



California Council of Parent
Participation Nursery Schools,
Inc.



Volume 47, Issue 1, Fall 2005

The Preschooler

Message from the President Frank Biondi

Welcome to the family of cooperative preschools for the 2005-06 school year. As president I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our wonderful organization to you all as to who we are and what we hope to accomplish this year.

We are a group of dedicated teachers, directors and parents involved with parent participation nursery schools throughout California. We volunteer our time to provide valuable benefits to our participating schools and Regional Councils to help promote the cooperative preschool movement.

A partial list of benefits includes:

- Loans and grants to member schools
- Discounted liability insurance for PPNS's
- Publications - manuals designed to assist school boards & Directors
- Web site www.CCPPNS.org - to promote our schools & Regional Councils
- Regular meetings - to network with other PPNS's
- Annual convention

Our state convention has been one of the best offered to the Early Childhood Education community with workshops designed to enhance preschool curriculum, parent education, health and nutrition and other topics focusing on a specific theme for each year. It is attended by teachers, directors, parents and children from all over California and is not limited to participating schools. This year's convention, **Sea of Opportunity**, will be hosted by the South Bay / Long Beach Council. It will be held at the Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles Airport on March 31 and April 1, 2006. Please see the convention article in this newsletter for more information about this year's convention. Registration information will be available on the CCPPNS web site soon.

Other exciting news for this year is the continued improvement of our web site.

Thanks to Patty Miller at Affordable Web

(Continued on page 8)

Convention News

CCPPNS 2006 Convention
titled **Sea of Opportunity**
March 31 – April 1, 2006

Featuring Alfie Kohn, nationally respected educator and author of 10 books including Punished by Re-

wards, and his new book, Unconditional Parenting

Hosted by the South Bay/Long Beach Council
At the Radisson Hotel at LAX
Los Angeles, California.

(Continued on page 7)

Special points of interest:

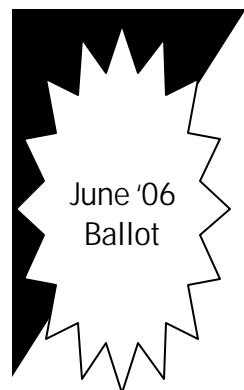
* Mark your calendars **Mar 31st and Apr 1st, 2006** Convention at Los Angeles

* Checkout our new website bringing you the latest from CCPPNS at www.ccppns.org

* Get introduced to the **CCPPNS team** featured in this historic shot at the Joint Board Meeting last October: pg 5

Inside this issue:

Preschool for All	2
Website Update	2
PCPI, Playing Dirty	3
Awards	4
CCPPNS highlights	4
Treasurer's Manual	5
Discovery!	5
Treasurer's Manual	6
Convention '05 and '06	7
Editorial	8



As a benefit, Preschool for All providers receive funding to pay for teachers and/or assistants, modest renovations, leasing of facilities, classroom support, community outreach, program planning, and/or equipment purchases

Check out our website
at www.ccppns.org

Preschool for All Christy Gordon Baty

With a famous advocate like director Rob Reiner, the Preschool for All initiative has been making headlines. So what exactly is it and what does it mean to co-op preschools?

The goal of the Preschool for All initiative, scheduled for the June 2006 ballot, is to create a publicly funded voluntary preschool program to prepare 4-year olds for kindergarten. This initiative is supported not only by Reiner, but also by educators, parents, business leaders, and law enforcement officials.

A tremendous amount of research has proven the positive impact preschool has on children and the community. Children who attend preschool are more likely to:

- perform better right through school
- be proficient readers by third grade
- graduate high school and go onto college
- obtain highly skilled jobs and earn more money over their lifetime

The initiative establishes quality standards which Preschool for All providers would need to comply with, including adult to child ratios (1:8) and teacher credential requirements (by July 1, 2014 teachers would need to have a baccalaureate (bachelor's) degree with 24 units in early learning, and aides would need to have completed 48 units of college-level work with 24 units in early

learning).

The initiative would be paid for by increasing tax rate by 1.7% for Californians earning more than \$800,000 per year filing jointly or \$400,000 per year filing individually.

What does this mean for Co-ops?

Existing preschool programs, including co-ops, can become a part of the Preschool for All program as long as they meet the quality standards proposed, including well-trained teachers. As a benefit, Preschool for All providers receive funding to pay for teachers and/or assistants, modest renovations, leasing of facilities, classroom support, community outreach, program planning, and/or equipment purchases. This additional funding for co-ops could help overall budgets, be used to expand program offerings or increase class slots.

The initiative has a 5-year ramp-up period which would allow schools time to meet the standards. It also covers financial aid and training program for existing and incoming teachers.

Ways to get involved

Receive the newsletter, updates, alerts, join the leadership council, encourage your organization to adopt a resolution, share information through the Tell-a-Friend program and visit their website at www.preschoolcalifornia.org.

Website Update Meenakshi Srinivasan

At the Joint Area Board Meeting in October '04 held at Fresno, CA, the need for an updated and exciting website was felt and professional help was sought. We hope to have several databases for all to explore soon. Registrations for the upcoming '06 convention should be available online. Currently we are working on getting Membership renewal automated and online to make the entire process efficient and timely to benefit both our Council and Independent Members. We invite you to use the website as a great resource and connect better with each other.

PCPI Susie Stone

PCPI MEMBERSHIP and AWARDS

Parent Cooperative Preschools, International (PCPI) is the larger umbrella under which CCPNS comes under. Membership fee is due by November 1, 2005 to be included in the directory for 2006. Your school should decide whether to join alone (\$50) and get your address and email listed, or to join with your Regional Council (\$200) and just see your Council address and school name. Members receive **Cooperatively Speaking News, Cooperative Business Journal** and email access to ECE professionals who volunteer to answer questions. Individuals may be members for \$40. Notify your treasurer so your council/school can be paid in time.

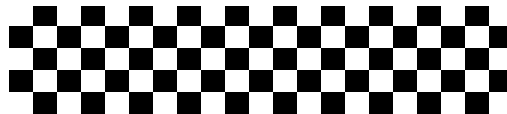
PCPI Awards are presented at the annual meeting—in Oxford, England in March 2006 --to nominees from all over the world. Last year in Oregon I was impressed with the “pin wearers” who proudly displayed their award pins and felt they belonged to a very special club of parent volunteer leaders and teachers. Lois Todd, the award chairperson, invited former recipients of awards from the Oregon Council to the Award dinner and arranged for speakers to share their experiences. Think about honoring special contributors to parent coops in your area.

Check the website <http://www.preschools.coop> to get member and award forms.

PCPI DELEGATE POSITION OPENING

California Council sends a delegate to PCPI to represent the schools and councils in one of the largest and best-organized Councils in the world! That position is open and needs a volunteer who has connection to CCPNS either through board service or through a regional council in the NAB or SAB. This person must be committed to serve in some capacity in PCPI and report back to CCPNS.

PCPI Positions open: VP Administration, Editor of Cooperatively Speaking, VP Resource, Secretary or Coordinator for the Becky Allen Grant. The leaders are all dedicated to supporting parent involvement, parent education and parent participation in cooperative early childhood program involvement. This position needs a person free to travel and willing to be involved at a new level of personal challenges. Call **Susie Stone** at 510-222-0381 or e-mail smilestones@msn.com if you feel your interests and personal talent qualify you for PCPI delegate.



PLAYING DIRTY as experiential learning

Child Care studies of the 1970's to 1990's authored by Louise Bates Ames, Brazelton etc. show that the young child needs a multi-sensory experiential approach to learning through play. They learn by DOING, by testing, by making mistakes and correcting for them, by taking risks and being willing to take the consequences whether they be cleaning up a mess or washing up—a fun sensory experience in itself or getting everything back in order, which also feels like a fine accomplishment. A child of two to five is making sense of the world around and his/her place within it. The more materials the child has to experiment with, the richer the experience. Sorting, matching, discriminating (sizes, shapes, colors, similarities and differences) and gradations of the above with actual touching, tasting, smelling, feeling, hearing and seeing help the child understand and appreciate placement in the relationship of each to the other. As an inquiring adult, explore the actual sensory experience of squishing in the mud with hands and/or feet and thinking about warm or cool, smooth or gritty, dirty or clean, dark or light, and appreciate the compulsion a child has to paint the entire body so as to get more out of the experience. In Parent Cooperative Preschools we teach parents to work with their own children and come to this understanding in the classroom and then take it to their homes and their communities as they continue to be involved in volunteer works.



56th Annual CCPNS Awards Presentation March 12th, 2005

Teacher/Director Lifetime Achievement Awards

Pat Boucher

Mount Diablo School
Diablo Valley Council

Betty Klem

San Jose Parents'
Santa Clara Valley Council

Barbara Mathias

Fremont
East Bay Council

Sherie Pedersen

Pied Piper
Diablo Valley Council

Janie Phelps

Humpty Dumpty
Independent Member School

Sandra Westlie

Peter Pan
East Bay Council

Teacher/Director Awards

Michelle Edgecumbe

Cupertino
Santa Clara Valley Council

Jackie Kite

Explorer
Santa Clara Valley Council

Enid Montcreiff

Little Hands
San Mateo Council

Teacher/Director Awards (contd.)

Jenny Neuenschwander

Sheffield Village
East Bay Council

Virginia Turner

El Cerrito
East Bay Council

Awards of Merit

Robin Alvarez

Pixie
Diablo Valley Council

Kathy August

Pied Piper
Diablo Valley Council

Karla Funderburk

Rose Scharlin
Los Angeles

Peggy Matson

Lafayette
Diablo Valley Council

Maureen Straw

Pied Piper
Diablo Valley Council

Community Service Awards

Eric Stein

Consultant
San Francisco

Tom Kiefer

Explorer
Santa Clara Valley Council

Highlights 2004-05 Year Mindy Kajikami, Secretary North

"We are stepping out of the cave and into the light!" said Lisa Lacroix, VP South, during the 2004 Joint Area Board Meeting in Fresno. Her statement illustrates not only the revamping and restructuring of the CCPNS website, but also the excitement of the past 2004-2005 year. The "light" has touched every aspect of the CCPNS Northern Area Board.

With the decision to improve the website came a snowballing of ideas from the Council: password protected access to the school, membership, and employment databases, on-line membership, Convention registration, on-line payments. The problem now was funding.

The Council continued to brainstorm and funds saved by putting The Preschooler on-line. By the end of school year, Council members were able to provide feedback to the new homepage and the school database.

With the newsletter providing outreach to larger communities on the website, The Preschooler needed a new look and a revitalization of articles from the Council members. VP North, Meenakshi Srinivasan, with much enthusiasm, rounded up writers to fill the Fall 2005 Preschooler with informative and inspirational articles.

Since its inception in 1948, CCPNS parents have come together forming new ideas, reworking old ones and solving problems, all towards fashioning a better experience for our children. The annual Convention is one other project constantly evolving. Every year, a new committee with a fresh outlook, supported by the past committee innovates. In 2005, members of the Diablo Area Council made their numbers for the Luncheon by successfully combining the Awards Ceremony with the Luncheon. The excitement for Convention has inspired

(Continued on page 5)

Team CCPPNS Joint Area Board Meeting, October 15-17, 2004, Fresno, CA



(Standing) Beverly Slocum, Patti Brohard, Frank Biondi, Lisa La-croix, Carolyn Campbell, Meenakshi Srinivasan, Marguerite Baldwin, Nicole Servier, Karen Maas, Kelly McCord and Debbie Pinder.

(Seated) Joyce Woodruff, Mindy Kajikami, Debbie Johnson, Ronsha Norwood Coleman and baby, Heidi Emberling, Heidi Inouye Steiner, and Alison Forrest.

(Continued from page 4)

selected Regional Councils for future Conventions to plan and commit to two years in advance.

Looking at a broader scope, CCPPNS has gained the attention of the State. Our President, Frank Biondi, has been helping to educate the State about Parent Participation schools. As a result, The Preschool for All and San Mateo First 5 programs have created pilot schools in San Mateo County that recognize that the Parent Participation model can be a valuable resource to partner with.

The success of our schools has gained international attention, as well. The Advisor North and Parent Cooperative Preschools International (PCPI) past president, Susie Stone reported that new coop preschools formed in England and Japan using our coop schools as a model.

CCPPNS is all about change. Change of members every year, of ideas and perspectives. These changes keep the Council striving towards improvement. It is a rewarding and beautiful feeling for me to be a part of such a group. I welcome you to be a part of this too.

DISCOVERY! Carol Mandere

I recently had a wonderful reminder of how important discovery is in children's learning. Last spring my 3's class was enjoying our gardening activities as we do each year. Part of the science corner had some old seed packets with a portion of the back cut out and clear mailing tape fixed over the hole and seeds, creating a window. The children love examining and comparing the different shapes, sizes, colors, etc. of seeds inside the packets. One day we had six-packs of flowers outside, ready to plant. The parent and children set to work enthusiastically with their tools. The science corner seed packets soon came out and were added to the gardening experience by accident. (After all, we had been enjoying books about seeds growing. "Jack and the Beanstalk", "The Carrot Seed".)

On the first day of summer school the children came running in breathlessly shrieking, "There're green pumpkins outside!" The excitement in their voices and the delight in showing the parents those small green balls under the leaves was contagious. They watched the pumpkins grow bigger during the summer. When the school year started, the children's discovery experience continued. "The pumpkins are turning ORANGE!". I thought back reflectively of the video the children sit quietly and watch each year at the pumpkin patch. A great tool, but it doesn't come close to the interactive learning and discovery experience with the old seed packets from the science corner. When you think about it there is not much excitement in already flowering plants either. It reminded me of a quote by Alfred North Whitehead (1861 -1947) British Mathematician and Philosopher, "From the very beginning of his education, the child should experience the joy of discovery."

The magic of discovery made for profound understanding and learning. My learning increased, too! I discovered that four year old pumpkin seeds do indeed sprout and grow too.

School Treasurer's Manual: A great resource for CCPNS members

By now many parents may have heard about the unfortunate situation an Oregon co-op faced when their treasurer allegedly embezzled approximately \$10,000.00 in school funds. While we all hope that this is a very rare occurrence, it does reinforce the fact that as members of our co-ops, we are all responsible for the efficient functioning of our school. In the case of the board and especially the treasurer this means handling money on behalf of all parents and children in the school. Our funds are a valuable resource that no school can afford to be even a little careless with.

A valuable resource

Fortunately, one of the benefits of CCPNS membership is access to a wide range of useful resources including the School Treasurer's Manual (available for \$6.00 plus \$2.50 postage). It provides an overview of a Treasurer's position and guidance on performing that role with transparency and accountability. The following is a few key ideas covered in the manual:

- The Treasurer's role is incredibly important and should be filled by someone who is organized and responsible. It is typical to have an Assistant Treasurer who receives money and writes receipts and is able to smoothly transition to the Treasurer's role the following year
- The Treasurer's focus should be on avoiding any potential problem. It is a good practice to consult a professional when setting up a bookkeeping system. And be sure to docu-

ment everything to ensure easy transition.

- Working closely with the President, the Treasurer needs to be a key participant in creating and monitoring the budget. It is critical that the budget is based on actual expenses and income, all of which the Treasurer should have in the school's records.
- The Treasurer needs to provide a monthly financial report to both the board and the membership and should include: beginning cash balance, receivables, disbursements, ending balance, and a comparison to the projected budget.
- The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that a yearly audit is conducted and the findings are presented to the board.

Tools for an audit and standard forms are included in the manual.

To request a School's Treasurer Manual, email **Lisa Lacroix** at **lisalacroix@hotmail.com**



"The Treasurer's role is incredibly important and should be filled by someone who is organized and responsible."



More resources

- ? School Treasurer's Manual (\$6.00)
- ? Grantwriting Handbook (\$10.00)
- ? Pointers for Participating Parents (\$25.00 + \$4.00 postage)
- ? Publicity Handbook (\$4.00)
- ? Leadership Workshop Presentation
- ? [Notes for Parents](#), by James L. Hymes, Jr. (\$3.00)
- ? Personnel Manual (\$4.00)

Each school receives one copy of these publications free of charge at the time of release. Additional copies are available.

Free CCPNS Pamphlets:

- ? [Loan & Grant Guide](#)
- ? [Loan & Grant Application](#)
- ? Insurance Grant Application
- ? [CCPPNS Brochure](#)
- ? [Insurance Made Simple](#)
- ? Current and back issues of [The Preschooler](#)
- ? [Scrip Made Simple](#)

There is no cost for these brochures aside from postage and handling (\$2.50). Copies are also available at Joint Board and Convention meetings or can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.ccppns.org/publications.htm>

Convention News

(Continued from page 1)

The most fundamental choice for educators is whether to do things *TO* children or to work *WITH* them. “Doing to” techniques include punishments (time-out and other consequences) as well as “positive reinforcement” rewards. Unfortunately, these tactics are not only ineffective in the long run but actually damaging to children’s interest in learning, their concern for others, and their capacity to take responsibility. By contrast, working *WITH* children involves the creation of a caring classroom community in which the teacher’s first question is “What do these kids need—and how can I meet those needs?” Come hear more about this groundbreaking approach in Alfie Kohn’s keynote presentation, “Beyond Discipline: From Compliance to Community,” on Saturday morning.

The wide variety of workshops, presentations, and exhibits, all relating to the latest parenting and school topics, will provide something for everyone. Childcare will be available for a fee during the workshops and luncheons each day. Presenters knowledgeable in the following areas are currently being arranged:

- Nonviolent Communication
- Children’s Nutrition and Health
- Mindful Parenting
- Conflict Resolution
- Positive Discipline
- Diversity
- Children’s Sexual Curiosity
- Alternative Elementary School
- Educating Staff
- Nursing
- Sleep, Immunization & Cir-

cumcision

- Estate Planning and Medical Consent
- School Web-site Design
- Team Building for School Boards of Directors
- Director and Teacher Round Tables
- Storytelling and Puppetry

Everyone will have the opportunity to visit three local co-operative pre-schools at a “Progressive Dinner” Friday evening. Awards for educators, parents, and members of CCPPNS at local levels will be presented during a heartfelt luncheon on Saturday. Those serving at the state level will also be honored. Bring the kids to the Saturday dinner for special entertainment all ages will enjoy! And don’t miss the Silent Auction items and interesting exhibits provided by a diverse group of vendors.

The Convention is certain to be a rewarding experience and a great value to the member parents and families of our schools. This event has been held annually since 1961 when the CCPPNS organization was first incorporated and began holding annual business meetings for the election of officers and to handle other corporation business. The Convention has evolved into an event for parents, board members, directors and teachers, where all learn new techniques they can use in their schools and at home.



SEEDS OF
COMMUNICATION
56th Annual CCPPNS Convention

Final Report

The **Seeds of Communications** convention held on March 11th and 12th at the Hilton, Concord went off very well. Adele Faber, our keynote speaker was a runaway success. It is no small wonder her books are on the bestseller list as she speaks her heart just as she writes. Registrations were at 405 who enjoyed a variety of speakers and sessions. There was a rush of participants from one room to another to take in as many sessions as possible. Our independent member schools networked with other councils and connected, discussing common issues. The awards luncheon was a sell-out with overwhelming participation. The Joint board of the North and the South met and council positions were elected. Our gratitude and felicitations to the Diablo Area Council who made this one a grand success.

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. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for returning submissions. Complimentary copies of The Preschooler will be sent to contributors. Permission to reprint may be obtained. The Preschooler is published twice a year. Subscriptions are available from the editor at the rate of \$5.00 per year. For all queries, please contact the Editor, Meenakshi Srinivasan email: vpnorth@ccppns.org or mail to: 1055 Wilmington Ave, San Jose CA 95129

Contributors for this issue: Frank Biondi, Christy Gordon Baty, Ronessa Norwood-Coleman, Mindy Kajikami, Carol Mandere, Debbie Pinder, Nicole Sevier, Meenakshi Srinivasan, Susie Stone.

An electronic version of The Preschooler is available at our website <http://www.ccppns.org> Feel free to download and make more copies.



CCPPNS is a community of parents and educators committed to teaching and inspiring families through parent

www.ccppns.org

Editorial Meenakshi Srinivasan

Welcome to another color-filled year ahead as fall paints our yards and neighborhoods. Frank Biondi, our president has a **message** for you as do our '06 **Convention committee** (chaired by Nicole Sevier). Christy Gordon Baty, an enthusiastic parent and freelance journalist has an article on the **Preschool for All** initiative ready for the June '06 ballot and she has also reviewed the **Treasurer's Manual** available at CCPPNS resources. Susie Stone brings years of experience and insight to our council and she has an update from **PCPI** and an article on "**Playing Dirty**". Ronessa Norwood Coleman is an amazing woman who not only got all the **Awards** organized last year but also had her second baby who in turn reminded all of us why we are here! Debbie Pinder, the chair for '05 convention has a **Final Report** and Mindy Kajikami our secretary surprised me with her poetic style (after reading her to-the-point-minutes!) that captures the essence of **CCPPNS** through its activities for **04-05. Discovery!** By Carol Mandere, a Teacher-Director at Campbell Parent's Participation School is seasonally and professionally apt with her article on pumpkins.

I invite the writer in each of you to send in a nugget. If it is plager, it shall be placed as is in this newsletter or else would be gently reworked to stay within space limits (suggested word limit: 250). Our Spring newsletter is awaiting bunny surprises from the "top-hat". Write those ideas, activities, recipes etc. and email them to me.

Message from the President Frank Biondi

(Continued from page 1)

Design and Graphic Solutions, our web site is more up-to-date and interactive. We now offer online CCPPNS membership renewal for schools and councils and coming soon, online convention registration. Thanks to Meenakshi Srinivasan, from the Santa Clara Council, this newsletter is now available online with current articles as well as helpful articles from the past. Please visit our web site at www.CCPPNS.org.

Features include:

- Directory of schools, regional councils and board members who make up our state council
- CCPPNS board meeting dates and locations
- Convention information
- Membership information and On-line Membership Renewal

- A list of our publications and other resources.

This is my 5th year of involvement with CCPPNS and each year I've made new friends and have wonderful memories to look back on. It's been a pleasure serving on the council and participating at Redwood Parents Nursery School in Redwood City. I look forward to another exciting and productive year.

Cooperatively yours,
Frank Biondi.

