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Sea Perch R.O.V Trip
By Rebecca and Shannon, Grade 7

With the help from the MIT engineers, Mr. Andrade, Mr. Butler, Mrs. Porter, and the other teachers from the participating high schools this unique field trip was arranged. Throughout the year, the seventh grade students have been working on building the Sea perches in Mr. Butler’s technical education class. In our Science classes Mr. Andrade and Mrs. Porter have been teaching us about buoyancy, density, and mechanical advantage in preparation for the trip to MIT.

On Friday May 6th the Swampscott Middle school seventh graders went to (Continued on page 3)

An Interview with Mrs. Bush
By Josh and Brendan, Grade 6

Q: What do you like more, being a teacher or a librarian?
A: Both. When you’re a teacher, you get to work with a smaller group and you get to know them very well. When you’re a librarian you work with all kids for years. Both jobs have teaching.

Q: What are the new additions to the library this year?
A: The removal of the unused bookshelves, which opened up to have more space for students and tables. There is new paint and a new carpet. There are more computers added and new moveable bookcases so we can change the space. We also (Continued on page 4)
MIT to participate in an oil spill reenactment project. The other schools participating were Dexter/Southfield, Stoneham, and Rogers, and all were high schools. The goal of the entire project was to cut, cap, contain, and remove debris and surface structure from a simulated oil spill in the MIT pool. First the Rogers High School, with the help of Swampscott’s containment and surface structure team, set a boom around the spill. While the Swampscott cutter teams were preparing the sea perches; Dexter/Southfield team of ROVs were in the water sending video feed back to Swampscott’s students. Throughout the entire time at the pool commentators from different schools were describing what was happening at the pool for the students in the bleachers. Swampscott’s Jaws team made a successful cut, but it was too far above the leak. This caused problems because when Stoneham’s team had to cap the leak they would not be able to do it. Swampscott’s team would then have to make a second cut. Throughout the rest of the time at the MIT pool we were not able to complete our goal.

A few days after our return from the trip we interviewed Mr. Andrae and Mrs. Porter, our two seventh grade science teachers in charge of the Sea Perch ROV trip. Mr. Andrae believed before we left for the trip that we would successfully cut the pipe, and accomplish our task. Although we didn’t successfully cut and cap the leak we still achieved the goal to experience what real science felt like and face unexpected problems. Mr. Andrae and Mrs. Porter both agreed that buoyancy was the main issue the Swampscott middle school faced at the pool. This issue made it difficult to drive the sea perches properly, putting a lot of strain on the motors. This caused some of the motors to fail of the ROV or break. We definitely agree with Mr. Andrae that the Debris teams did a great job of moving the debris out of the way. Also he believes that the cutters did a great job of not giving up and kept on trying for an hour and a half. Mr. Andrae was very upset with the misunderstanding and miscom-

The Sea Perch

By Rebecca and Shannon, Grade 7

The Sea Perch ROV (Remote Operated Vehicles) were vehicles that the schools used at MIT. They consist of a PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) pipes, motors with propellers, and a netted bottom. To control the buoyancy of the sea perch we use ballast (weights) and floatation devices.

In real life science Sea Perches are used to take pictures, and explore the deep waters in the ocean. The simulation at the MIT pool was a way to show how they are used and what it would be like. The control wires on the Sea Perches are attached to battery and a control box above water.
Swampscott Middle School
207 Forest Ave.
Swampscott, MA 01907
www.swampscott.k12.ma.us

Advisors
Ms. Paine
Mr. Lewis

Logo Design
Noah

Write to us at:
atlanticcompass@swampscott.k12.ma.us

Photo: Ms. Paine