

East Andover Village Preschool Celebrates 30 Years

By Doreen Perreault
East Andover Village Preschool

In 1979 the East Andover Village Preschool was started by a group of parents in the community who found a need for such a program. Thirty years later, nestled up on the hill in East Andover, many of the same values and principles that started the program remain true.

We continue to be indebted to the East Andover Congregational Church for the marvelous space on the hill and of course to Pastor John for tolerating our busy bodies and not so quiet voices. The building itself holds great charm and character. The history of this great space is as precious as the children who call it their preschool home.

Over the years I've grown accustomed to hearing such wonderful stories from families who had past family members and children attend school way back when. This year I had a child

a cabinet full of old pictures and marveled over the years and years of pictures hidden in a basket tucked away in a cabinet. We found pictures of children who are now grown with families of their own. We enjoyed looking at the changes in how we dressed "back then" and the many changes in hairstyles.

The pictures reminded us of the history and happenings that the preschool has seen over the years. It goes without saying that there are many, many, many people who have contributed to the long success of the preschool.

So as much as things have changed in the world around us, the preschool on the hill remains very much the same. We still cross our fingers at the beginning of each year, hoping the year ends financially sound. We'll always be thinking of new fundraising ideas and finding ways to fund our scholarship program. We remain non-profit and build our volunteer

Advisory Board with parents and friends here in our community.

If you stop in, you won't see new equipment or computers. You won't see the latest gadgets or toys. You may even think this old building on the hill needs a few modern touches.

But if you look closely, you will see what I see every day.

You'll see Lincoln logs and bristling blocks. You'll see children splashing in the water table and playing with homemade play dough. You'll see an indoor sand table (which, according to the pictures we found, dates back nearly 20 years!) and a construction area filled with large building blocks. But more importantly, you'll find laughing children and loving staff. You'll find all the reasons why after eight years, I call EAVP my home.

So, as we celebrate 30 years, I want to thank everyone here in the community for all you have done and continue to do to make our space on the hill such a special one. Whether you donated your time, purchased a tub of cookies for our yearly fundraiser, or thought of us when cleaning out those toys your little one has grown out of, know that you have made a difference. You have all been a part in making the preschool a place that has been proud to be creating memories since 1979.

We look forward to returning in September, meeting a new group of three-year-olds and a new group of families. Ms. Becky will arrive every morning ready to start the day, and I will be busy, too, hopefully with a few surprises up my sleeves. We will be eager to begin our 31st year laughing and learning together up on the hill in East Andover.



attend whose mother was part of the very first class at the East Andover Village Preschool.

My father-in-law, Lloyd Perreault, generously donates his time doing weekly dump runs up for us, and my mother-in-law Judy is always quick to lend a helping hand with the little ones. Lloyd has many stories of his time as a student here in the building now known as EAVP.

It goes without saying that the families and times have indeed changed. Parents are juggling full-time jobs and raising families. Schedules are filled with dance lessons, t-ball practice, and karate classes.

The average family in today's world depends on extended family for transportation and extra help. We've had the wonderful opportunity to meet grandparents, great-grandparents, and many aunts and uncles. Pulling together is something you find in abundance here in Andover.

There is a history in the building that can not be duplicated or forgotten. It's a cherished part of what makes the preschool such a wonderful place.

As we ended this past preschool year, Becky Smart and I took our usual child-free weeks to clean out the shelves and prepare the school for a quiet summer. This year we decided to clean out



1 Boston Hill Road is undergoing big changes as it becomes the new New England House Bed and Breakfast. An open house is planned for Saturday, August 1 from noon to 3 PM. Staff photo: Charlie Darling

New England House B&B Moves To 1 Boston Hill Road

By Michelle Bengivengo

New England House Bed & Breakfast

If you've driven down Main Street lately, you may have noticed the sign missing from in front of the green house that used to be the New England House Bed and Breakfast. This is because the B&B has moved!

We have relocated the B&B from 258 Main Street to a permanent new home on Boston Hill Road. Many locals will remember this new location as the old Colburn Farm at the corner of Plains Road and Boston Hill Road. It's the white house with the big barn.

The new New England House at 1 Boston Hill Road has been given a good going-over after many years of neglect and now has fresh exterior paint, new posts on the porch, all new windows, a new walkway, rocking chairs and a swing on the front porch, and fresh flowers in the barn's window boxes.

Quaintly decorated and boasting five comfortable guest rooms, all with private baths, as well as some great new amenities including direct access to the

Northern Rail Trail, a pond big enough for ice-skating, and a 35,000-gallon in-ground swimming pool, the new B&B has a warm and inviting appeal. We hope our new location will attract snowmobilers, bikers, hikers, and leaf peepers looking for a relaxing and rejuvenating place to stay.

We plan to open on August 1 and already have reservations from returning Proctor parents and local patrons. Being thought of by local residents as a comfortable place for overflow family is something we hope will continue at the new location.

As innkeepers, we always strive to treat our guests just like family and work hard to make every guest feel right at home. Perhaps our motto says it best – "Our House is Your House, Too."

Interested residents are invited to stop by and see the new New England House Bed and Breakfast at Boston Hill from noon to 3 PM on Saturday, August 1.

For questions or to make a reservation, call us at 735-5776.

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