

# Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers P.A.C.T. Newsletter

September 2013

Established in 1961

**Join us for our Fall Conference on Tuesday, October 15! Information about this Conference is in this Newsletter**



Back to School!

SSNS fours' class is greeted each day at school with these images their parents created of them for them.

## A Letter From The Editor

I'm no longer a cooperative preschool teacher – although I am still involved at SSNS. I have moved on to an aftercare job in Takoma Park. The thrill of my day is to see my former students at pickup and dropoff --- and to see their anticipation as the first day of school approaches. I see their carefree, confident nature as they watch their older sibling walk into the abyss of *school*. They have no idea how lucky they are to still be spending much of their days outside with positive adults nearby. You can tell the children who have played, taken risks, and explored. They are still happy when they are in second grade and come bursting out of school, ready to run; needing to run; knowing that it's ok to run.

I am looking forward to our Fall Conference – the PACT conferences always leave me thinking and wanting more. I'd like to thank our board, our co-presidents, and our vice president of programs for working steadily over the summer to create this event. At the end of this newsletter is the form to sign up for the fall conference.

## Looking Ahead

*By Co-Presidents Jennifer DeBernardis & Nancy Renner*

Greetings PACT members! Welcome to a new school year! I hope the summer gave you time to refresh, renew and find inspiration. Look for an interactive poster at our October conference to hear your ideas for how you relax over the summer and renew yourselves for the coming school year.

We are excited to report that people we talk to are still buzzing about Marc Armitage's presentation last spring. Thanks to our program chairs Marcy Mistrett and Lynn May, we have a marvelous smorgasbord of thought provoking workshops to inspire you for this year. Luckily, there will be no overlapping with NAEYC offerings as we are unique in our local selection of talented presenters.

We continue to invite you to join our PACT Board. Please let us know if this might interest you. We are looking for people just like you. A message that was all over Facebook today said, "Volunteers don't always have the time, but they always have the heart." That very spirit keeps our cooperative schools thriving and is the pulse of our association as well.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, October 15!

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### PACT Board

#### Co-Presidents

Jennifer DeBernardis (SSNS) (MD)

Nancy Renner (Fort Hunt) (VA)

#### VP Membership

Annette Fitzpatrick (MD)

#### VP Programs

Marcy Mistrett (ALG) (DC)

Lynn May (Bethesda Coop NS) (MD)

#### Secretary

Melissa Mitchell Jordan (RCPNS) (MD)

#### Treasurer

Janise Allyn-Smith (SSNS) (MD)

#### Logistics & Hospitality

Barbara Bradley (Tauxemont) (VA)

Bernadine Occhiuzzo (Cedar Lane)(MD)

#### Exhibits/Resource Tables

Dawn Matthews (Tauxemont) (VA)

#### Folders/Evaluations; Newsletter

Pamela Trunk (the NatureLab) (MD)

#### DVD Collection

Cindy Walsh (CC Presbyterian) (DC)

#### LCD Projector Loans

Nancy Renner (Fort Hunt) (VA)

Cindy Walsh (CC Presbyterian) (DC)

Jennifer DeBernardis (SSNS) (MD)

#### Listserv

Jennifer DeBernardis (SSNS) (MD)

#### Web Master

Annette Fitzpatrick (MD)

#### Past President

Maureen Ingram (MD)

## PACT Fall Conference, Tuesday, October 15, 2013

### Workshops

- TITLE: Relationships that Build a Cooperative Preschool**  
**PRESENTER: Leta Mach**, Vice President Resources, Parent Cooperative Preschools International; and retired Director of Co-op Education and Communications at the National Cooperative Business Association  
**CONTENT AREA:** Community, Professionalism  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** Cooperative Preschools are a part of a wider community, a community of cooperatives, preschools, educators, parents, the surrounding neighborhood, landlords and other businesses. This workshop will explore the relationship of the cooperative and its leaders with stakeholders within and without the cooperative. Participants will be asked to share and discuss their experiences including recent research and trends and the impact of these on the operations of a cooperative preschool. We will generate ideas that can improve the relationship of the cooperative to the surrounding community.
- TITLE: "I Can Be the Author!": Creative Writing with Young Children**  
**PRESENTER: Emily Ederer**, Staff Development Coordinator, SSDS  
**CONTENT AREA:** Curriculum  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** A love of reading and writing starts in the preschool years. In this workshop, participants will practice using a variety of arts-integrated teaching techniques that can help children experience the creative joy of using language. We'll learn easy ways to use song writing, round-robin storytelling, and dramatic tableaux with young children.

As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

  - Write collaborative songs with children that reinforce other curriculum and help children experience sentence structures.
  - Facilitate round-robin storytelling with preschool children to help them learn about the parts of a story.
  - Lead children in creating dramatic tableaux that help with listening, reading comprehension and interpretation.
- TITLE: Ensuring Participation for All Expanding Learning Opportunities with Technology**  
**PRESENTER: Sue Mistrett**, Project Director, Lets Participate! US Department of Education  
**CONTENT AREA:** Special Needs, Curriculum  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** With increasingly diverse classrooms, a universal approach intentionally plans for the individual learning needs

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of all children in the program. Universal design (UD) principles guide the educator to expand options for materials and teaching strategies to ensure the active participation and engagement of every child in daily activities.

- This workshop will demonstrate how a universal approach can enhance everyday learning opportunities by including more options to better address the range of abilities, interests and needs of the children in the classroom.
- A range of flexible, adaptable technology supports will be highlighted, including ways to make the classroom environment accessible to all children with visual and sensory considerations. iPad apps to support the communication and learning needs of children with disabilities will be included.
- Technology tools that provide alternate means for creative expression, story making, science and community exploration will be shared. Other strategies include ways to use cameras and photos to record and share daily events.

**4. TITLE: Improvisatory Theater Skills for the Preschool Teacher**

**PRESENTER: Oran Sandal (Living Stage Theater) & Pickett Craddock (Pre School teacher)**

**CONTENT AREA:** Child Development, Curriculum, Community

**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** This workshop seeks to share some of the improvisational theater skills developed by Living Stage Theater Company over its 35 years of working with very young children. In addition, we will address some of the techniques and philosophy of Liev Vygotski and his Tools of the Mind system. Among the guiding questions we will address are:

- How can the adult move the play forward without telling the kids what to do? How can listening to the children and enacting their ideas be enhanced?
- When is it time to back off your input and let the children lead?
- What theater skills can help adults to be better players? How important is it that the teacher be a good player herself/himself?

**5. TITLE: LEARNING FROM ASSESSMENT: Improving classroom practice through child observation.**

**PRESENTERS: Louisa Tarullo, Ed.D. and Emily Moiduddin, Ph.D. (Mathematica)**

**CONTENT AREA:** Curriculum, Child Development

**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** Mathematica Policy Research developed the *Learning from Assessment Toolkit (LFA Toolkit)*, which is designed to support staff in Head Start, Early Head Start, and other early care and learning settings in child assessment activities to improve instruction at the child, classroom, or program level. The Toolkit can support staff across the range of curriculum and assessment systems already in place. The LFA Toolkit is posted on the web-based Head Start Early Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC), where it is considered an important resource for Head Start and the early childhood field. This workshop will provide an introduction and hands-on guide to using the materials in the Toolkit. Participants will gain increased knowledge of the importance of tracking children's progress, practice using helpful tools for gathering information, and learn strategies for interpreting and applying their data for improved classroom practice.

**6. TITLE: Come on In! How to Build Community When You Can't Leave Your Office**

**PRESENTERS: Kimberly Reinhard, Pre School director**

**CONTENT AREA:** Community

**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** This workshop will look at tangible ways that administrators can create community and develop relationships by using office space (no matter how small), toys, animals, newsletters, staff development and a simple open door. This is presented from the Director perspective and conferees will have an opportunity to learn:

- How relationships can be developed in an office and then trickle down to the rest of the center to establish a strong sense of community. Examples and samples given.
  - How you can set up an environment that welcomes families and create a space using your interests and theirs to develop relationships with even the most challenging families.

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- How to use different forms of communication to establish relationships regardless of the personality. Examples of different approaches and styles given
- How to create staff development and parent programs to build community (samples of Amazing Race, Scavenger Hunts, Parent Workshops and more)

7. **TITLE: Understanding children’s Social-Emotional Development in the Classroom.**  
**PRESENTER: Elana Benatar**, LCSW, Independent Consultant, Child Play Therapist  
**CONTENT AREA:** Child Development, Special Needs  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** In this workshop I will present what is referred to as the “phase model” for understanding development and behavior of children in the classroom throughout the year. I will focus on 3 phases of development (attachment, individuation/autonomy, and consolidation) that originate from attachment theory, but are applied to a preschool classroom. The phase model provides a framework for understanding social-emotional development in preschool age children. In this workshop, participants will:
- Understand how children’s classroom behaviors relate to developmental needs and tasks.
  - Learn ways to structure activities and classroom setup around these phases and developmental needs,
  - Gain perspective on how to manage the challenging behaviors and emotions that come up in each phase, both for children and staff members.
  - Process their own phase-specific experiences as teachers or administrators in a preschool setting.
8. **TITLE: “Teaching from Our Passions: Strategies for Moving from Ho Hum to Inviting Curriculum”**  
**PRESENTER: Jacky Howell**, MA (Independent Consultant & Trainer, Early Childhood)  
**CONTENT AREA:** Curriculum  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** In this active, engaging workshop teachers will discover their strengths and look at all the interesting ideas to offer to young children when you teach from your passions. This training will help you uncover topics and activities that involve you and children in dynamic and inviting learning.  
Three goals include:
- Teachers will uncover their unique interests and how they can be turned into curriculum
  - Teachers will experience ways other teachers have used their passions and turned them into curriculum
  - Teachers will begin developing activities to use right away in their classroom based on teaching from their passions.
9. **TITLE: Sensory-Integration in the Classroom.**  
**PRESENTERS: Sharon Goodwin & Allison Mistrett, MS, OTR/L (Leaps & Bounds Ped. OT)**  
**CONTENT AREA:** Child Development, Health/Safety & Nutrition, special needs  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** This workshop will provide a review of the sensory system and how it impacts a child’s gross motor skills, fine motor skills and behavior. We will provide hands on opportunities to explore sensory strategies for helping children function to the best of their ability in the school setting. Participants will be able to:
- Describe how sensory processing can impact a child in the school setting
  - Identify potential “red flags” demonstrated by children in the school setting that could indicate sensory possessing issues
  - Develop a “tool kit” of sensory strategies to address various problematic behaviors in the school setting.

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10. **TITLE: SOCIAL JUSTICE & DIVERSITY in the Classroom**  
**PRESENTERS: Betsy DeMulder, PhD & Stacia Stribling, PhD (Associate Profs., George Mason University)**  
**CONTENT AREA:** Child Development, Curriculum, Professionalism  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** This workshop will demonstrate ways to take an inquiry stance in order to identify and address issues of diversity and social justice in the preschool classroom.  
Teachers will:
- Develop critical inquiry skills,
  - Learn about resources and materials that support a social justice stance, and
  - Develop critical dialogue skills for use with colleagues and students.
11. **TITLE: The Value of Children’s Risk-Taking in Outdoor Environments: Let’s Take a Balanced Approach!**  
**PRESENTER: Sissy Walker, ED of WISE Educational Services**  
**CONTENT AREA:** Child Development, curriculum, health/safety/nutrition  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** In this workshop participants will examine their own perspectives around children’s risk-taking behaviors in the outdoors, clarify the differences between risks and hazards, gain increased understanding of the role of risk taking in healthy child development and learning, and learn strategies for creating a balanced approach to risk-taking in the out of doors.
12. **TITLE: A Year in the Sideyard**  
**PRESENTER: Cara Elkins, MA & Rachel Henigan, MA (Classroom teachers)**  
**CONTENT AREA:** Child development, curriculum, health/safety/nutrition, community  
**DESCRIPTION & GOALS:** Part one of the workshop will document our evolving construction and use of our outdoor space. We will look at the science, health, art and literacy curriculum and materials which underpin our time outside and how they have changed over the years through teacher reflection and adaptation and through tremendous parent participation. Participants will look at a power point presentation with photos and other documentation of our time outside and get to handle different materials such as dirt, seeds, newspaper pots and natural blocks. Part two of the workshop will be facilitated independent work time and group discussion to map out how participants can adapt this work to whatever scale is available to them from filling a large tupperware container with dirt and placing it in the sensory area, to rallying parents to plant an indoor or outdoor vegetable garden.

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## FALL 2013 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

At the Fall conference, participants choose two workshops from a varied selection of topics. Each session lasts one and a half hours. A typical Fall conference schedule:

- 9:00 - 9:30 AM Registration, refreshments, displays and exhibits
  - 9:30 - 9:45 AM Business meeting
  - 9:45 - 11:15 AM First workshop session
  - 11:15 - 11:45AM Break - light lunch is served
  - 11:45 - 1:15pm Second workshop session
- A light lunch is served during a mid-morning break (11:15 to 11:45 AM)
  - Participants earn three clock hours of continued training in ECE at each conference
  - Exhibitors display a wide variety of educational materials. A resource table is also available for members to share information.

## PICK YOUR WORKSHOPS AND SIGN UP BELOW

This registration form and \$40.00 registration fee (payable to PACT or Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers) must be returned by Monday, October 7 to: Annette Fitzpatrick, 7203 46<sup>TH</sup> Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, [Annette.fitzpatrick@verizon.net](mailto:Annette.fitzpatrick@verizon.net) 301-986-5161

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (will be used only for communication concerning PACT) \_\_\_\_\_

School name \_\_\_\_\_ Director's name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

School e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Web site \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been involved with Early Childhood Education?

\_\_\_\_ Rookie (0-3 yrs) \_\_\_\_ Veteran (4-10 yrs) \_\_\_\_ Seasoned Veteran (10+ yrs)

Are you interested in serving on the PACT Board? Yes \_\_\_\_ Maybe, need more info! \_\_\_\_

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

1st session # \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd session # \_\_\_\_\_ Alternates # \_\_\_\_\_

\*Each workshop will be capped at 35 people. Registrations received after the due date may be assigned their alternate choice. Members may register via e-mail (include name, phone#, e-mail address, school, workshop choices) or attach a scanned registration form, however priority in workshop choices will be given to members whose fees have been received.

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**Directions to Conference  
First Christian Church of Falls Church  
6165 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22044-2302.**

**Fall Conference - At [First Christian Church of Falls Church](#), VA:**

Directions: Located just east of the Seven Corners area of Falls Church, Virginia, on Route 7 (also known as Leesburg Pike) one quarter mile east of Highway 50. Address is **6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22044-2302**. The office phone number is 703-532-8220. Our main parking lot is around in the back of the church and so is our main entrance.

**From DC and MD:**

Take Beltway (495) South. Exit onto Rte 50 East toward Arlington. Go 3-4 miles to Rte 7 Exit (Leesburg Pike East). This will be a right exit. Go 1/2 mile (through several lights) to the First Christian Church of Falls Church, which will be on the right side of the street. There is plenty of parking behind the church.

**From Alexandria:**

Take Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) 2 miles past Bailey's Crossroads. You'll see Colonial Funeral Home on the left. The next building, set back from the street, is the First Christian Church of Falls Church. There is plenty of parking behind the church