



On one of our walks back from the rail trail, we stopped for an impromptu field trip at the East Andover Fire Station. Jeff Miller was very gracious to show us around the station and trucks. Shown are: Miss Steph (Mitchell), Briar, Liam, Hayes, Alice, Addilyn, Avery, Lauralei, Kourtnee, Elijah, Jolene, Cole, Miss Robyn, Charlotte, and Kinleigh.

Caption and photo: Stephanie D'Amour

## EAVP Summer Camp Ends and School Year Begins

### A big thank you to the Ciccarello family

Stephanie D'Amour, EAVP

The 2022/2023 school year is here, and as always summer has flown by! We had a successful summer camp, enjoying all the ways to stay cool in the hot sun. The last week of camp we ventured out to Beech Hill Farm in Hopkinton for a field trip.

We were very thankful to spend a little more time this summer with some of our preschoolers who are now off to kindergarten.

EAVP welcomes five returning preschoolers for the school year and 13 new children! We do have a few spots available for enrollment. We look forward to

all the learning and new adventures we will have.

We are already gearing up for fall with our annual mum fundraiser. Plants come from DS Cole Growers in Loudon. Mum orders are due by Friday, September 9, and they will be delivered to the preschool, date to be decided. You can always reach out to us by email to place your order at [EAVP@tds.net](mailto:EAVP@tds.net).

EAVP would like to send out a very big thank you to the Ciccarello family. They have gone above and beyond to support the preschool with multiple donations from the whole family and even building us some small additions to our playground. We appreciate all that you and your extended family have done for us! We cannot thank you enough! 🚗

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Proctor will launch its 52nd Wilderness Orientation, a five-day hiking and backpacking trip to the White Mountains during the first week of September. Pictured are students on Proctor's 2021 Wilderness Orientation.

Photo: Lynne Bartlett

## Proctor's New Students Experience the Power of the Wilderness

### Traditional week-long hike in the White Mountains

Scott Allenby, Proctor Academy

During the first week of September, Proctor's 120 new students will head into the wilderness of New Hampshire's White Mountains for five days of backpacking, camping, and exploring. The experience that awaits them – the vastness of the wilderness, the challenges of hiking high peaks, and the relationships forged with classmates and faculty leaders – will lay the foundation for their Proctor journey.

This summer, Proctor is in the midst of a strategic visioning process that is challenging us to think about what the next chapter of Proctor will look like. We must decide what aspects of Proctor will remain and what will need to be set aside in order for new opportunities to emerge for the school.

As we have conversations with parents, students, alumni, employees, and members of the Board of Trustees, we ponder how the culture of an organization sustains over time. Is it the people? Is it the mission? Is it the programs offered?

What is it that allows Proctor's unique culture to thrive year after year, and how do we cultivate continuity when we welcome new faculty, staff, and students to Proctor's community each September?

One of the answers lies in our 52-year commitment to Wilderness orientation. In 1971, former Head of School David Fowler and Assistant Head of School Chris Norris introduced the concept of Wilderness Orientation to Proctor. Wilderness Orientation effectively wove mission and people into an incredibly powerful, complex, cultural underpinning of the school, as eight students and two faculty leaders embarked on the five-day, four-night backpacking trip.

Each year we have some families

ask if such a rigorous orientation experience is necessary. Each year we respond with confidence that the experience of Wilderness Orientation catalyzes the relationships that serve as the foundation of Proctor's culture, and it is worth our time, energy, and investment to ensure we are prepared, trained, and equipped to have the best start to the year possible.

Earlier this summer, David Fowler passed away, but his writings and legacy live on. As he entered his final year as Head of School (1994-1995), David wrote to faculty and staff, "One of the reasons Proctor has done so well over the years is due to its clear mission. Our job is to support that mission in all we do. The mission dictates the programs that we have, the values that we feel are important, and the type of student we want to have at the school. If we forget who we are and who we are committed to serve, then the clear purpose of the school is clouded, and frustration and confusion can sap our energies and educational commitment."

Collectively, we have a responsibility to keep that mission clearly in focus, and Wilderness Orientation helps us do just that. The power of the wilderness is real, both in how it can challenge us and how it can build us up.

We have resisted the temptations to stray off the path, to take the easy trail, to bend to the fears of those who do not fully understand why we do what we do. When we have a mission that centers us, and a community that believes in that mission, we hold the course.

We do the hard things because we believe in their impact on our community and their contribution to our continuity of culture, a continuity so many organizations lack. We prepare our bags, lace up our boots, pack our gorp and sleeping bags, and embark on the best, hardest five days of the year. 🚗



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