



The Wyldlife Club – on the move again!

Photo: Cathy Ellis

THE WYLDLIFE CLUB

By Robin Rego
Wyldlife/Younglife

The weekly Youth Group Meetings are up and running on Monday nights from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Grange Hall. All area middle schoolers are welcome.

In December a group of about 20 children took a bus (generously donated by Armand Boisvert) to the Mountain Ridge Nursing Home in Franklin to sing Christmas carols and visit with the residents. It was a jolly time for all involved!

It was off to "Deep Freeze" camp for a weekend of fun and snow in January. Thirty-four children and adults were transported by bus (thank you again, Armand!) to Camp Berea on Newfound Lake. It was definitely a "Deep Freeze!"

In February it was an '80s night for Wyldlife Club and off to the roller skating rink during vacation.

Coming up on March 2 is the Annual Younglife/Wyldlife Fundraiser Banquet at the Proctor Dining Hall. This is a major fundraiser for these youth programs. Funds raised help with camp scholarships. Donations are needed for the silent auction.

The next Wyldlife Club will be held on Saturday, March 10 from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at the East Andover Grange Hall. It's a sports night!

If you would like more information on any of these youth programs or can help out with a donation, please contact Cathy Ellis at 735-5025.

Cub Scouts Pack 489

By Nicholas Keniston, Nicholas Terwilliger, Austin Hawks, Austin Marceau, Christopher Frenette, Dustin Holmburg, and Todd Wilcox
Webelos Den 5

We are Webelos Den 5 of Pack 489, and we want to tell you about some of the activities that we have done. We are working on the Athlete Badge, and we have done exercises to keep us healthy.

We worked on the Webelos Communicator requirements. We made a poster, and worked on body language for the Communicator Belt Loop. We went to check out the *Beacon* and Andover Television Station with Charlie Darling on February 16. He showed us Channel 8 and how it works. He also talked to us about how the *Beacon* is made and how long it takes to make it. Thank you, Charlie, for the tour!

In January we had our Pinewood Derby. Everyone received a kit for a Pinewood Derby Car and carved out their own car that could weigh no more than five ounces. Mike Barton set up our huge race track with an electronic finish line.

Prizes went to Samuel Ladd for first place, Kyle Smart for second place and Jeff Bates for third place. Prizes were also given for most creative car with first place going to Kyle Smart, second place going to John Maynard, and third place going to Nicholas Keniston.

We would also like to thank Mike Barton for setting up our track, RP Johnson for covering the cost of the Pinewood Derby Cars, Andover Pizza Chef for donating pizza, and Andover Academy of Self Defense and L&T Construction for money to help cover some of the remaining cost.

The Pack went caroling at Woodcrest in December and volunteered to help paint the fence at the East Andover Village Preschool in October.

We sold popcorn to help raise money for the Pack. Prizes were given based on the amount of popcorn sold. Trophies were handed out for first, second, and third place sales, and they went to Samuel Ladd, Nicholas Terwilliger and Nicholas Keniston, respectively.

We are looking forward to more activities.

Proctor Childcare / Preschool

By Karyn Farrington
Proctor Childcare/Preschool

At Proctor Childcare/Preschool our motto is "Learn to Play...Play to Learn." We embrace this philosophy in all that we do here. We have a play-based curriculum, which means that each time children play, be it by themselves or with others, they are learning and developing many critical skills.

We provide as many opportunities as we can for the children to explore and learn from. We are always challenging the children to take risks and explore new ideas.

The children often work together building very elaborate block structures. In doing this they are developing imagination and creativity, gaining problem solving skills, practicing eye-hand coordination, developing special skills, fostering large and small motor development, and developing key math and science concepts including balance and gravity.

Often times during this process the children become very invested in their project and want to make sure it is not

dismantled, so we help them create signs such as "Please do not touch" or "Caution." Prewriting and writing skills are emerging in many ways through this kind of play.

A visit to the dramatic play area (vet hospital, airport, hotel, candy shop, cave, office, etc.) will foster development of interpersonal skills including cooperation and conflict resolution. Another benefit to dramatic play is that it allows children to work through fears and worries in a safe context so that they may grow emotionally. They learn to make sense of the world as they act out adult roles and build planning and problem-solving skills.

Literature is all around us at the Proctor Childcare/Preschool. Children enjoy weekly trips to the Andover Library, and our own classroom library is always accessible throughout the day. When children explore books they develop a love for reading and storytelling, learn about the patterns of print, make connections between illustrations and the printed word, improve language skills as they tell their own stories, and develop imagination and creativity.

So the next time you see a group of children playing together, stop and think for a moment about all of the skills they are learning and practicing. You will be amazed!



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