

P.A.C.T.

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers
Established 1961

Jennifer DeBernardis, Newsletter Editor

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FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Fall Workshop Meeting:

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
First Christian Church of Falls Church
6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA
Tel: 703-532-8220
****Directions below****

Time Schedule:

9:00-9:45 a.m.	Registration, Refreshments, Displays & Exhibits
9:45-11:15 a.m.	First Workshop Session
11:15-11:45 a.m.	Break
11:45-1:15 p.m.	Second Workshop Session

Yearly Dues:

\$40.00 per person

DIRECTIONS TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF FALLS CHURCH

From DC and MD

Take Beltway (495) South. Exit onto Route 50 East toward Arlington. Go 3-4 miles to Route 7 Exit (Leesburg Pike East). This will be a right side exit. Go ½ 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 will 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.

➔ **SAVE MARCH 13TH FOR THE SPRING CONFERENCE AT CEDAR LANE IN BETHESDA.**



A Message from Maureen

Welcome to a new school year!

This year finds me in an entirely new teaching position, teaching a large class of preschoolers while simultaneously coaching a beginning teacher. Do you have new challenges this year, too? I bet you do! One cannot describe teaching preschool as static work - it never ceases to amaze me how much I am constantly learning about early childhood education, how no two years are the same, no two days are the same.

Our Fall Conference arrives right in time to help inform these current challenges. The line up of workshops includes topics on child development, curriculum, and special needs. In response to your feedback, this year we are providing a variety of workshops that cater to specific audiences - beginning teachers, more experienced teachers, and Directors/Administrators. As always, we welcome your feedback and your ideas for future workshops. We hope that we are providing you a dynamic and enlightening day of training on October 26th!

*Warmly,
Maureen Ingram, PACT President*

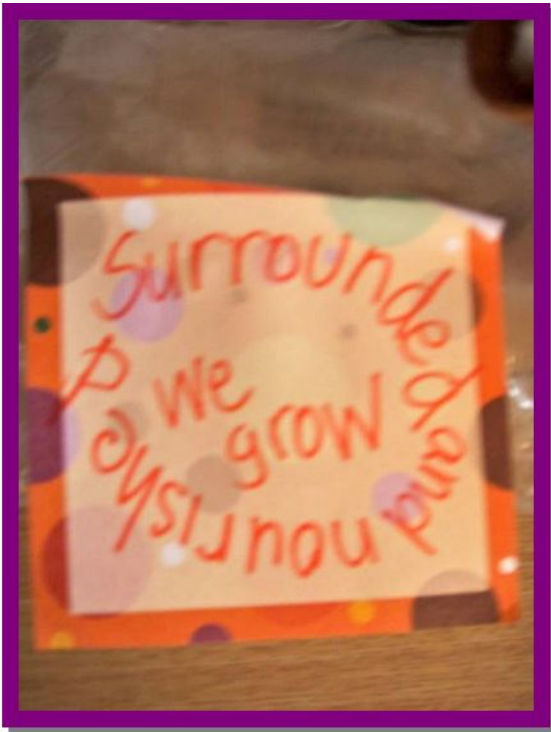


Image from the Spring 2011 Conference

Please take a moment to subscribe to the PACT listserv. This is the first place future newsletters will appear. Newsletters will no longer be mailed to individuals.

To subscribe, send a message to PACT-info-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers has a Website!

Thanks to Annette Fitzpatrick for getting us up and running on the web!
Please check it out and add it to your Favorites today!

<http://pactconference.org/>

More Things to Know

Our spring conference will be held on March 13th at Cedar Lane Unitarian Church. Our keynote speaker will be Jacky Howell, MA **Early Childhood Consultant, Training and Technical Assistant** presenting:

“Being A Reflective Teacher”

This interactive session will look at ways we can continue to grow in our craft as a teacher. Through questions and discussion, participants will have an opportunity to explore ways we can continuously move forward in all aspects of our work. Be prepared to be inspired and uplifted as we look together at our important profession—being a teacher!

THE MD/DC DIRECTOR'S GROUP meets monthly during the school year at rotating preschools. This year's schedule is :

Oct. 13 Bannockburn Nursery School
Nov. 10 Rockville Presbyterian Co-op Nursery School
Dec. 8 Cedar Lane Nursery School
Jan. 12 CCPNS
Feb. 9 BCNS
Mar. 8 RCNS
Apr. 12 Silver Spring Nursery School
May 10 Beth El

Contact Janise Allyn-Smith if you're interested in joining us! Nisey150@aol.com
Meetings are from 1-3. Bring a bag lunch. Host provides beverages and dessert.

If you're on the other side of the river, join our newly formed Virginia Director's group! We meet once a month during the school year to share information, challenges, and collegiality. Contact Anne coopdirector225@yahoo.com if you're interested in joining us!

*Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers
Fall Conference, Wednesday, October 26, 2011
Workshop Descriptions
MSDE approval number: CWO-4800*

*Choose one workshop per session. Please mark your choices by **number** on the registration form.*

1. "I Have a Child Who . . ." - Common Questions with Preschool Children.

This introductory workshop is ideal for beginning teachers. The workshop will provide an overview of child development - physical, cognitive, behavioral, motor, and social. An overview of developmental differences will also be provided. The workshop will discuss potential areas of concern that can emerge in the classroom and consider developmental milestones and identify delays. Lastly, answers to common questions about child development will be provided. This workshop is presented by Dr. Roland J. Diaz, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist. Child Development, 1.5 hours. Session One only.

2. Movement Education in Preschool: Program Development and Fundamentals. Why include structured movement education in preschool? This workshop will summarize current research and books and discuss the importance of a "planned yet flexible", teacher facilitated, age-appropriate

movement activity program. Upon completion, participants will: 1. Understand movement program goals and terminology; 2. Become familiar with basic motor control assessment (i.e., *"is this normal?"*); and 3. Learn about motor milestones and dynamic systems theory. This workshop is presented by Mary Lynn Hafner, PT, CEIM. Child Development, 1.5 hours. Session One only.

3. Superman and Cinderella: Benefits of Dramatic Play. This workshop will present reasons why children engage in dramatic play; specifically, play around themes involving superheroes and princesses. Additionally, it will explore the benefits of dramatic play on children's social and cognitive development. The workshop will discuss ways to promote healthy, safe, and fun superhero and princess play in early childhood classrooms. This workshop will be presented by Geetha Ramani, Assistant Professor of Human Development, University of Maryland. Child Development, 1.5 hours.

4. Beyond Counting: Building Mathematical Thinking in Preschool. Counting, measuring, patterning, comparing, sequencing, working with parts and wholes, using spatial concepts and exploring shape --how can we provide experiences to help preschoolers build a solid foundation in a wide variety of math skills? How do we address different ages and stages of development? This session will focus on fun and easy to provide play activities that encourage mathematical thinking across the curriculum. The workshop will provide descriptions and examples of various skills included in mathematical thinking and demonstrate how they can be embedded in activities across the preschool curriculum. Its goals are: 1) Participants will identify different stages of quantification skills (counting) development and distinguish between rote and conceptual counting. 2) Participants will identify various mathematical thinking skills and concepts (number and quantification; pattern; sequence; comparison; parts and wholes; measurement; data analysis; spatial concepts; geometric concepts) as they appear in play activities. 3) Participants will create and share ideas for further activities in the different skill areas. This workshop will be presented by Edie Mossberg, Consultant. Curriculum, 1.5 hours.

5. Hector the Collector: Building Pre-literacy and Mathematical Thinking Through Collections of Recycled Items. Learn how to repurpose junk as artistic treasure all while enhancing 'do-it-yourself' creativity, story-telling, mathematical thinking and problem solving. This interactive, hands-on workshop will discuss our "Hector the Collector" study, where children read the Shel Silverstein poem and then collect junk from home to bring to school and transform into treasure. We will share ways teachers can use the collected treasures to build math and pre-literacy skills including sorting, grouping, and counting; and communal art (hanging lanterns, Watts Towers, and other mosaics). In addition, participants will build their own portraits using reusable materials, and think of ways the portraits could generate stories or puppet play. Participants will leave workshop with 1. Clear ideas about how to jumpstart their own recyclable collections including writing the letter to families and ideas about initial presentations and sorting of items; 2. Ideas and application of different math and art projects to do with the collections including a puppet show and portraits; and 3. Resources to keep the inspiration coming (pictures, hand-outs and on-line resources). This workshop will be presented by Cara Elkins and Melissa Klein, Amazing Life Games, Washington, D.C. Curriculum, 1.5 hours.

6. Imagine a World Outside: Nurturing Guided Inquiry and Rich Play in the Out of Doors. In this hands-on workshop, learn how to "break down" the planning that goes into providing meaningful outdoor learning experiences for children, support children's in-depth learning through the guided inquiry process and support rich play experiences in the natural world using loose parts and the concept of "outdoor rooms." This workshop presented by Sissy Walker, Educational Consultant, WISE Educational Services, LLC. Curriculum, 1.5 hours.

7. Movement Class for Preschoolers. Movement education is NOT the same as recess. Children need opportunities to practice fundamental motor skills which enhance ALL aspects of their development. This workshop will dive into applications of a movement program. The goals of this workshop are 1. Learn the requirements for space (large/small), materials (budget/prices), preparation and post-assessment. Plus, how to be flexible with constraints; 2. Develop your own "*Movement Teacher's Tool Box*": an eclectic resource of activities and approaches; 3. Review, discuss and participate in a movement lesson plan with emphasis on structure, themes and ideas for specific skill sets. This workshop is presented by Mary Lynn Hafner, PT, CEIM. Session Two only. Curriculum, 1.5 hours.

8. What's New in Children's Picture Books? In this workshop, participants will explore several new picture books published in the last few years. They will discover fun and exciting activities to share with children after reading some of these stories and learn about the educational value of expressive reading. This workshop will be presented by Renee Thompson Edwards, Librarian, Fairfax County Public Library. Curriculum, 1.5 hours.

9. Anxiety in Young Children: A Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment Approach. This workshop will address the topic of childhood anxiety and anxiety disorders, including how this problem is best treated. The cognitive-behavioral approach will be used in the conceptualization and treatment of anxiety in children, and participants will learn specific strategies to help children with this issue. Three goals for participants include: learning and being able to identify the 3 parts of anxiety (physiological, cognitive/thoughts, and behavior); the CBT approach to treating anxiety disorders; and how to work with and support parents in helping their anxious child. This workshop will be presented by Bonnie Zucker, Psychologist.

10. Observing, Assessing, and Supporting the Challenging Child. Recommended for experienced teachers, this workshop will provide a framework for observing the challenging child. Specifically, it will identify areas for attention and appropriate areas of potential intervention. Lastly, the workshop will consider when and why referrals need to be made to professionals. This workshop is presented by Dr. Roland J. Diaz, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist. Child Development, 1.5 hours. Session Two only.

11. Walking on Eggshells: Working with Highly Reactive Children in a Classroom Setting. In this workshop, participants will identify characteristics of over reactive children. Participants will learn how to create a plan for addressing students with high reactivity. Additionally, participants will identify techniques for insuring a nurturing classroom climate that supports children with these needs as well as typical children. This workshop will be presented by Sally Neuberger, School Social Worker, Clinician to parents and children.

12. Finding the Right Balance: Defining the Boundaries of Muddy Water. This workshop is designed to help school staff become aware of how to be effective and respectful in doing a job that crosses multiple boundaries within the day. Goals will include ways to help articulate clear and common understanding of what the organization mission is and how it is going to achieve its mission; develop and practice key collaboration skills and shared expectations with joint planning and implementation; and understand and adapt to different behavioral styles of adults. This workshop will be presented by Lori Carver-Johnson, MA, C.S.C., Pathfinders, Inc. Individual and Family Coaching. Professionalism, 1.5 hours.

2011-2012 PACT Board Members

Please notice the many OPEN slots! Won't you consider becoming a PACT Board member?

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OPEN

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Exhibits/Resource table

OPEN

Folders/Evaluations

OPEN

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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 **October 12, 2011** to:

Annette Fitzpatrick
7203 46th Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301 986 5161

MSDE approval number: CWO-4800

Name _____ Phone Number (home) _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

Workshop Choices: Indicate the NUMBER of the workshop below:

1st session # _____ **2nd session #** _____ **Alternates #** _____

School name _____ phone _____

E-mail _____ web site _____

We have several openings on the PACT Board. Are you interested in serving on the PACT Board? Yes _____ Maybe, need more info! _____

P.A.C.T. is a professional organization of cooperative nursery school teachers. Its main purpose is to provide additional training for teachers through workshops and speakers in all areas pertaining to early childhood. All Co-operative preschool teachers are invited to join. Non co-op teachers are also welcome on a limited basis.

Dues of \$40.00 per school year cover:

- € Two professional conferences per year with exhibitors and Resource Table of information
- € Lending library of educational videos, audio tapes, and books
- € Two newsletters per year

Please share this newsletter with prospective members