



Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers

www.PACTeachers.org

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear PACT Members,

We hope that everyone had a relaxing and refreshing summer. As we all head into the new school year, we want to wish you all a happy and successful year.

Unfortunately or fortunately, we have had many challenges that we are working to overcome one step at a time. In late June we discovered that "PACT" had not been registered and did not have a tax ID number. Fortunately, since we did not make money or profit over the years, it did not prove to be a tax issue. We are now registered as "Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc." and have obtained a tax ID number as well as non-profit status.

Secondly, the requirements for holding Professional Developmental Days has been revised by MSDE, so we have to work on getting the rights to hold our training days. So PACT has recently formed an affiliation with Silver Spring Day School, in order to comply with MSDE regulations that require our organization to be affiliated with a recognized state or national child care association. Due also to these regulations, members attending the Fall Professional Development Day will be issued their certificates by the Silver Spring Day School Institute. SSDS's willingness to assist PACT by entering into this affiliation, and thereby facilitating the October 18 training day, is much appreciated. The PACT Board is working toward re-establishing the organization's independent status in the future.

We would like to say a very special thanks to our continuing Board members, Annette Fitzpatrick - VP of Membership, Melissa Mitchell Jordan - Secretary, Janise Allyn-Smith -Treasurer and Scott Mitchell - VP of Programs who hunkered down and helped greatly during all the changes, planning and success of these unexpected situations. Their dedication and support helped to keep PACT running smoothly.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Professional Development Day on October 18.

Warmly,
Bernadine Occhiuzzo and Ellie Griffin



Membership Renewal

PACT membership for the 2017-18 school year entitles members to participate in PACT's two professional development days – to be held on Wednesday, October 18th, 2017 and Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018. Membership renewal and professional development day registration may now be completed online, using a fillable form.

<https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html>

Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated early childhood educators. If you are interested in being involved, please check the list below for open positions and contact us at info@PACTeachers.org

2017-18 PACT Board Members

Co-Presidents - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) (Cedar Lane NS, MD)

- [Ellen Griffin](#) (Cedar Lane NS, MD)

V.P., Program Co-Chairs - [Scott Mitchell](#) (Silver Spring Nursery School, (MD)

- [Doreen Buntun](#) (Cedar Lane Nursery School (MD)

V.P., Membership - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) (MD)

Secretary - [Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative NS (MD)

Treasurer - [Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)

Logistics & Hospitality - VA: [Barbara Bradley](#) Tauxemont Preschool (VA)

- MD: [Rana Oriolo](#) Rockville Community Nursery School (MD)

Exhibits/Resource Table - [Dawn Matthews](#) Tauxemont Preschool (VA)

Folders & Evaluations - [Kim Mahoney](#) Rockville Community NS,(MD)

Legislative Contact - MD - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#)

- DC - OPEN

- VA - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)

DVD Collection - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)

LCD Projector Loan - VA: [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)

- MD: [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)

Listserv - [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)

Web Master - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) (MD)

Newsletter editor - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) (MD)

Past Co-Presidents - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool (VA)

- [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) Silver Spring Nursery School (MD)

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Listserv

PACT members' listserv: Take a moment to join the PACT members' listserv to stay up-to date on PACT information. The listserv is open to current PACT members. To join, send an e-mail to PACT-Info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Directors' listserv: Share resources, ideas and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join, send a message to pact-directorssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

The PACT Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education was re-instated last year, and we have a broad field of candidates deserving of recognition. Members are encouraged to consider nominating one of their mentors or co-workers for the 2017-18 school year. It's never too early to begin the process! Nominations are due March 1st, 2018. The award will be presented at the Spring Professional Development Day. A nomination form will be posted on the website soon.

Silver Spring Day School Training Institute

...developing and conducting workshops for early childhood educators

2017-18 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 21, 2017
Exploring Force and Motion through Ramps and Pathways
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
3 COK hours Curriculum

Monday, October 9, 2017
Teaching with the Arts Day with Wolf Trap Teaching Artists

Math in Motion: Using Creative Movement to Explore Math Fundamentals w/Rachel Knudsen
9:00 am - 12 noon
3 COK hours Curriculum

Puppet Power: Effective Techniques for Using Puppets in the Classroom w/Joe Pippik
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
3 COK hours Curriculum

Saturday, November 4, 2017
Basic Health and Safety - *fulfills new MSDE requirement*
at Greenbelt Nursery School, 15 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770
9 am - 2:30 pm
5 COK hours Health, Safety and Curriculum

WE CAN COME TO YOU!
visit silverspringdayschool.org to see our list of traveling workshops



**TRAINING
INSTITUTE**

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**SILVER SPRING
DAY SCHOOL**

PACT Professional Development Day – Wednesday, October 18

Venue: [First Christian Church of Falls Church](#), 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22044

Schedule:

- 9:00 - 9:30 Registration, refreshments, displays and exhibits
- 9:30 - 9:45 Business Meeting
- 9:45 - 11:15 First workshop session
- 11:15 - 11:45 Break - light lunch is provided
- 11:45 - 1:15 Second workshop session

Credit: Attendees will earn 3 clock hours of continued training in ECE. Certificate will be issued to participants on Professional Development Day.

Vendors: Make sure you allow time to check out the vendors' tables! There will be several displays, with a wide selection of goods.

Resource Table: Want to share information about an upcoming event, training, or ECE organization? Bring 25 copies for the resource table, located in the vendors' area.

Further details: www.PACTeachers.org

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Workshop Content Description and Core of Knowledge Areas

1. Innovative Story Telling Techniques - Emily Ederer Curriculum 1.5 hours

Storytelling can bring a little magic into your classroom! In this workshop, experience a variety of easy ways to integrate the arts into your stories, involve the audience and capture children's imaginations. As a result of this training, you will be able to:

- 1) Enhance your storytelling for young children with several different techniques, including prop boxes, music, drawing, drums, drama and dance.
- 2) Identify the direct connections between storytelling and early childhood literacy goals.
- 3) Design appropriate follow-up activities to extend children's enjoyment and understanding of the story.

2. Circle Time Strategies - Jill Lyons Curriculum 1.5 hours

1. During this workshop the participants will explore how to make circle time developmentally appropriate.
2. Workshop will include how to plan circle time taking into consideration different developmental stages, ages of children and needs of the individual child.

3. Change is hard. Take a Flying Leap Anyway! - Jennifer Debernardis Professionalism 1.5 hours

How can you use your observation of children, talent as a lifelong learner and what you know about best practices and child development to inform your collaboration with children in your classroom? Where can you find resources to support your evolution? Think about how you can support children in risk taking by being a risk taker yourself. Think about making play a priority when push down academics looms at every turn.

4. Teaching from the Heart: Creating a Habit of Happiness and Authentic Connection In and Outside the Classroom - Kaira Jewel Lingo Child Development .5 hours, Curriculum .5 hours, Community .5 hours each

Happiness is possible for us and our students. The potential for joy, peace and understanding exist in each of us and we can nurture these qualities in ourselves and in our students every day. We can transform our very human "negativity bias" and make a habit of happiness. In this workshop, we will learn practices that can restore ease and well-being in ourselves and our students, nurture gratitude and deepen joy. We will also learn ways to understand and mindfully care for our difficulties and painful emotions and how well-being and challenges are not mutually exclusive, but can co-exist. We will explore how we can engage in authentic

communication with ourselves, our colleagues and students and create a culture of compassion and connection throughout the school community.

5. Integrating the Arts to Support the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children - Anita Weisburger Child Development 1.5 hours

Learn how integrating drama, dance, music, visual art and literature/poetry into any subject or lesson plan enhances children's social-emotional development. Discover how you can provide creative experiences that allow children to grow within themselves and in relation to others. Participants will identify ways to integrate the arts effectively into classroom curricula, with an emphasis on multicultural awareness and active engagement; gain an understanding of arts integration philosophy and the research in support of its adoption; and describe the multiple influences on children's social and emotional development and learning.

6. Welcoming Challenging Children into the Co-op Classroom - Sally Neuberger Special Needs 1.5 hours

This workshop will help educators consider how to plan for and welcome challenging and complicated children with differences into the school day.

Objectives:

- a) Participants will be able to summarize what the professional literature suggests about the educators' role in creating an inclusive preschool setting
- b) Participants will identify 5 strategies for accommodating young children with unique learning/behavioral needs
- c) Participants will identify 10 strategies for supporting co-op parents and classmates in welcoming and including peers with unique learning profiles

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7. Speech and Language Development - Melissa Grosvenor and Laura Kyger Child Development 1.5 hours

This workshop will detail the development of speech and language including precursors to language, language use, language form, language content, language comprehension, and language surrounding pretend play.

Participants will be able to:

- 1) identify language precursors and plan meaningful activities to support development of this area in young children;
- 2) identify the concepts of form, content, and use and further identify early developing capacities in each of these categories;
- 3) identify when language development is derailed and when a referral is necessary.

8. Music through the Day - Gail Multop Child Development .75 hours, Curriculum .75 hours each

Every day, music, rhythm, and song make learning more joyful and satisfying. But beyond that, music is an important part of every child's development and environment. Learn to be more confident in integrating music and musical concepts into all areas of a child's day.

- The student will learn how musical development has a window of opportunity, just as language has.
- The student will begin to comprehend how music can help in language arts, science, and math.
- The student will participate in a group music activity.
- The student will learn about how to bring music outdoors.
- The student will gain awareness of world music that children love.

9. Positive Discipline or Power Tools for Power Struggles- Paige Trevor

Child Development 1.5 hours

* Note this workshop is in two parts – sessions 1 and 2.

Positive Discipline *[First session / 9:45 - 11:15 am]*

Move away from punishment and toward using encouragement, consequences, limits and agreements for an approach to discipline that stimulates cooperation and self-restraint.

Power Tools for Power Struggles *[Second session / 11:45 am - 1:15 pm]*

Frequent power struggles, whether between adults or between parents and children, impact relationships. Learn what happens when a conflict develops and gain some insights into redirecting that energy in ways that tend to solve problems and bring people closer.

10. Preschool is Primed for STEM - Maria Payso

Curriculum 1.5 hours

STEM is an educational approach to learning where children learn and apply concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. By nature, early childhood settings are primed to support STEM learning. The goals for this training are:

1. Understand what it means to have a STEM curriculum;
2. Learn how STEM can be developmentally appropriate for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers;
3. Learn how to plan activities that invite children to observe, explore, investigate, problem-solve, experiment, and design.

PICK YOUR WORKSHOPS AND SIGN UP NOW!

Each workshop will be capped at 35 participants. Alternate choices will be assigned after a workshop is full. Note that priority in workshop choices will be given to members whose membership fees have been received, so sign up early to ensure you can attend your first choice! Complete and submit the form online at <https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html>

Fees may be paid by:

- a) Personal check. Complete and submit form online, then print and mail form with check for \$50 to the Treasurer, Janise Allyn-Smith, 14512 Twig Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905; or
- b) PayPal. Complete and submit form online. Note that this option includes a service fee levied by PayPal, which is 2.9% of the amount paid plus a 30 cent transaction fee. Directors registering their staff may refer to the fees chart (see link on the website *Forms* page).

If you have any questions, e-mail Annette Fitzpatrick at Annette.fitzp@gmail.com .

The membership/registration form and \$50.00 membership fee (payable to PACT) is due **Friday, October 6.**

Members who prefer not to submit their form online may complete and mail the form below:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____ Phone Number (home/cell) _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (for communication concerning PACT only) _____

School name _____

School website _____

Are you interested in serving on the PACT Board? Yes _____ Maybe, need more info! _____ No _____

Workshop Choices: Indicate the NUMBER of the workshop below*:

1. # _____ 2. # _____ Alternate(s) # _____

*Each workshop will be capped at 35 participants. Alternate choices will be assigned after a workshop is full. Note that priority in workshop choices will be given to members whose fees have been received. Sign up early to ensure you can attend your first choice!

Lunchbox Choice:

- Ham sandwich with chips and whole fruit
- Turkey sandwich with chips and whole fruit
- Vegetarian sandwich with chips and whole fruit
- Salad with grilled chicken and gluten free dressing (** \$2 extra charge - add to payment)
