



Co-op Community News

From the North Seattle Cooperative Preschool Parent Advisory Council

February 2003

CO-OP PRESCHOOL OPEN REGISTRATION 2003-2004

Saturday March 15th, 2003

North Seattle Community College
9600 College Way North

Student Events Center/ Cafeteria-1st Floor, College Center (S. end of Campus)

Toddlers: 10am –11am

Pre-3's, 3-5's, and Fives 11am-12 am

For more information: 206-527-3783

http://northonline.sccd.ctc.edu/parented/open_reg.htm



Another Option, Nighttime Co-ops

Shhh! There is a well-kept secret in the North Seattle Co-op System! The secret is that there are two evening co-op preschools--Northgate Toddlers and Northgate Pre 3 to 5's. Both of these are located on campus at North Seattle Community College and are meeting on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30. The beautiful classrooms are designed specifically for young children. The Pre 3 to 5's classroom has child size toilets and low sinks for hand washing. A covered outside play area adjacent to the classrooms is another big plus.

These evening coops are very similar to the day groups; parents work in the classroom and attend parent education classes. But the evening classes are more inviting to families that have less time to commit to coop, such as working couples, a single parent, or a very busy stay at home parent. More than one parent has said, "I wanted to do a day coop, but with a baby at home I didn't know how I could handle it. The evening group was just the answer. My spouse stays home with the baby and I get one on one time with my older child."

Parent and child come once a week. One week the parent stays on the floor as an assistant teacher in the classroom. The next week the parent attends a parent-education discussion group with a parent instructor from the college. The toddler parents meet for parent education in the children's classroom. The Pre 3 to 5 parents meet just down the hall from their children's classroom. During this time parents get to know each other, share current issues going on in their children's lives and discuss child development. Parents look forward to parent education every other week.

(continued page 2)

Event Calendar



()=Seattle Public Schools Only.

Feb 14 Valentine's Day

Feb 17 Presidents Day Holiday

Feb 18-21 Mid-Winter Break (no classes)

(Feb 26 Two-Hour Early Dismissal for Students)

Mar 7 Scholarship apps due

Mar 1-7 In House Registration

Mar 10-12 Crossover

Registration

Mar 10 PAC meeting and

Raffle drawing

March 15 Open Registrations



Get your young artist published! We need children's art work for the next issues. Black ink drawings are best. — Editors

Inside this issue

Nighttime Coops.....pages 1 & 2

Community Resources.....page 3



Co-op Community News

(Nighttime Co-ops. Continued from Page 1)

Sometimes one parent will stay in the classroom with their child and the other parent will attend the parent education class. Other couples attend the parent education together, which makes for interesting fun discussions. Because so many couples attend/ together some discussion sessions are focused on couples issues.

Because of the wide age range of the Pre 3 to 5's, often siblings come to class together. There is definitely a family feel to the evening groups. Often times both parents come each week to class. One couple commented on the great activities provided for their child. They felt relaxed because they knew the space is safe for their child to play. They could sit back and watch their child explore, discover and learn. With a smile dad said, "It is such a nice place to be."

The evening groups have a large number of fathers attending which is wonderful for the children. As a parent educator, it is exciting to see the fathers play and relate with the children. One dad said, "This is my time to be with my daughter, I wouldn't give it up."

Diane Broderick, teacher for the toddler group commented, "There was one evening, several years ago, when we had mostly dads there. We had the marching song on and were marching in a circle, ringing our bells at the same time. Here were accountants, scientist, lawyers, and construction workers still in their work clothes marching around in a circle being role models for their children. What a priceless gift!"

"Isn't it too late to for the children?" This is a question often asked about the evening groups. Occasionally a child will fall asleep in the car on the way to school; however, the children really look forward to school. Parents are very ingenious about the late hour. I have seen parents put their children in sleepers at school and brush their teeth before leaving class. That way they move their sleeping child right from the car and put them into bed

The biggest draw for the evening classes is the preschool teachers. Diane Broderick teaches the Northgate Toddlers. Diane was a parent in the evening infant group 14 years ago with her child. She began teaching the Northgate Toddler program in 1994 and is committed to the program. Diane also teaches toddlers at other day coops. Diane has a special way with toddlers and parents alike.

PJ Baker is the teacher for Northgate Pre 3 to 5's. PJ has worked in early childhood education since 1994 and was a director of a preschool for 4 years. PJ has taught skiing to 4 to 7 year olds since 1989 and is also a mother of 2 boys; one currently in Latona 3-5's Co-op and a younger boy ready to join a Pre 3 group in the fall. PJ has a sense of fun that fills the classroom.

As registration time draws near and you hear a parent say, "I would love to do co-op with my child, but I just don't have the time." You can respond, "Have you heard about the two evening co-ops offered through North Seattle Community College? It may be the right co-op for you!"

Chris David is a parent educator with toddlers, pre-3's and 3-5's at N.S.C.C. and a preschool teacher at Latona 3-5's Co-op Preschool. She is a parent of a 19 and 24 year old, who attended Latona 3-5's Co-op Preschool.

Additional Information:

The Meadowbrook Pre-3's meet Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings with teacher Karen Truelove. There are no evening Northgate Infant groups. Northgate Infant PM is an afternoon group.



Jace Age 4

Woodland Park 3-5's

'Blossom Power Puff Girls'

Newsletter Editors

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Making Use of Community Resources

By Irene Wagner, MSW and Mary Hull, MSW

The years when we are raising young children are joyful and enriching, but can also be stressful and exhausting. Seeking the support of family and friends is very important. Community resources should also be used during times of family transition, stress, and crisis. Even healthy families experience stress and find it meaningful to seek community resources. We are fortunate to live in a city that offers a myriad of community services. We have compiled the following information for families to use as a reference. We hope you will find this to be useful.

Parental Stress Help Lines:

Family Help Line (206) 233-0139
Parents Helping Parents 1-800-882-1250
Parents without Partners 1-800-637-7974
The Parental Stress Line (24 hour) 1-800-632-8188
24 hour Crisis Line (206) 461-3222
Domestic Violence Hotline: (206) 522-9472
Family Services (206) 461-3883
Jewish Family Services (206) 461-3240
Lutheran Social Services (206) 672-6009
Substance Abuse 24 hour (206) 722-3700
Child Care Referral Line (206) 461-3207
Catholic Community Services (206) 322-3637
Northwest Harvest (206) 625-0755
Public Health Clinics (206) 296-4600
Program for Early Parent Support (PEPS) 206-547-8570
45th Street Community Clinic (206) 633-3350
Parent Support Groups (206) 282-4770
Parents Anonymous Family Help Line 1-800-932-HOPE
Children's Resource Line (Children's Hospital) (206) 526-2201
Mothers of Multiples (425) 222-5180

Many of Seattle's community centers have play spaces for children to enjoy. They can also be a great meeting place for parents. Following is a partial list of Seattle Parks and Recreation Community Centers:

Alki 5817 SW Stevens Street (206) 684-7430
Ballard 6020 28th Avenue NW (206) 684-4093
Bitter Lake 13035 Linden Avenue N (206) 684-7524
Green Lake 7201 E. Green Lake Drive N (206) 684-0780
Hiawatha 2700 California Avenue SW (206) 684-7441
High Point 6920 34th Avenue SW (206) 684-7422
Laurelhurst 4554 NE 41st Street (206) 684-7529
Loyal Heights 2101 NW 77th Street (206) 684-4052
Magnolia 2530 34th Avenue W (206) 386-4235
Meadowbrook 10515 35th Avenue NE (206) 684-7522
Miller 330 19th Avenue E (206) 684-4753
Montlake 1618 E. Calhoun Street (206) 684-4736
Queen Anne 1901 First Avenue W. (206) 386-4240
Ravenna-Eckstein 6535 Ravenna Avenue NE (206) 684-7534

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Newsletter Sponsors:

This newsletter is sponsored by **Darcy LaBelle** and **Liz Suver** with Windermere Real Estate, Madison Office. Both have been actively involved preschool co-op moms for the past 6 years with Toddler, Pre-3's and 3-5's programs. They are professional realtors specializing in the North Seattle communities. As partners they provide seamless service and are committed to walking you through each step of the buying and / or selling process. They look forward to helping you with your real estate needs and are pleased to sponsor this issue of the newsletter.

Darcy has also been a very active in the **PAC Raffle** and there are still 1000 tickets to sell. Please call her if you can sell more raffle tickets or have Real Estate needs. Call : **206-915-0916** or **206-660-7200**

Editor Note: The issue of newsletter funding is still unresolved and is being considered by the PAC board. This is a one time sponsorship, and we still are looking for more permanent funding , or other options for the future. Let you PAC rep know of any ideas or contacts you think might help.



"Allan Family"
Kyle Weker, 5/14



Alison Weber
Wallingford Pre-Threes



Alison's Family

Victory Heights Needs Teacher For 2003-2004 School Year

Cooperative Setting for ages 3-5. Morning and Afternoon times are available. Could lead to permanent position. Please send inquiries or requests for applications preferably via email to Diane Henry at vhcoop@hotmail.com. If you do not have access to email, please contact Diane by phone (206) 365-2895. Resumes will be collected with application.

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

SUPPORT CO-OP! GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

Relatively painless fundraising

By Tom Hobson, teacher, Woodland Park 3-5's and author of *A Parent's Guide To Seattle*

When you were childless, it was bad enough when your colleagues would hit you up on behalf of their kids' school fundraisers, but now, with your very own preschooler, you find yourself confronted with (at least) a decade of shaking the can in the office snack room. Nothing against raffles and bake sales, but wouldn't it be nice if it could be something you and your friends were going to buy anyway?

Your Parent Advisory Counsel (PAC) is happy to announce that it has teamed up with one of the nation's leading publishers of parenting guides to launch an effort that, if successful, could become a template for relatively painless fundraising in the future. Parent's Guide Press, publishers of an extensive array of books on parenting (including such titles as *A Parent's Guide To Seattle*, *A Parent's Guide To First Aid*, *A Parent's Guide To Money*, *A Parent's Guide To School Projects*, among dozens of others), will return to PAC 50 percent of the cover price of any books purchased by our group. For instance, if you buy *A Parent's Guide To The Best Children's Literature* for the regular cover price of \$17.95, PAC receives \$8.98! If we can make this work, there is every reason to believe that other major publishers will agree to similar deals in the future.

Look for more information in February from your PAC rep.

