

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ANDROSCOGGIN HEAD START SHARES EXPERTISE IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN PARTNERSHIP

**Lewiston, ME (October 23, 2007)** - Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care partnered with the Lewiston School Department and Child Development Services (CDS) in a year long planning process that resulted in the city's first Pre-Kindergarten classrooms at Longley Elementary and Farwell Elementary Schools. By working together, the Lewiston School Department, CDS, and Androscoggin Head Start are able to provide enriched Pre-Kindergarten services to 72 four year old children in Lewiston.

Androscoggin Head Start, CDS, and Lewiston School Department staff work together in the classroom to provide the best pre-school education possible. At Longley Elementary, an Androscoggin Head Start Early Childhood Educator and Lewiston School Department Teacher share teaching responsibilities over two half-day classrooms, and at Farwell Elementary, Head Start, Lewiston School Department, and CDS deliver services to children in four half-day classrooms. The goal of the Pre-K program is to prepare children for Kindergarten by giving them the basic skills required to succeed.

"This program is such a wonderful opportunity for children entering the Lewiston School system." Estelle Rubinstein, Executive Director of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care said. "Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care has been providing pre-school services in Lewiston for over 40 years, and has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the Lewiston School Department and CDS. The new Pre-Kindergarten partnership has brought services to a higher level by joining staff resources to benefit the children and families and served."

Androscoggin Head Start & Child Care has provided quality child development services to pregnant women, families, and children, newborn to age five, for over forty-one years. Program options include Full Day, Half Day, Home Based, Family Childcare, and Infant and Toddler Early Head Start. Services through these programs are provided annually to over four hundred children and families throughout Androscoggin County.

Centers are located in Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon Falls, Livermore Falls, Mechanic Falls and Turner.



Applications for all Head Start programs are accepted at any time. Most Head Start programs are free to eligible children. Full day childcare services are available on a sliding fee scale for parents who are working, continuing their education, or participating in job training. Please call (207) 795-4040 for more information. Please visit our website at [www.androkids.com](http://www.androkids.com). Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care is a United Way funded and Lewiston and Auburn CDBG supported agency.

*Photo Attachment #1: Farwell Elementary School Pre-K Classroom staff Deanna DiSotto (left) from the Lewiston School Department, and Head Start staff Clara Cline (right).*



*Photo Attachment #2: Longley Elementary School Pre-K Classroom staff from Head Start, Regina Palumbo (left), and Monica Michaud (right) from the Lewiston School Department.*

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