



Volume 45
Issue 1
NOVEMBER,
2002

The Preschooler

California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, Inc.

Inside this Issue

President's Message
page 2

Legislative Updates
page 3

Convention '03
Pages 4 & 5

Convention History
page 6

Insurance Review
page 7

CCPPNS
Publications,
Pamphlets and Pins
page 7

The Book Corner
page 8

**CCPPNS is a
community of parents
and educators
committed to teaching
and inspiring families
through parent
involvement and
mutual support.**

**CCPPNS can be
reached via email:
ccppns@best.com
or visit our web site:
www.ccppns.org**

Proposition 10 and Parent Participation Nursery Schools Getting a Share of the Grant Money *by Anne Brown, Sierra Preschool*

Three Placer County co-op preschools have been the recipients of Prop 10 Grants. While the amount of the grants and the use of the monies are varied between the schools, the steps to receiving the grants have been the same. Our schools followed these steps:

- Initial contact was made with the Placer County Children & Families Commission office to obtain the grant application and deadline information.
- Directors and/or parents attended mandatory Prop 10 meetings in the community to meet the decision-makers at the county level, to show their commitment to the program, and to be present to ask/answer any questions or provide information as needed.
- Back in their schools, committees were formed to determine the school's exact goals, research desired outcomes, and clearly define monetary needs.
- The grant writing process was completed and the application was submitted to the county for review in accordance with their deadline requirements.
- Once the positive results are received, the school must carefully review, approve and sign a final contract received from the county.
- The school must then complete the necessary requirements as stipulated in the contract (i.e. providing the county with Certificates of Insurance, etc.)
- Once expenditures have been made, receipts are submitted to the county along with the required Payment Request Form as provided by the county.
- Attendance is required at Outcome Fairs twice annually

The time frame from start to finish can take up to several months. School members should be dedicated in their pursuit of the grant and committed to the process. Fortunately, Placer County is very progressive in their disbursement of Prop 10 funds and in their support of children ages 0-5.

Our schools have received the following grants. Tutor Totter Preschool in Auburn received \$50,000 in 2001 and used it to add on to their existing structure, purchase new learning enhancement materials and provide full and partial scholarships for students. Sierra Preschool, also in Auburn, received \$5,000 in 2002 and is using it to provide a two-year music program for students, purchase new art and science materials and to establish a scholarship program. Loomis Community Nursery School will receive \$46,000 in 2002-2003 to completely replace their playground equipment and groundcover, allowing them to comply with current playground safety requirements.

Each county in California handles their Prop 10 funding program differently. Interested schools or councils need to approach their county to learn their specific requirements. We encourage all interested schools to pursue Prop 10 funding while it lasts!



The Preschooler
Volume 45 Issue 1

The Preschooler is the official publication of the California Council of Parents Participation Nursery Schools (CCPPNS). Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of CCPPNS or the editorial staff. Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration. Please include as much information as possible when submitting photographs. All submissions become the property of CCPPNS. Should you want your submissions returned, please indicate so and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with submission. Complimentary copies of The Preschooler will be sent if your article is printed. Permission to reprint may be obtained. The Preschooler is published twice a year. Subscriptions are available from the editor at a rate of \$5.00 per year.

Editor

Kathleen Clow
temporarily on leave—
for next issue, send submissions to
Heidi Inouye Steiner
Email: mattsteiner@earthlink.net
Or mail to 24803 Pitcairn Way
Torrance, CA 90505
(please include your phone #)

Contributors include:

Margie Bohn
Anne Brown
Lisa Lacroix
Michelle Levenson
Sharon Levin
Jodi Thirtyacre
Heidi Inouye Steiner

Message from the President Heidi Inouye Steiner

When I originally wrote my first "Message from the President," I had four children; now I have six. I'm still in a parent participation nursery school and love every minute of it. Some things don't change. The joy of watching and working with the kids and parents is tremendous. It is a wonderful experience. Unfortunately, the world is now a different place than it was in 1998. That is why CCPPNS is so important now. What better a place for our children than in our parent participation schools, where so much love and care is given to them so they can grow into amazing adults.

When people ask me "CCPPNS?" I say: We're a hardworking and gracious community of parents, educators and volunteers who help provide the following benefits:

1. Interest free loans and grants to member schools;
2. Competitively priced liability insurance tailored to the needs of co-op nursery schools including coverage for scrip fundraising;
3. Annual CCPPNS convention, providing guest lecturers, workshops, and exhibitors for parents, preschool directors and teachers;
4. CCPPNS resource materials on grant writing and publicity, and information on fundraising, speakers, advertising, playground safety and safe scrip handling;
5. Legislative clout—CCPPNS can act as a lobbying organization to affect laws that may have an impact on our member schools;
6. Legislative information regarding upcoming bills or bills passed concerning issues important to our member schools and families;
7. Opportunities to give special recognition to our dedicated directors, teachers, and parents by giving awards at our annual CCPPNS convention;
8. Annual director and teacher luncheons that honor our directors and teachers and allows them an opportunity to network with each other;
9. A CCPPNS web site - <http://www.ccppns.org/> and information about individual schools - (check it out!);
10. Semi-annual editions of The Preschooler to all staff and families of our member schools;
11. Leadership training for council and preschool board members at our Joint Board Meeting, and leadership training advisory; and
12. Monthly meetings to share ideas, discuss concerns, solve problems and support each other.

I couldn't begin to list all the benefits and services of CCPPNS because there are many more benefits offered by our local regional councils.

Please come and meet us at our annual Convention. The theme is "Families for a Peaceful Planet." The 2003 Convention will be held in San Francisco March 29-30-31, 2003. See pages 4 & 5 for all the details, and hope to see you there!

Cooperatively yours,

Heidi Inouye Steiner

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 2002 Session

by Heidi Inouye Steiner, Legislative Chair

- **Unsupervised children** (SB 255, Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough)

It is now an infraction punishable by a \$100 fine to leave a child under six unsupervised in a vehicle if the engine is on, keys are in the ignition, or if there is significant risk to a child's safety.

- **Charter Schools** (SB 740, Jack O'Connell D-San Luis Obispo)

Charter schools must obtain waivers from the state board of Education for non-classroom based instruction programs or have their funding cut 10% a year over the next three years.

- **Sun Hats** (SB, Don Perata, D-Alameda)

Every school must permit the use of sun protection clothing such as hats, but can ban clothing deemed gang-related.

- **Smoking Ban on Playgrounds** (AB 188, Juan Vargas, D-San Diego)

It is illegal to smoke or dispose of cigarettes on public playground or Tot-lot areas.

- **AB 2811 Child Development Grant Program** -Migden

The bill extends the Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant Program, indefinitely. (It is scheduled to end 6/30/02) Under the program, students who intend to teach or supervise in a licensed child care center may qualify for a grant. Consultant- Alan LoFaso (916) 319-2013

- **Prop 10 School Readiness-** (AB 2800 Chan)

This bill authorized the California Children and Families Commission to fund programs to ensure children are ready to enter school and explicitly allows the commission to grant state commission funds to county commissions.

Signed: Chapter 245

- **Children Restraint System Signs-** (AB 3047)

This bill requires a sign regarding child passenger restraints to match the requirements of law to be posted at child care centers. Signed: Chapter 350

- **Child Abuse Reporting-** (AB 2672)

This bill will makes it an infraction for a supervisor or administrator to knowingly impede a person mandated to report child abuse or neglect from making their report, punishable by a fine of up to \$5000. Signed Chapter 858
Consultant- Monica Avriola (916) 319-2063

- **Skateboards, Skates, Scooters-** (SB 1924 O'Connell)

Minors are required to wear helmets when riding a skateboard, scooter, or inline or roller skates on a street or public bicycle path. Violators will be fined up to \$25. The proceeds will be used for safety education and assistance for lower income families to obtain safety helmets.

Signed: Chapter 475

- **Sun Screen-** (SB 632 Perata)

This bill will requires schools to allow pupils to use sunscreen without permission or a doctor's note.

Sponsor- William S. Graham Foundation for Melanoma Research (888) 882-4559 . Signed: Chapter 266

- **Smoking Near Tot Lots-** (AB 1867 Vargas)

This bill prohibits smoking or disposing of tobacco related waste within 25 feet of a playground or tot lot sandbox area. It will increase the fine from \$100 to \$250.

Consultant- Ermelinda Ruiz (916) 319- 2079
Signed: Chapter 527

- **Paid Family Leave-** (SB1661 Keuhl)

The bill establishes a family disability insurance on January 1, 2004, with benefits beginning July 1, 2004 or after to be funded by employee contributions. It will provide up to six weeks of family disability compensation after the first seven days of lost work to individuals unable to work because of illness or injury of a family member or domestic partner, or the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a new child. The bill will allow an employer to require an employee to take up to 2 weeks of earned vacation time before receiving the additional benefits. The employee is not eligible if another family member is able and available to provide care; this bill makes it a crime to falsely certify a medical condition for the family disability insurance.

Signed: Chapter 901

families for a peaceful planet

Mark your calendars!!! March 28-30, 2003 is the CCPNS 54th Annual Convention, held in beautiful San Francisco!

The theme of Convention 2003 is *families for a peaceful planet*. With what is going on in the world today, it is quite necessary for all of us to be focusing on peace. The convention will feature educational workshops that will address issues of peace and non-violence. Our goals are to:

- ✿ help parents and educators understand ways to deal with violence
- ✿ teach and encourage peaceful alternatives for our children to handle conflicts
- ✿ find ways to instill peace in our lives.

Convention 2003 includes the following activities:

Progressive Dinner - participants will have the opportunity to tour three San Francisco cooperative preschools. Enjoy Appetizers, a Main Course and Dessert - some of SF's finest fare! Meet new and old friends and share new ideas.

Speakers & Workshops - there will be two keynote speakers - one on Friday and one on Saturday. Each will focus on creating a peaceful community. The workshops offered will be targeting Teachers/Directors and Parents, and several workshops will be designed for both parents and children to participate in together. Workshop topics include: celebrating diversity, media & violence, playful parenting, conflict resolution, discipline, safety, disability awareness, nature & protecting the planet, nutrition, couple's survival, stress relief, mudpainting, music, dance/movement, science, and storytelling!

Teacher/Director Luncheon - everyone is invited to join this popular networking event.

Family Banquet - an opportunity to celebrate the new insights and friendships gained with our families. Preceded by an Awards Ceremony recognizing the people who have contributed to the Parent Participation Community over the last year.

Exhibits 2003 - vendors and exhibitors will be located throughout the main convention lobby. Continue your workshop experience by picking up the speakers' book; shop for books, toys, clothes or music between workshops; learn about new products, activities and opportunities for your children's growth and development.

Holiday Inn Golden-Gateway - located at 1500 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109. (415) 776-7155 (www.holiday-inn.com/sfo-golden), the Holiday Inn is twelve miles from San Francisco International Airport. Shuttle service is provided from both SFO and Oakland Airports. It is located in the heart of San Francisco, adjacent to the renowned California Street Cable Car line with service to Chinatown, community filled with flavors of the Orient and Union Square, known for its theatres as well as elegant shops. Either by cable car or a scenic stroll, we are merely minutes away from the waterfront sights such as Ghirardelli Square, once home to the world famous chocolate factory and Fisherman's Wharf, one for the most visited attractions in California.

Registration - The website will have registration forms available online. Registration booklets listing workshop descriptions and schedules will be distributed to all coop nursery schools in January.

Childcare - Free childcare will be offered on Saturday on a limited basis (first registered, first served). Camp Planet Janet will set up a kid's camp in the hotel for the convenience of those attending the convention workshops. Dance, face painting, glowsticks and awesome music will be featured.

T-Shirts - Available now! BE-IN your t-shirt. This multi-colored logo is on 100% white cotton; children and adult sizes available. You can preorder with your registration form.

for more information, visit our website at: <http://www.ccppns.org/convent.html>

BE IN

SAN FRANCISCO

for

CONVENTION 2003 • MARCH 28-30TH

AT THE HOLIDAY INN GOLDEN GATEWAY, SF CA

SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL OF PARTICIPATING NURSERY SCHOOLS

PROUDLY PRESENTS

*families
for
a peaceful planet*



CONVENTION HISTORY FROM THE HISTORIAN

by Margie Bohn, CCPPNS Historian

The history of parent participation nursery schools, otherwise known as “co-ops”, begins at the University of Chicago in 1915, and in California ten years later when a school was started in Berkeley under the guidance of Katherine Whiteside Taylor. These women, in a time of hats and gloves, not only wanted a cooperative play situation, but one of their primary interests was child development and parent education; so then, as now, they had discussions and speakers at their meetings.

As the coop movement spread area councils, beginning in the 1940’s, were formed as a channel for information and exchange of ideas. (Sound familiar? Though we call it networking.) The first area council was East Bay in 1946 with 10 schools, followed in 1947 by Los Angeles with 7 schools. In 1948 Northern and Southern council members came together to form the statewide organization that eventually was named California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools. (CCPPNS). They had yearly business meetings alternating north and south (ring a bell?) to which they added discussion groups / seminars (workshops?) Dating back to 1953, in Los Angeles the major emphasis was review of the constitution and business. In 1954 the group met in Long Beach and besides business had 6 discussion groups. A theme, “ Research Points the Way” was chosen to guide the 1955 meeting. These annual daylong meetings evolved into CONVENTION.

Over the years each convention committee has given every effort to continue the original focus of the “founding mothers” with educational workshops, adding a dynamic keynote speaker, good food, and vendors with a variety of wares. In recent years the convention, now spread over two days, has reached out to the entire family with workshops for dads, care and activities for children, concerts, puppet shows, and other special events. IT’S FOR EVERY ONE!

The convention is planned for you – each of you, so whatever “hat” you are wearing, whether parent, board member, director, and or teacher there is something special for you. Of course we all benefit from the great workshops, however there are special workshops for developing leadership of board members, as well as discussion groups and networking sessions for directors and teachers where the new and experienced learn from one another. IT’S FOR EVERYONE!

As worthwhile as the keynote and workshops are, an added bonus is the meeting and mixing with people from all over California, and when you leave convention you will realize you have developed a wonderful warm feeling of belonging, and a general understanding of the purpose and dynamics of CCPPNS.

From 1953 to 2003 the essence of convention had grown and developed into an exciting and rewarding event – not to be missed. And this year PCPI, the international organization, whose president is our own Susie Stone, will join us for a concurrent convention. How great is that! IT’S FOR EVERYONE!

So – READ the INFORMATION about CONVENTION in beautiful SAN FRANCISCO in this issue of the PRESCHOOLER.

Put the DATE on the CALENDAR so you won’t miss it.

Since Convention IS FOR EVERYONE – it is everyone’s responsibility to spread the word; Area Councils, Directors, Board Members, Parents.

PLAN NOW, so you can -

- Benefit from the information
- Enjoy the fun
- Share the Camaraderie

Look forward to seeing you there.

Margie Bohn
CCPPNS Historian

CCPPNS Insurance Review

by Lisa Lacroix,
Finance Director, South

One of the many services that CCPPNS provides its members is access to low cost quality insurance. CCPPNS conducts a regular review of the costs and services of our current Insurance Broker of Record and compares them to those of other agents and insurance carriers for overall best value. Currently, CCPPNS endorses the Rick Johnson Insurance Agency and recommends his services to our members. CCPPNS uses several important criteria to evaluate our insurance agency. The endorsed agency must provide the following:

- An insurance carrier that has an A rating with the state of California
- Insurance coverage rates that are competitive
- Coverage that meet the needs of the wide range of facilities, staffing and student populations of our schools
- Information on the various types of coverage available and what is necessary and affordable for each individual school

In addition to meeting these requirements, Rick Johnson also provides information on our website: www.ccppns.org and he has recently offered a grant to provide financial assistance to up to member schools that have experienced unforeseen hardship to cover the cost of insurance premiums.

Remember to always have a copy of your insurance policy available and if you have questions about coverage, call Rick Johnson () . For grant information, call Lisa Lacroix, Finance Director, South () .

Available from CCPPNS— Publications, Pamphlets and Pins

by Lisa Lacroix, Finance Director, South

Publications – cost postage
School Treasurer's Manual
Grant Writing Handbook
Pointers for Participating Parents (postage)
Publicity Handbook
Notes for Parents
Personnel Manual

Free CCPPNS Pamphlets
Loan & Grant Application Insurance Grant Application
CCPPNS Brochure Insurance Made Simple

Pins & Charms
In Blue Silver Pewter PCPI (pin only)

For more information or to order,
please call me at () .

The Book Corner—Continued from Back Page

the illustrations really complement the mood of the page, especially when the grouchy girl says, "The sky and I are two howling, prowling, scowling wolverines." Fabulous and just in time for our rainy season and the chance to stomp out our own bad moods.

Well, this last book isn't new, but it makes me tear up every time I sing it (yes, that could have something to do with my singing voice, but let's pretend not). **What a Wonderful World** by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele, illustrated by Ashley Bryan (Atheneum, 1995). Yes, it's the Louis Armstrong song with wonderful, vibrant, magical illustrations by Ashley Bryan. I always close my book and talk (is that a plug? Yes, it is. I give book talks for parents, teachers, etc., um, now, back to the book) with my Louis Armstrong CD while I slowly flip the pages of this lovely and hopeful book. A true MUST for everyone!

That's all for now! Please feel free to e-mail me if you have questions or would like to receive Book Corner (it's free) on a monthly basis.

Happy Reading!!

Sharon Levin writes **Book Corner** for schools and individuals and loves to do book talks for schools and parenting groups. She can be reached at sharonlevin@mindspring.com.

BOOK CORNER

by Sharon Levin, sharonlevin@mindspring.com

Peace and Unity, what a wonderful theme for a newsletter and a conference. Last October I was lucky enough to attend the IBBY/Reading the World conference on Multicultural Literature for children (IBBY is the International Board on Books for Youth) a group that is filled with people trying to promote peace, understanding and unity through the literature for our children, our hope and future. It was so encouraging to be with these wonderful people during a time that was so uncertain (and continues to be that way).

There will be another Reading the World Conference in San Francisco March 1 & 2, 2003. (www.readingtheworld.com)

So, onto the books!

King and King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland (Tricycle Press, 2002). This starts off as the typical prince finding a bride story, Queen is tired of ruling, orders prince to get married. She harasses him enough until he agrees and they invite princesses from all over the world to come parade before the prince. He's bored, the queen is disappointed and it looks hopeless until the last princess comes in accompanied by her brother, Prince Lee (get it? Princely? Someone had to point that out to me, I'm a little slow) and the two princes' eyes meet and they fall in love. They get married and rule as King and King. Well, all I can say is, it's about time! A fun story with a message that doesn't hit you over the head with a baseball bat (unlike *Heather Has Two Mommies* which broke new ground, but is NOT a well written book). The art is unique with sprinklings of Dutch words in paper cut outs and all kinds of princesses. I was a little uncomfortable that the princess from Bombay seemed to be teased about the length of her arms, but that could be me being oversensitive, since no one else seems to be bothered by it. All in all, a wonderful addition to bookshelves anywhere.

Visiting Day by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by James Ransome (Scholastic 2002) The first time I read this book I said, "Hmm." The second time I said, "Aah." This is about a little girl and her grandma getting ready to visit her daddy. Grandma is "smiling her secret just-for-Daddy-and-me smile and me lying in bed, smiling my just-for-Grandma-and-Daddy smile." Daddy is in prison, we don't know why in this book and it

doesn't matter. This book is about family love that extends beyond time and prison walls. This book is the story of too many children in this country and it's touching, heart-wrenching and beautiful. Many of you may believe that it doesn't apply to anyone you know, but one never knows. It is a part of the story of both the author and illustrator and in fact was a closely held family secret, for the illustrator, until this book. The illustrations are rich, beautiful and occasionally painful especially the illustration of the father and daughter parting until the next month. This is a treasure.

A Place to Grow by Soyung Pak, illustrated by Marcelino Truong (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2002) All families, like seeds, need a place to grow. A place with sunshine (hope), rain, good land (love and nurturing). This is the story of Soyung Pak's family's emigration from South Korea to the United States. When she asks her father why seeds travel he says, "a seed needs land to grow." When she answers that there is land everywhere he says, "Not good land.." "Good land is warm and safe, like a cozy home." Are there parts that will make grown ups uncomfortable? Well, the mention of "too many guns and not enough love." might fit. Just (AS ALWAYS) know your audience and take it from there.

Lizzy's Do's and Don'ts by Jessica Harper, illustrated by Lindsay Harper duPont (Harper/Collins 2002) Well, this book felt like it described my life. All Lizzy's mom seems to say is 'Don't!' "Don't shout indoors. Don't tickle so hard. don't take the deck and lose one card. Don't, don't, don't!" Lizzy decides it's her turn and say's "Don't act too tough. Don't say 2 chocolates are enough. Don't, don't, don't!" Then they start listing all kinds of wonderful 'Do's'. A wonderful book to share with a child, especially on one of those really tough days.

Rain Romp by Jane Kurtz, illustrated by Dyanna Wolcott (Greenwillow Books, 2002) A delightful romp and stomp through a gray day and a gray mood. The words are lyrical and

Continued on Page 7