

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



September 2018

Fall Newsletter

www.PACTteachers.org

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.

There have been many challenges that PACT has faced with regards to having our own “training number” for the Professional Development Days we host. MSDE has brought about changes to regulations and training requirements, making it difficult for PACT to qualify as a Training Institute. That said, in order to comply with MSDE regulations that require our organization to be affiliated with a recognized state or national child care association, PACT has partnered with Silver Spring Day School Training Institute, under Emily Ederer. Thank you, Emily! SSDS is willing to assist PACT by entering into this affiliation, and is thereby facilitating the October 17 Professional Development Day. Members attending the Fall PDD will be issued their certificates by the Silver Spring Day School Institute.

Secondly, in order to meet MSDE’s revised requirements for Professional Development Days and for earning “Core of Knowledge” hours, we have extended the time set for professional days. Participants will earn 4 hours of COK, which could be used towards credentialing. 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 17.

Warmly,
Bernadine Occhiuzzo and Ellie Griffin

Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. A number of positions are currently open, and we need members to step forward! If you are interested in being involved, please check the list below for open positions and contact us at info@PACTteachers.org

2018-19 PACT Board Members

- Co-Presidents** - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD
- [Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD
- V.P., Program Co-Chairs** - [Scott Mitchell](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD
- [Doreen Bunten](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD
- V.P., Membership** – [Christine Waltz](#) Silver Oaks Cooperative School, MD
- Secretary** - [Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School, MD
- Treasurer** - [Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD
- Logistics & Hospitality** - VA **OPEN**
- MD: [Rana Oriolo](#) Rockville Community Nursery School, MD
- Exhibits/Resource Table** – **OPEN**
- Evaluations** - [Kim Mahoney](#) Rockville Community Nursery School, MD
- Folders** - **OPEN**
- 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: [Scott Mitchell](#) MD
- Listserv** - [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) MD
- Web Master** - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) MD
- Newsletter editor** - [Annette Fitzpatrick](#) MD
- Past Co-Presidents** - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA
- [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) MD

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Membership Renewal

PACT membership for the 2018-19 school year entitles members to participate in PACT’s two professional development days – to be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 and Thursday, March 28, 2019. Membership renewal and professional development day registration is available online at <https://www.pacteachers.org/forms.html>

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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 in 2016. Jennifer DeBernardis, Teacher at Silver Spring Nursery School and past Co-President of PACT, was presented with the 2018 award at PACT's March Professional Development Day.

Members are encouraged to consider nominating one of their mentors or co-workers for the 2018-19 school year. It's never too early to begin the process, so please take a look at the nomination form on our website <https://www.pacteachers.org/welcome.html> today! Nominations are due March 1st, 2019, and the award will be presented at the Spring Professional Development Day.

Hall of Fame

This Spring, the PACT Board established a *PACT Hall of Fame* to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of Early Childhood Education.

At the March 2018 Professional Development Day, the following members were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, and inducted into the *PACT Hall of Fame*:

Jennifer DeBernardis – Teacher, Silver Spring Nursery School, PACT Board member

Annette Fitzpatrick - Director (retired), CCUMC Preschool, PACT Board member

Helene Segal-Turner – Director, Kensington Nursery School, PACT Board member

Cindy Walsh – Director (retired) Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church Weekday Nursery School, PACT Board member

Fran Warthen – Director, Suburban Nursery School

Silver Spring Day School Training Institute – Sponsor for PACT's PDD



The Institute holds workshops for early education educators. Visit their website at <https://silverspringdayschool.org/training>

PACT Professional Development Day, Wednesday October 17

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

Schedule ** Note the earlier start and later finish this Fall:

8:45 - 9:05 Registration, refreshments, displays and exhibits

9:05 - 9:15 Business Meeting

9:15 - 11:15 First workshop session

11:15 - 11:45 Break - light lunch is provided

11:45 - 1:45 Second workshop session

1:45 - 2:00 Certificates issued, departure

Credit: Attendees will earn 4 Core of Knowledge training hours in ECE. Certificates will be issued to participants at the conclusion of the Professional Development Day. MSDE Training approval number: CWO-157009

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: <https://www.pacteachers.org/professional-development.html>

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Workshop Content Description and Core of Knowledge Areas

Each workshop will be two hours in length and will be offered twice. Participants will choose two workshops for a total of four hours of training.

1. Self-Regulation: The Key to Success

Description:

Research tells us that self-regulation is the prerequisite skill needed to create safe, effective learning environments. Join this Conscious Discipline session to gain a better understanding of self-regulation and why it is an essential life skill. You will learn effective strategies that will improve your own ability to self-regulate by practicing the power of perception and the skill of composure.

Core of Knowledge Area: Professionalism

Presenter: Mandy Lloyd was first introduced to Conscious Discipline® in August of 2003, when she was the Lead Teacher of a 4-year-old inclusive classroom at a small NAEYC-accredited private child care center. She soon discovered that Conscious Discipline® is a program that works! As she moved up to Assistant Director and then Director, Mandy helped to implement the Conscious Discipline® program in all of the classrooms with children ages three months to

five years and created a positive school climate where collaboration and problem-solving were valued among the staff and families. Mandy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development from Virginia Tech. She has been a Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor since 2007.

2. Mindfulness through Story Drama: Teaching focused attention and self-calming through story and play

Description:

This workshop will be an experiential, playful time to how to practice mindfulness for yourself and how to integrate these practices into your classroom through drama and story. Educators will leave with practical ways to become more present and peaceful in the classroom, and will learn easy ways to use drama and story in teaching mindfulness. Tanory Ateek teaches drama and mindful movement at Silver Spring Day School the best of both to help you create a more peaceful, focused classroom.

Core of Knowledge Area: Curriculum

Presenter: Tanory Ateek has been a Music, Movement and Drama teacher at Silver Spring Day School for five years. She also teaches yoga for both adults and children.

3. Stimulating the Sense of Touch: Playful and Meaningful Ways to Enhance a Preschool Learning Environment with Texture and Tactile Experiences

Description:

In this interactive workshop we will discuss the importance of offering 3- through 5-year-olds a texture-rich environment. We will learn unique ways to augment the “texture diets” in our classrooms. Participants will leave the workshop with a goody bag of tactile treasures and concrete ideas to bring more texture into their own teaching toolboxes.

Core of Knowledge area: Curriculum

Presenter: Beth Clawson is a lead teacher for 3 year olds at Silver Spring Day School.

4. Lessons to be Learned from the Bowerbird and Nature

Description:

During this workshop participants will explore how to create inspiring and purposeful learning environments for all children. They will discover how to be a curator of children’s work and how to de-commercialize and bring more natural elements into the classroom. They will experience how to make natural learning materials.

Core of Knowledge area: Curriculum

Presenter: Rena Dubensky holds a M.Ed. from the University of Maryland in Curriculum and Instruction and has worked in the field of early childhood education for 16 years. She is currently a Quality Enhancement Specialist with the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center. She was previously a Quality Assurance Specialist for Maryland EXCELS, director of an early childhood center in Potomac, MD and before that an early childhood educator and library specialist. She is particularly interested in nature education and incorporating natural materials into the early childhood classroom.

5. Trauma Informed Care and the SEFEL Pyramid Model

Description:

This workshop will focus on the SEFEL Pyramid Approach, which is designed to be used by classroom staff, family care providers and home visitors. The focus is to support young children's social and emotional development through a culturally sensitive approach that is responsive to the unique needs of programs, families, professionals and communities. Special attention will be paid to engaging families in this approach as well as considerations for trauma on a child's behavior.

After the workshop, participants will have increased knowledge of the SEFEL Pyramid Approach and be able to identify ways to implement each tier of the Pyramid in their context. They will also be able to identify and demonstrate useful strategies from the Pyramid model to build positive relationships, build supportive environments, support children with special behavioral needs, and more.

Core of Knowledge area: Child Development

Presenter: Ashley Ferringer is an Early Childhood Training Specialist at The Institute of Innovation and Implementation, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She obtained her master's degree in public health from Tulane University where she worked as the lead research assistant on a randomized control trial evaluating positive parenting programs and their affect on reducing child abuse. She also worked with the Mary Amelia Center to evaluate an Educare program in the New Orleans region and helped to develop a training course for parents on the development needs of their children.

6. Cultural Awareness and Family Engagement

Description:

Participants will engage in a discussion affirming culture influences and it's relationship to potential bias in early childhood settings. Impact areas of discussion will include school readiness and child-rearing practices. Participants will learn how to recognize the importance of culture, recognize the cultural influence children bring to the classroom, and recognize deficit thinking in order to focus on recognizing the positive aspects of cultural proficiency.

Core of Knowledge area: Community

Presenter: Petrea Hicks is an internationally recognized Master Leader through Child Care Exchange's Leadership Initiative. She has presented training/workshops for National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) annual conference, local and state early education conferences. Ms. Hicks recently published an article for Child Care Exchange magazine (May/June 2018) concerning diverse literature for young African American males and will be presenting this same topic during NAEYC's 2018 conference. She has extensive experience working with various children care programs, including Family Child Care professionals, Head Start/Early Head Start, Department of Defense child development centers and supporting agencies.

7. Rituals and Traditions: Building Community in Classrooms and Programs"

Description:

A sense of classroom community is an important characteristic of high quality early childhood programs. In this workshop, participants will share their own experiences and understand how rituals and traditions can contribute to building a positive atmosphere and strong community. Participants will discover different sources for creating rituals and traditions in their own classrooms and programs.

Core of Knowledge area: Community

Presenter: Jacky Howell, MA has been working in the field of early childhood education over 40 years. She has been an early childhood teacher, assistant director, keynote presenter, workshop presenter as well as an on-site consultant and mentor to early childhood programs throughout the DC-Metropolitan area. She has written a column for Teaching Young Children, penned articles for Young Children, and co-authored Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool

8. Partnering with Parents

Description:

This session will present an approach to building strong, positive relationships with parents that enable providers and parents to work effectively together to nurture children's overall development, especially when challenges arise.

Core of Knowledge area: Professionalism

Presenter: Claire Lerner, LCSW-C, is a licensed clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience working with children and families. She is the author of hundreds of resources for

parents that translate the science of early childhood into practical tools. She has also provided training to hundreds of early childhood professionals in best practices for supporting families with young children.

9. Power Tools for Power Struggles

Description:

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.

Core of Knowledge area: Professionalism

Presenter: Carol Muleta is a certified parent educator with the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), a non-profit parenting education program serving the Washington, DC area.

10. Positive Discipline

Description:

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

Core of Knowledge hours: Curriculum

Presenter: Paige Trevor is a certified parent educator with the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP), a non-profit parenting education program serving the Washington, DC area. She has been assisting and leading parenting classes for PEP since 2006. Paige writes a parenting column in the local Glover Park Gazette as well as having several award winning articles in the Washington Parent.

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, or if there is insufficient enrollment. 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 payable to PACT. Complete and submit form online, then print and mail form with check for \$50 to Christine Waltz, 3701 Cardiff Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

b) School Check payable to PACT. Complete and submit form online, indicating that payment will be made by your school.

c) 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 should refer to the fees chart (see link on the website *Forms* page).

If you have any questions, e-mail Christine Waltz at VPMembership@gmail.com

The membership/registration form and \$50.00 membership fee (payable to PACT) is due **Friday, October 5.**

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 PACT communication 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)
