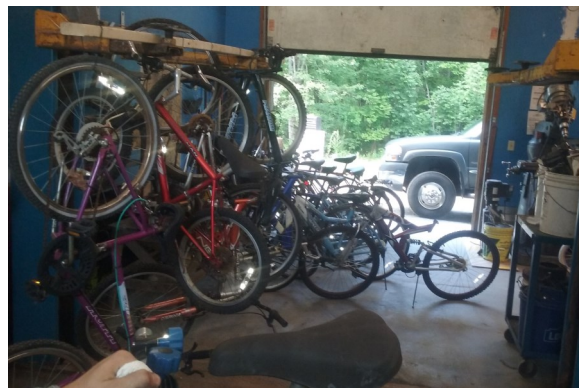
Wood Science by the Group

At the start of the second quarter we cleaned the remaining logs on the sawmill. We also did a custom job of sawing red oak from a tree that blew down in the October windstorm. It took about a week to cut them all. One of the logs we took extra time and made quarter sawn boards.

We put on the Thanksgiving dinner making trash can turkey and all the fixings. We did all the shopping for the groceries at Market Basket the day before. We got our dinner rolls from the shelter and Scott's group made banana cream pie and vanilla cream pudding pie.

During December, we began our transition into the shop for winter. We worked on small projects and Christmas ornaments. Ethan and Sean are working on Adirondack chairs. Cody made a bench. Chris made a basket.

We have been keeping the sawmill plowed and shoveled out for when we get a new load of logs. We've been trying to keep the pond shoveled off but Mother Nature had different ideas. As one of our incentives we had a movie day. We went to see *Jumanji* and we also had lunch at Smittys. As we head into third quarter we look forward to Groundhog Day (February 2nd) and an early spring and good weather.



Mechanical Science by the Group

This quarter we have accomplished many things such as, team building, fabrication, welding by helping less experienced guys in welding 101 and teaching the more experienced guys to weld better - we work well as a group and as a team.

The fabrication part of this quarter went very well. We all helped with the projects that have been built and we have worked hard with getting our projects done in an orderly fashion. Some projects were harder than others but we made it through. We started out by fabricating a logging arch so we can haul logs out of the woods, along with a snowmobile dolly to haul a snowmobile around. We all have put sweat and tears into our projects. We have also built bicycle brackets so we can get the bicycles off the shop floor to have more room to fabricate and work on cars when we have the chance.

We had a hand in preparing the Thanksgiving feast. As a school we put together a dinner for the whole school, some people cooked, others like Mark's group prepped and cooked the turkeys. For Christmas we helped by putting our time into delivering Toys for Tots.

For fun we have been working on team building like playing hacky. Our rules for hacky are really specific to the way our group works. For group outings we do things such as bowling, snowboarding and going out to eat.

This has been a great quarter. We have done a lot of cool and fun stuff and we have realized we work better as a team.

