



Preschoolers' first library visit of the school year at WA Bachelder Library. Our reader shares one of Eric Carle's books, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Children present: Clara, Marina, Charlotte, Liam, Adaline, Layla, Rosie, Addilyn, Kinleigh, Owen, Maverick, Quest, Tuckerman, and Carter, along with Miss Stephanie, Miss Steph, and Reader Susan.

Caption: Stephanie D'Amour. Photo: Robyn Boisvert



Proctor Academy completed its 52nd Wilderness Orientation to kick off to the 2022-2023 school year as 120 new students spent five days and four nights backpacking in the White Mountains.

Caption: Scott Allenby. Photo: Lori Patriacca

New Proctor Students Complete 52nd Wilderness Orientation

Opportunity to learn about independence

Scott Allenby, Proctor Academy

From the earliest moments of parenthood, we learn that life will be filled with contradictions of independence. We simultaneously want our children to stay little forever, and we want them to see the world. Competing emotions weave themselves together into an irreplicable sort of love that helps us find a place like Proctor where our children will spread their wings and find themselves, even though we know saying goodbye is so, so hard. Wilderness Orientation is the first opportunity for parents and students to learn first hand about this new independence.

For the past 52 years, Wilderness Orientation has served as every Proctor student's introduction to the community. Through five days and four nights of backpacking in the White Mountains in small groups of eight students and two faculty leaders, students learn to trust each other, rely on each other, and stretch well beyond their comfort zone.

Wilderness Orientation is not easy, and that is the point. It levels the playing field, brings kids together from different backgrounds, and teaches us that we are all humans, all imperfect, all possessing different super powers, and all with our own kryptonite.

Head of School Brian Thomas reflects on his 2022 Wilderness Orientation experience: "At the end of a beautiful traverse across the range to the Zealand Trail, a stop at Thoreau Falls was our treat. None of the boys had been there. The young man who hours earlier believed he could not make it took several minutes to compose himself along

the edge of the falls, realizing that the physical difficulties may have been homesickness instead. We ate peanut butter and jelly and Nutella sandwiches on pita, which tasted like the nectar of the gods after our hike.

"The thing about our boys – and all of our students – is that they, and we, give permission to be and to feel. On Wilderness Orientation, you can break down and not always be your best self. You can make great friends and test yourself to the fullest. You can also be sad and want to go home.

"At Proctor, we understand that putting students into challenging circumstances can bring out the true nature in people so that you strip away having to feel like you are perfect. No one is. We

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EAVP Sees Start of School Year and Getting Acquainted

378 mums sold at successful fundraiser

Stephanie D'Amour
East Andover Village Preschool

The first month of school has flown by already, and what a busy month it has been. The first few weeks of school are all about getting to know each other and the daily routine. The children have enjoyed coming together at circle time where we might sing a name song, have a question of the day, or talk about upcoming ideas.

Our latest interests have been Eric

Carle books. We read many of his books and talked about the illustrations. We created art of our own inspired by his work.

In September we celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting the grandparents to spend the morning with us at preschool. We offered snacks, refreshments, activities on the playground, and opened the schoolhouse for viewing.

Thank you to our community members who supported us by purchasing mums from our fundraiser. We sold 378 flowers this year! Be on the lookout for future fundraisers. We have some exciting events coming back this year. 🌸



The middle school students at AE/MS created collages and Lego characters to depict their dreams for the future. Their work was on display for the annual open house at the school on September 15.

Caption and photo: Kasey Schoch



The AE/MS soccer team defeated Franklin 12-0 for their second home game of the season, held on September 16. Andover player Raelyn Drouin gets ready for the ball. Caption: Kasey Schoch. Photo: Kim Drouin



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