



California Council of Parent  
Participation Nursery  
Schools, Inc.

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**Special points of in-  
terest:**

\* CONVENTION '07

\* Checkout our new website  
bringing you the latest from  
CCPPNS at [www.ccppns.org](http://www.ccppns.org)

\* PCPI and CCPPNS

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# The Preschooler

## Message from the President Joyce Woodruff

Welcome to the community of cooperative preschools for the 2006/2007 school year. Seeing as this is my first role of being the "President" for CCPPNS I would like to share a little of myself and my commitment to parent participation.

I have worked in the field of Child Development for over 15 years. I have served in many capacities including preschool teacher, childcare co-coordinator/staff trainer.

I have experienced many different types of programs, the last one being Co-Ops, which lead me to the confirmation that children are more successful in an environment where parents are involved, have developmentally appropriate curriculum that provides choices and looks at each child as an individual.

After being involved in a co-op school with my son and in taking a position as a Director at a co-op school, WPNS, I have discovered what CCPPNS is all about and why it is such a great organization.

CCPPNS is an organization that is composed of dedicated teachers, directors, parents, and advisors, all who are involved in parent participation nursery schools in one capacity or another all across the state of California. We are all volunteers in this organization with one mission in mind: "committed to teaching and inspiring families through parent involvement and mutual support."

CCPPNS' Objectives and Purposes are:

- To strengthen and extend the Parent participation nursery school involvement.
- Promote parent education to improve parenting skills
- To keep informed of and cooperate with, other groups concerned with the welfare and education of young children.

CCPPNS is able to offer "support" by providing several different types of benefits to our participating schools and regional councils. These benefits include:

- Resources designed to enhance the quality of the daily program (publications, website)
- Financial assistance to our members (loans and grant, insurance grants)
- Discounted liability insurance for PPNS'
- A platform for our schools to lobby politically (501c4 corporate status)
- Regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas with other PPNS' across the state.
- Annual Convention.

CCPPNS teaches and inspires families in several ways including the following: (1) a member school of CCPPNS is required to offer Parent Education, and if they can't for one reason or another, then the Regional Councils will. (2) the Annual State Convention. is voluntarily hosted by a different regional council each year, a council that pools from its entire member schools and parents. A Convention that provides top

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It is difficult to accept when a preschool is no longer meeting your or your child's needs.

Check out our website at [www.ccppns.org](http://www.ccppns.org)

**Some Website stats:**

From Feb 1 - Sept 4, 06:  
50,312 visits 1,320,591 hits  
Aug: 3,064 visits 72,342 hits. Most visits on Mon, Tue or Wed between 4PM-6PM

**Top five search key phrases**

Ccppns, preschool daily schedule, preschool schedules, preschool goals, California preschools

**Top four pages visited**

1. [find\\_preschool.php](#)
2. [resources.htm](#)
3. [employment\\_listing.php](#)
4. [renew\\_membership.php](#)



## Walking away: When is a school no longer right for you?

C. Gordon Baty

"I love the school but...My older child really enjoyed being here, but my younger one seems to be unhappy...I don't really look forward to coming to school..."

A great number of parents and children who start a preschool will stay with that school for their entire "career." But there are times when things change that make a parent re-think their membership at a school.

For parents in standard preschools, this realization can be worrisome but manageable: you withdraw your child and find a new preschool that does fit your needs. But in a co-op, where you have invested your energy and emotions into a team, this can be acutely painful.

It is difficult to accept when a preschool is no longer meeting your or your child's needs. When we start at a co-op, we take jobs, meet friends, and become involved with the community. But things do change – a new board is elected, new families, teachers or directors come or leave, you have a younger child start at school. It is important to re-evaluate what you are putting into the school and getting out of it:

- Are you and your child excited about coming to school? Do you feel a sense of comfort or enjoyment when you are at school, having a good time for the most part?
- Are you friendly and comfortable with the other families? You don't need to be best friends with everyone, but can you get along with others? If you do have any conflicts, are you able to address them reasonably, calmly, and productively?
- Are you learning? A major component of co-op preschools is the adult education aspect. Are you learning about your child and children in general, about teaching and cooperation?
- Do you agree with the curriculum-structured learning time balanced with free-play? Is it age-appropriate and challenging for your child? Everyone has different needs and goals; are you comfortable with the school's?
- Do you feel that you are contributing effectively at the school? Everyone in a co-op has a job to do – is your job defined? Do you feel you are getting good direction and feedback?

If you answered no to any of these questions, you should ask yourself why? Talk to the teacher or director about your experience. You might be able to change that no to a yes.

However in the end, if you find yourself unhappy with the situation you might need to walk away. Be sure to do this in the most positive way you can:

- Review the school's policy to determine how much notice you need to give.
- Meet with the director to give your notice both verbally and in writing. Keep the explanation simple and honest without being negative.
- Stay positive with your child: explain that this preschool is a nice place but

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**The Healthy Child: Mind, Spirit, Body, and Family**  
**March 16-17, 2007**

The San Mateo Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools is excited to have several accomplished speakers for the 57<sup>th</sup> annual CCPPNS Convention to be held at the Westin Hotel in Millbrae, California on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Vickie Falcone, author of Buddha Never Raised Kids and Jesus Didn't Drive Carpool: Seven Principles For Parenting With Soul will be giving the keynote address for the 2007 Convention. Vicki will be sharing her seven principals for parenting with soul during her address on Saturday morning. She'll present ideas for strengthening relationships, both with children and significant others, as well as ways to weather the challenges of parenting with calm and focus. Vickie offers a unique blend of inspiration, humor and practicality in her presentations to help motivate parents. Vickie founded the Positive Parenting Network in 1993.

The San Mateo Council is equally thrilled to have two special guest speakers. Janis Keyser, professor and author of Becoming the Parent You Want to Be, will speak on Friday night. She will address the numerous difficulties and challenges that parents face today. Following her speech, participants are invited to attend her workshop to explore parenting challenges in depth and gain valuable tools in improving their parenting style. Rick Hanson, author of Mother Nurture, will be the special guest speaker for Saturday afternoon and will also be conducting workshops throughout the weekend.

Experienced presenters are currently being arranged for workshop offerings which will focus on aspects of childrens' well-being. These workshops will include such topics as: Great Schools & Teachers: How to Recognize Them, Simple and Fun at Home Math, Science and Art Projects for Toddlers, Understanding a Child's Temperament, Connecting With Your Child for Maximum Positive Development, Healthy Nutrition and Cooking with Children, Nurturing the Nurturers, Balancing Family and Couple Time, The Dangers of Pushing Our Children, How to Avoid Power Struggles, The Importance of Play, Physical Activity and It's Importance for Brain Development, Raising Financially Savvy Children, Helping Children Through Trauma and/or Loss, Blended Families, Learning Styles, Special Needs, Facilitating Children's Social Problem Solving.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to attend various social functions. On Friday night, a progressive dinner will be held. For a nominal fee, appetizers, main course, dessert and a tour will be provided at four different Bay Area cooperative schools. On Saturday, a luncheon will take place to honor parents, educators, and members of CCPPNS. Childcare will be provided, for a small fee, during the luncheon, and also during workshops. Vendors and exhibitors will be onsite as well.

The diverse array of workshop content, presentations, exhibits, and social events at the 2007 CCPPNS Convention promises to offer something for everyone. See you there!

*Julianne Lindars is the Publicity Chair for the forthcoming convention. She can be reached through the convention link on our website [www.ccppns.org](http://www.ccppns.org)*

## **BUILDING BETTER BOARDS** Joy Lerman

During Board workshops I always talk about Board members acting in good faith, in the best interests of the corporation, and being responsible for their position. We ask Directors to sign a code of ethics, conflict of interest policy, and the confidential/nondisclosure agreement. However, we need to make sure that it all translates into specific expectations on behalf of each Board member.

Each Director has a responsibility to the whole Board in sharing the collective legal and fiscal responsibilities. We need to be able to work together effectively if we are to govern responsibly and pass sound business decisions.

To be able to work well together we need to share our expectations of each other;

- Participation is important, do your homework
- Come prepared to participate and on time
- Understand your position, ask for an orientation session
- Remember you work on behalf of the whole centre representing all the families
- Personal agendas do not belong on the Board table
- The Board is accountable to its families
- You cannot benefit directly or indirectly from being on the Board of Directors
- Declare if you do have a conflict of interest
- Be responsible and proactive for the group's behaviour and productivity
- Encourage everyone to participate
- Serve on committees as required

- Follow through on your commitment
- Focus not only on the present but on the future needs of the community and the centre
- Confidentiality and nondisclosure of personal information must be strictly adhered to
- Support the professional team but do not interfere with the management of the staff
- Respect and support the Board's final decision, speak as one voice

It's about working together to benefit the whole corporation which makes volunteering on the Board of Directors, an enjoyable experience where we can all learn and grow ourselves. Providing Boards with resources and tools in supporting their roles is one of the many things we do best.

*JOY LERMAN is a professional development consultant with PCPC (Parent Co-operative Preschool Corporation)*



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**Report: Convention '06** Nicole Sevier

It is hard to believe that the 2006 California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools Convention, "Sea of Opportunity" took place 5 months ago at the Radisson LAX. It seems like yesterday that the South Bay/Long Beach Council members collaborated to see this event come to fruition.

In keeping with the CCPPNS tradition for 57<sup>th</sup> years, the 2006 convention planning committee strived to provide an enriching, educational, affordable, community building event to remind attendees why we CO-OP, and to provide ideas how we can make parenting and CO-OPING even better for our directors, teachers, and families.

In starting new traditions, online registration was available for the first time and, instead of a Saturday evening "In House" awards banquet, a casual celebration closed out the convention.

Alfie Kohn struck a cord with many during his Saturday morning keynote when he emphasized, "stop praising kids." The audience seemed engaged by his charismatic, convicting speaking style and his humorous examples of how parents and teachers are doing children a disservice by giving them "time outs", labeling them, and making too many decisions FOR them. Although his views may be controversial, Mr. Kohn provided plenty of "food for thought" to the 450 attendees.

Friday and Saturday were filled with fabulous workshops. The child care component of the convention gave parents the option of attending workshops sans kids. Many of the speakers/facilitators came from our co-op communities. Hopefully, attendees came away with new ideas to share with their schools and families.

The *Sunshine Sisters* wrote children's folk music with the kids in their Friday morning workshop, and then shared their sweet harmonies with all of us at the Friday luncheon.

The Catalina Room at the Radisson was filled with vendors selling their goods and interacting with customers. Tables were set with beautiful baskets filled with various items which attendees bid on in the silent auction. Two hand designed money trees were on display and awarded to the winner of the opportunity drawings

In keeping with tradition, almost 100 attendees enjoyed a progressive dinner on Friday night at three co-ops with different school philosophies. Participants enjoyed tasty food while learning what makes each of the co-ops tick.

Another tradition is the CCPPNS awards ceremony which took place during Saturday's luncheon. The award recipients were touched and honored to be recognized, and there were many teary eyes in the audience as they accepted their mementoes.

The convention came to a close Saturday evening with families and children drumming and dancing along with the music of *Rhythm Child* while attendees mingled at the convention celebration in the hospitality suite to exchange ideas about their convention experiences.

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Each attendee may have a different story to share about what made them laugh, brought them joy, gave them insight, or maybe what they could have done without, but hopefully all would agree the CCPPNS convention was fun, educational and memorable.

I would like to thank the following schools and individuals for making this event possible:

Colorado Lagoon-Secretary-Kari Turgilano

Plaza Preschool-Brochure-Gail Hoolign

P.L.A.Y. in Avalon

Torrance Co-Op- Yaneth Korazon-Fundraising/Silent Auction

El Segundo Co-op-Hospitality Suite/progressive dinner host- Alicia Miller, Jennifer Madsen, Kim Thoman

Westchester Parents- Treasurer- Mona Wilkinson, Child Care-Tracey Manon, Jodi Curtin

Manhattan Beach Nursery School- Workshops-Leslie Brady, Progressive Dinner host

Riviera United Methodist Preschool- Progressive Dinner-Lisa Larkin, Awards-Heidi Steiner

San Pedro Co-op- Publicity- Becky Martin

Portuguese Bend Nursery School- Goody Bags/Volunteers-Marijune and Sandy Holderman

SandTots- Registration-Sandra Rojas and Kim Lesserman

Palos Verdes Hills Co-op- Vendors-Nicole Mosich

To Patty Miller for setting up the online registration, to Heidi Steiner for advisement and history of CCPPNS and Joyce Woodruff for sharing the Co-Chair responsibilities with me.

*Nicole Sevier was the Convention Chair for "Sea of Opportunity", 2006 convention held at Los Angeles*

## Walking away (contd.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

doesn't fit your needs.

- Stay positive with the rest of the families: let them know your decision to leave is simply about finding something different, not a judgement on them or the school.
- Specifically inform committee chair that you are part of so that they can make arrangements to take over your responsibilities.
- Be sure to look for alternative schools or situations that do fit your needs as quickly as possible.

The important point is to remember a co-op is a close-knit community and your goal should be to leave without any negativity. While it might be hard to walk away, if you do it in a positive manner, it will be better for you and your child in the long run.

*Christy Gordon Baty is Resource North for CCPPNS and a freelance journalist.*

## PCPI Annual Meeting: A Report Susie Stone

### OXFORD, ENGLAND, Mid-Counties Cooperatives Offices Mar 30-31, 2006

**Cooperatively Speaking**, PCPI's newsletter will be online from Spring 2006 at [www.preschools.coop](http://www.preschools.coop)

### Check out our Online Discussion Group

[coopreschools@yahoo.com](mailto:coopreschools@yahoo.com) for sharing advice, information, issues and challenges.

**E-mail surveys** and questions to [inquiries@preschools.coop](mailto:inquiries@preschools.coop) for worldwide coverage.

**Twining** requests are coming in and 3 North American schools will match up with 3 preschools from UK. One of the schools is St Helena in the Napa Valley in CCPPNS, director Lori Ware.

**NAEYC forum November 7-10 in Chicago**, Illinois. Coop Forum will be facilitated by Betty Wood from Florida.

**Award of HONORARY LIFE MEMBER presented to Vaughn Hatch.** Certificates of Appreciation awarded to Carol Jenkins from Places for Children and to Neil Homer from IMAGINE Coop Childcare, Hosts of PCPI 2006 meetings. **Becky Allen** Inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame on May 3, 2006 in Washington, DC. We have a video of the ceremony.

**Save the date:** PCPI Meeting MAY 10-13, 2007 at the Inter-cooperative Education Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We visit schools, Reevaluate our Strategic Plan, By-Laws, policies and procedures, Provide Leadership Development Workshops for attendees. In 2008, PCPI has accepted invitation to meet in CALIFORNIA! Niagara Falls will host in 2009 and the **PCPI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010** will be in Indiana.

**Invoices** will be sent to members and an invitation to join will be sent to another 100 selected preschools in the world in hopes of improving membership.

### New Officers elected for 2006-07 year:

President	L Mach	Washington, DC
VP Finance	M Campbell	Niagara, Ontario
VP Admin	L Henegar	Oregon
VP Resource	K Ems	Oregon
VP Membership	V Hatch	British Columbia
Recording Secretary	OPEN	

### PCPI still has openings for those wishing to serve.

See OPEN places and also see positions you could take on in the next year. Look around your school/council for dedicated leaders to represent CCPPNS and make sure our voice is heard.

### SCHOOL VISITS

We visited three cooperative childcare settings. They are funded by cooperative associations. The new facilities have brand new furniture, toys, books and materials right down to the posters on the walls touting good nutritional standards. These are located in a Family Center site of a Community Center in the middle of a housing Project.

One new center had an institutional feel, in a redevelopment section of an inner city affordable housing project. All the materials were out and there was a lack of storage. The teachers seemed poorly trained and turnover was high.

Some programs had mixed ages and varied uses of the sites. Directors took us around. One program has plans to coordinate with the local elementary school to walk some kids through a connecting gate for a K-6 after school programs.

A few **speakers** shared their views of cooperative. The Government of UK has passed legislation to ramp up childcare availability, parent information (not education or involvement) and access to community resources.

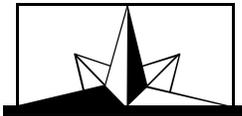
A power point presentation by Angela Gibbons from Manchester on developing a sustainable childcare business was very informative. [www.co-operatives-uk.coop/childcare](http://www.co-operatives-uk.coop/childcare) and [angela.gibbons@cooperatives-uk.coop](mailto:angela.gibbons@cooperatives-uk.coop)

*Susie Stone can be contacted at [smilestones@msn.com](mailto:smilestones@msn.com)*

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Contributors for this issue: Christy Gordon Baty, Joy Lerman, Julianne Lindars, Nicole Sevier, Meenakshi Srinivasan, Susie Stone, and Joyce Woodruff.

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



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[www.ccppns.org](http://www.ccppns.org)

## Editorial Meenakshi Srinivasan

As the pumpkins turn orange, yet again, and the trees shed their foliage, the wonder that is life is reiterated as it does when we look at our children's bright faces. The curiosity and wonderment they experience every day makes our lives as parents, teachers and co-op members, so much more meaningful. They remind us of the wonder that is life with its changes and evolution.

Mindy and I invite you to explore this issue with that very curiosity— with openness and honesty. The two articles titled “Walking Away” and “ Better Boards” explore the importance of open dialogue. A PCPI snapshot gives a better understanding about the international flavor of parent participation nursery schools.

Do not forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming convention in March 2007. Preparations are afoot and we shall convene in Millbrae, minutes from the San Francisco International Airport.

I wish to acknowledge all our contributors for their commitment to the cause of cooperatives.

Until Spring 2007, Ciao!

## President's Report (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

notch speakers and a weekend worth of workshops that focus on subjects such as: parenting classes, curriculum classes for teachers, board support, mommy and me classes, health and nutrition, self motivation.

Our convention is of the best Conventions offered in the state to the Early Childhood Community and is attended by parents, early childhood educators of all realms, and even educators at the elementary level. The convention is not just for “member schools” but is for anyone who wishes quality information, insight and advice.

This year's Convention is being hosted by the San Mateo Council at the Westin Hotel, Millbrae from March 15<sup>th</sup> until 17<sup>th</sup> with Keynote Speaker on Saturday being Vickie Falcone, author of “*Buddha Never Raised Kids & Jesus Didn't Drive Carpool*” with a spe-

cial guest speaker on Friday, Jannis Keyser. Registration information will be available on line soon at our website [www.ccppns.org](http://www.ccppns.org).

I invite you to connect with us in any which way be it online, through our Regional Council President, (information available on our website), or PPNS' at one of the monthly meetings or at this year's Convention.

I look forward to getting to know you, your school, ideas, needs and goals. Working with and for children is a passion, I believe, one that we all share. It is going to be a great and powerful year for us all.

Peace and Co-operation,  
Joyce Woodruff

