

# East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault  
East Andover Village Preschool

Life on the hill is returning to the little school house in East Andover. The floors are scrubbed, the walls are decorated, and with any luck, a new fresh coat of paint will grace our playground fence. The staff is ready, the puppets are ready, and new books line the shelves...now all we need is the rustle and bustle of laughing children and busy feet.

Thirty years on the hill have brought many exciting changes to EAVP. Because of the changes in the economy and the ever-growing needs of our children and families here in Andover, the East Andover Village Preschool, after much deliberation, decided during the summer months to begin offering full-day extended care.

I can say with great confidence that though our hours may have changed, everything else remains very much the same. We continue to offer morning preschool on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for four-year-olds and Tuesdays and Thursdays for three-year-olds. Our group size remains small, and our staff of two will still be there to greet you every morning.

We continue to remain non-profit and begin our one and only fundraiser later this month. We are already planning our Halloween Open House, Grandparent Pie Social, and preparing our letters to ... well, you know who. We are still run by a wonderful group of volunteers known as our Advisory Board. We remain grateful for your donations, parent support, and most importantly, the support of our community.

Ms. Becky and I are still busy preparing for the new year ahead. We are learning new songs and finger plays, making new flannel board stories, and prepping our cooking skills. We are testing new play dough recipes, experimenting with some slimy science projects, and dancing to some great new music. The rice table is stocked, and a fresh bag of sand has been added to our indoor sand table.

Most importantly, Gigi the Giraffe is ready to welcome a few new preschoolers to our school and is anxious to see our old friends return.

During the month of September, we will be busy getting to know each other and learning about our school. We will be putting our name apples in the basket and learning about the fall changes that will quickly be arriving outside our classroom windows.

We will be finger painting, leaf rubbing, and fall dancing our way through the month. The children will be learning about Johnny Appleseed and will venture across the bridge to visit our dear friend Peter Zak. Peter always has something planned for our preschoolers, and it continues to be a treat to visit him "over the bridge" every year.

I expect a visit from The Green Monster and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We may even see a visit from Chef Combo as I do believe it's applesauce making season.

Preschoolers return on Tuesday, September 8. If you see our flag out, be sure to stop in for a visit. Children's Open House is Thursday, September 3, from 9 to 11 AM. It's a time for children and families to come in and check out their new school and find their name tags and cubby hooks.

Ms. Becky is excited to start her seventh year at EAVP, and I will be returning for my eighth year. We continue to love life on the hill and know that each day will bring laughter and fun. We're looking forward to watching the trees outside our doors change to their glorious colors of red and orange and yellow. We haven't seen the Ordway's horses all summer ... it will be a welcome sight to see them hustle over to the edge of the fence as they watch our little ones on the playground. We'll return to our Tuesday library visits with the wonderful Ms. Mary, and at the end of the day, we'll remember that being three and four (and almost five) means that being pushed on the swings and spinning 'til you're dizzy is always part of a great preschool day.

# New This Year: All-Day Hours At East Andover Village Preschool

By Heather Makechnie  
Beacon staff

Parents kept asking, "When will you have all-day hours?" says Doreen Perreault, teacher at East Andover Village Preschool. "With both parents working to make it through the current economic difficulties, childcare is becoming increasingly difficult for many area residents. I brought this question to the school's Advisory Board, and they voted to extend our hours to all day for the first time in the 30 years since we began in 1979. We applied for a new license, which was easily obtained, and off we go."

"We are trying to be creative in helping people with their time needs. Therefore, it is difficult to quote a cost per child. It is really something that needs to be negotiated," she says.

Full-time students, ages three to six, started on August 31. School will be open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM and remain in ses-

sion until mid-June of 2010. "We try to follow the AE/MS schedule," confirms Doreen. "We have eight full-timers already signed up," she says, with obvious pleasure. "Our capacity is 24 children."

Mornings are geared toward three- and four-year-olds. "We believe in administering to the whole child. We try to focus on each child's needs, not the group's needs. We emphasize hands-on activities, like sand table, rice table, painting with shaving cream, puppets, scissors, coloring, etc. We have a marvelous enclosed play yard for our outdoor time. Our group activities include storytime, music, and parachute play. Snack and nap times are important, too."

Doreen is assisted by Becky Smart in the two-room schoolhouse, just up the hill from the Highland Lake Grange Hall. The school is run by an advisory board of parents and community members and is non-profit. If you are interested, contact EAVP@tds.net or 735-5105.

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