



MapleStone
2435 Milton Mills Rd.
P.O. Box 588
Acton, ME 04001

207.477.2829
207.477.2820 (fax)
E-mail:

maplestone@metrocast.net

Website:
www.maplestone.org

More News...

A Dental Clinic was held at MapleStone on January 13th by Tooth Protectors. A number of students received services in oral hygiene education, oral assessment, and cleanings. Each student was provided with instructions for care and recommendations for treatment.

Upcoming Events:

- February Vacation (Feb 16-19)

Don't forget - newsletters are available on our website

Mechanics by the Group

This quarter in the mechanics group we have been working on a few different projects. Our biggest project is working on a 1993 Ford Ranger that we are making into a dune buggy. We started by tearing it apart- from the bed to the interior and the cab. After all that was ripped apart, it was just a frame and motor. We took a ride down to Morin's Steel and bought four 24 foot 1 1/4" round piping for the roll cage. We put them through the pipe bender and then we started welding it all together. We went to Pete's house and started ripping out seats from an old Ford and that's all we have accomplished for this project so far.

We also worked on other vehicles that are here at the school. For starters, the blue truck which is a Ford F250, we had to replace the bolts on the rear axle because they sheered off. Moving on to the green truck, which is a GMC 3500, we had to replace the two outside mirrors and the heater switch and we also put snow tires on it.

We went to Pete's house and picked up a 49 cc mini bike and we all worked on that and got it running. We had to rig a throttle cable and a pull start. We had to clean the carburetor too. After we got it running we all took it for a test ride and before the end of the day we broke it again.

Carl's group also needed us to fix the winch on the tractor because they snapped the cable. They dropped it off to us and we had to cut the old cable off with the torch and then we put the new cable on it by wrapping it up inside of it.

We have a 5hp display motor all torn apart and zip tied on to a piece of plywood. We made flashcards of the different parts that we have to match and put in the right place to help us understand what is what and what goes where.

Right before Thanksgiving break, a former student brought in his Toyota 4 runner and we put it up on the lift and had to fix his exhaust because it wouldn't pass inspection. After we finished, it didn't have any problems.

When we do really good in the shop and we all stay on task, Pete will reward us by taking us out for the day, either out to eat or shopping or like last week we went to a couple of truck dealerships, a Honda dealership and a pawn shop. That is about all that we have accomplished for this quarter.



Carpentry with Bob

We were asked to build the dugouts for the Acton recreation field. They didn't have dugouts to sit in or to be under cover-they just had to stand out in the open. To start, we put down cement blocks after putting down the concrete slab. Once all the blocks were down we filled the holes with cement for the J-bolts to anchor the walls.

Every structure needs rafters for a sturdy roof. We figured out the measurements then cut them to length and nailed them in place. When we finished the rafters, we nailed the strapping onto the rafters so we could screw the metal roofing down to it and we got to use a pneumatic nail gun for the first time while doing it.

We ordered metal roofing and self tapping hex head screws with rubber washers so the roof would not leak. We had to measure and mark where we had to drill the holes so it would line up with the strapping. We broke four titanium drill bits, which is hard to do. We soon learned to drill straight.

This semester we have spent most of our time at the ball fields. We are almost finished but the winter weather has stopped us until spring. The last thing we accomplished until spring is we finished the vertical siding with the rough cut wood that MapleStone donated. The forestry group milled all the boards for us. We had to figure out the pitch of the roof before we could cut the boards and we figured out that it was 15 degrees. After we marked the angle on the board, we had to measure the highest point of the angle and make it the lowest point of the angle on the next board and keep doing that until we had finished all the walls.

In between, we took a break and went out to eat at Ruby Tuesday's for Craig's birthday and got to go to a few stores to look around. It was a lot of fun and a much needed break.

We really enjoyed building these dugouts. We have helped the community a lot and had fun doing it.



Animal Science



- Saying goodbye to NARHA for another season (top left)
- Making hay feeders for the goats in the barn (bottom left)
- Group worked on skidder with Nils to get it back in shape (top right)
- Putting in an underground water line from the barn to the pasture for watering the horses (bottom right)



The Forestry group delivered boxes to Biddeford food pantries from McDougal Orchards. We delivered over 900 boxes during November and December for their holiday food rush. The boxes from McDougal Orchards had to be assembled by hand and then stapled. The York County food bank is located in an old Shaker barn where we got to play basketball. ~ Chris

We took a hike on the Orris Trail in North Berwick. It was a four mile hike and we saw an old foundation of a house and barn from the 1800's. We also saw a tree that we don't see that much- a shaggy bark hickory tree, which is at the farthest point north. We then walked to the balancing rock. The weight of the rock is 107 ton. The land that we hike on is protected by the Great Works Regional Land Trust. ~Kaleb

This quarter we are working at the wood lot every day in Springvale. Carl has cut down several types of trees, including beach, white oak, white and black birch, red oak, and red maple. After he cuts the trees down someone drags it out with the tractor. After that we measure every 16 inches and then they are cut with a chainsaw into pieces that are then ready to split. After the wood has been split with a splitting maul, the wood is then loaded into the truck and brought back to school and stacked the next day. ~ Nikolai

The group took a hike to Blue Job Mountain in Strafford. We brought snow shoes even though we didn't have to use them because the snow was already packed down. The mountain had pitch pine trees growing on the rocks and there were very big buck tracks at the top of the mountain. We usually never see deer tracks and they were eating acorns on the mountain. When we got to the top there was an old fire tower that we could climb up and when we did it was wicked windy. There was also a power building connected to the power lines, and there was a place that the fire men could sleep in when they stayed over night. We had lunch on the top. On the way down we went the other way and the group had a running challenge. We all ran down the mountain making our own short cuts to get back to the van the quickest.

This winter we have had a few problems with the Kubota tractor. The diesel fuel had moisture in the tank so when the temperature got below zero the water froze at the bottom of the tank. Doug and Will pulled the fuel line off the bottom of the tank so they could break the ice out and put diesel supplement in and the tractors been running fine since. Then the cable on the farm winch snapped and was all tangled up inside. So we brought the winch back to the school from the woodlot and the mechanics group put all new cable on the winch.

The winter at MapleStone has been very chilly and icy this year, which requires some sanding! The forestry group sanded all the roads on the property about four times this quarter. We got the sand from the Turcotte gravel pit. The front-end loader is so big if it's not careful it could bury our truck with one-bucket load. Spring is around the corner and we will be sugaring in no time. ~ Will



Carpentry with Mark

Right now in our carpentry group we are installing tongue and groove board on the left wall in our shop. We are almost done and we just started last week. We are using an air nail gun to install the boards. Also it shows our knowledge using power tools for building. After the wall, we will start to install the classroom floor using tongue and groove oak boards. These oak boards came from trees that the Forestry group cut. Now we are going to do the classroom floor so it matches the shop floor. The floor color is grey and it looks good in our shop. ~ Ben

(Carpentry with Mark con't on page 4)

Carpentry continued

One of the things I enjoyed the most this quarter was ice fishing with my buddies Will, Kaleb, Traide, Rocky, Ben, Austin, Nate, and Mark, my teacher. We caught a perch plus a bass and I can't forget the trout Will caught. It was 12 inches long-to short to keep so we threw it back. The bass was 14 inches and the perch was only 3 inches. We were jigging and we also had a number of traps. I had laker traps, Mark had a lot of old traps, and Kaleb had some old ones and some kind of new ones. And guess what? The lake we went to was Square pond. ~ Jason (the fisherman)

I have been installing tongue and groove plywood on the floor in the shop area of our building. It took 25 sheets to do the job and 3 gallons of floor paint. It took four weeks to do the job. I have been installing tongue and groove pine boards on the wall. We went bowling at Bowl-a-Rama in Sanford on the day before Christmas vacation. The pins at lanes 18 and 19 will never be the same. We went ice fishing at Square pond and drove the four-wheeler. ~ Rocky



Ropes Course/Machine Shop

We built the Forestry group a new sawmill motor. We switched it to an electric motor instead of the gas powered motor that it was. After we rebuilt the motor, we tested it and ran into a few problems. Once we resolved these problems, a few more occurred and we had to go back and fix them.

This quarter we built a few elements on the ropes course. Brett built an element called the wild woozy which was a two year project. As he was building it, he ran out of some parts that he needed to finish the element. The parts were ordered and he was able to finish the element. We had a tour group that was eager to try it out for the first time and they enjoyed the new element to the ropes course.

We built a project called the Peva Pole. We got everything we needed and got the element done in one week. We are hoping this spring we'll have some tour groups trying out the new element.

Currently our group has been building a machine called a wood processor for the Forestry group. With this machine they can put logs on the tracks and run it down the conveyer and cut into 18 inch logs. The logs are then split into firewood. We have been working on this project for the past 2 months we should be finished by the end of this week.

We had a few students in the group try welding for the first time this year. They started welding on the wood processor we are currently working on. Brett made a box on the side of the wood processor to fill with oil to run the hydraulics.

Our group bought some new tools for the machine shop. We got a welding helmet, a welding jacket, grinder, drill, and another gas tank filled with argon. (Written by the welder of the group)

