

MapleStone News

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Acton, Maine

www.maplestone.org

Toys for Tots

By Environmental Science

SANFORD - We'll always remember sorting and organizing toys for kids who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas. In December, we the Environmental Science group did community service with Toys for Tots in Sanford. We like this charity because it helps kids in need.

Volunteering with Toys for Tots is something that the Environmental Science group does every year. A couple of the students in the group and the teacher used Toys for Tots in the past. Jonathan said, "They're really cool. I had to use Toys for Tots when I was little." Ryan also said, "I had to use Toys for Tots when I was younger because my mom didn't have enough money."

We volunteered in two different communities: Sanford and Porter. The biggest task that we did was moving all the toys and batteries from the mill to the church. Another task we did was sorting boxes of toys and batteries. We also moved tables to help with the sorting. We learned about teamwork and helping others and we look forward to doing it again next year.



Everyone pitches in to help Toys for Tots

Dates of Interest:

- February 19-22: February Vacation
- April 16-19: April Vacation

Please check out our new website at www.maplestone.org

"I had to use Toys for Tots when I was little."

"This is as good as any robotics room we've seen."



Above: New tiled counter in Robotics room: Below: Cody welding table legs



Robotics at MapleStone

By Mechanical Science

ACTON - Can you believe that we're almost done building a fully-functional robotics room for MapleStone that we started the first week of school? Dave and Sandy Perloff donated 6 EV-1 kits for students thanks to a grant written by Tom and we, the Mechanics Group, thank Tom and the Perloffs for the opportunity to study "electronical" science.

First, we started off changing out the old ceiling tiles to replace them with new ones. The next thing we did was paneling for the walls, which included measuring, cutting, and installing a type of white bead board. The shelves and pegboard were simple and fun to build. The back bench is going to be important for storage. Warren spent 3-4 hours tiling the robotics bench with CVT tiles. We also hand-

manufactured two tables: we tiled them; we built the wooden tops; and we attached them to the metal frames that we welded and painted Farmall Red.

In November, we hosted a visit from the Perloffs to see our progress. They said, "This is as good as any robotics room we've seen." There are still a few things that we need to do, such as install the pre-painted trim. Then, we plan to start building robots by the end of January.



Installing new ceiling tiles



Above: Hiking the trail; Below: Sleeping without tents in the snow



"But now we know we can sleep in cold weather like that and still have a good time."

"It's wonderful to see students enjoying the new library and reading on the new Kindles."



Students and staff utilizing the new library



Winter Camping

By Outdoor Adventure

MOUNT MADISON, NH - We will always remember how this winter camping trip showed us that "we are more than we know". We were waiting until there was enough snow to go winter camping and when December 16-17 hit, it presented the perfect opportunity to begin our extreme ascent up Mount Madison. The Outdoor Adventure group didn't make it to Valley Way campsite due to extreme wind, so we camped in the woods on Mount Madison at least 200 feet from the trail as the weather closed in.

Not a lot of people know this about winter camping, but it's harder than it seems, for example, hiking through the snow, and trying to keep the fire going without it blowing all over the place in the strong winds. Packing for winter camping is harder. You have to pack things that you hope you won't need, for example, extra changes of clothes. And some things we packed, we ended up not using, like snowshoes. We had to pack our sleeping bags first, then all our clothes—multiple layers, with redundant back-ups for our back-ups—and it was a tight squeeze. All of the things that we

needed to set up camp were either in our backpacks or on the sled.

Dave and Tom were impressed with how independent the students were setting up camp. Everyone helped set up tents. After the tents were put together, we collected bark and dead sticks—which is definitely harder in the winter—and got that lit up, then Dylan and Ethan got dead trees and cut them up and put them in the fire. It was wicked cold (10 degrees), and it's a big relief when camp is ready and all of your stuff is in your tent. Zach said that he liked "the warm feeling of getting into my sleeping bag" at night. The group was proud that everybody pulled their weight and now we have an appreciation for people who do this more than we do. We did it once, and it was hard. Dave said, "But now we know we can sleep in cold weather like that and still have a good time."



MapleStone's New Library

ACTON - Did you know that one third of teenagers have not read a book for pleasure in a year, according to a San Diego University study? Well, thanks to two very generous grants that Tom got this year, MapleStone students are bucking that trend with an infusion of new books and technology. MapleStone School received \$15,000 from the Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation and \$10,000 from the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation to support technology and literacy.

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, each group took a trip to Nonesuch Books in Biddeford to shop for magazines. Thanks to the grant money, every student and instructor each selected a magazine to purchase and subscribe to and everyone will be receiving a full year's subscription to their chosen magazine, mailed directly to them at school.

As of this fall—and again thanks to the grant money—MapleStone has its own library, with shelves made out of wooden crates that Kelley stained and that Keith nailed together. "The new library looks nice," more than one student has observed. And the new books are already being read. The Outdoor Adventure group read a couple of canoeing adventures, *Camp Wild* by Pam Withers and *Tribal Journey* by Gary Robinson. The Environmental Science group read a novel called *Collateral Damage* by Patrick Jones and Brent Chartier about a disabled veteran. The Mechanical Science group read a novel about Motorsport drifting called *Drift: Nissan Skyline* by Patrick Jones and is currently reading a novel about a road trip in a build-your-own kit car called *The Car* by Gary Paulsen. The grant money was also used to purchase a set of 10 new Kindle Paperwhites, so students have options, not just of what to read, but of how to read as well. "It's wonderful to see students enjoying the new library and reading on the new Kindles," says Kelley.