

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students experience life on the Taunton River

To the Editor:

You think you know, but you have no idea how clean the Taunton River really is. For example, did you know that you can stick a canoe paddle as far down as possible, and still see the bottom of the paddle?

On Oct. 20 and 21, 12 students and six teachers from Martin Middle School traveled more than 20 miles down the Taunton River and slept overnight alongside this beautiful river.

Traveling by canoe from Bridgewater to Berkley, we witnessed incredible foliage and a variety of wildlife. The pretty pigments of green, red, orange, yellow and

brown leaves wonderfully complimented the reflections shown on the river. It seemed as if we were canoeing down a shower of multi-colored leaves. The fauna we encountered included fish, geese, ducks, hawks, swans and coyotes. We watched them enjoy life in their clean, natural habitats.

At the riverside campsite, we had lots of fun. We stayed overnight in East Taunton on a farmer's field. We managed to put up our own tents, cook our own food and clean up after ourselves. We also stopped at Camp Titicut in Bridgewater and the Weir Park in southern Taunton to have our lunches. Both spots were almost

as beautiful as the river.

While canoeing we had to work together to fight the strong current and wind that we encountered. It made us realize that we can succeed when we work together. We also became friends with others we were not as close with before the trip. Oct. 20 and 21 made us feel stronger mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

During this holiday season, we would like to give a special thanks to the teachers and administration of Martin, and to the Taunton school system for funding the trip. We would also like to thank the farmer who let us stay on his property, the family who allowed us to

transport supplies across their property and the woodman who provided us with firewood. Also, we would like to thank those parents who reassured us while we stayed overnight. We had so much fun on this trip, and we hope to have the opportunity to experience another adventure like this again.

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