

Co-chairs: Alison Duxbury-Shadwick & Grace Runyan

KM Co-op Preschool Newsletter

September 2013



Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year!

Welcome both new and returning families to an exciting and fresh year at Kent-Meridian Cooperative Preschool!

This summer has been beautiful and we hope you have enjoyed the extra dose of sunshine and warmth. It's time to begin a new school year by making new friends and sharing in our learning adventure.

KM Coop is a wonderful place to come together and develop a learning community that encourages growth, socialization, a genuine love of education and a second home for teachers, students and parents. It's time to start a new and exciting school year! The cooperative school setting is one of community development. We hope to bring together likeminded parents from different backgrounds to share and assist in our children's well-rounded and diverse development; coming together to support the needs of each other as well as the needs of our children. Working alongside other parents and teachers in our children's classrooms provides each of us with the opportunity to grow and create bonds that can last much longer than the school year. A powerful benefit of KM is our Parent Education program. This provides parent's with the forum to develop relationships with other parents and ask questions in a safe and nonjudgmental environment.

It also serves as a mild transition for our kids to participate in a learning environment without direct interaction with their primary caretaker at all times.

The KM classrooms are full of stimuli and adventure. We have two new teachers joining the teaching team and they bring to the mix years of experience working in preschools and education and we feel very lucky to have snagged such gems. The teachers at KM are the consistency, warmth, and spunk that make this school a cornerstone of preschool education in this community.

KM Coop has provided over 30 years of Pre-K learning and this has been made possible by active parents committed to participating in their children's education from day one and our dedicated teachers encouraging this participating. The amazing relationship between our parents and our teachers make this school an exciting place to bring our children.

Thank you for signing up to share in this experience in 2013-14!!

Alison Duxbury-Shadwick & Grace Scartaccini-Runyan, Co-chairs

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CALENDAR

Sep 9: Classes begin

Nov 11: Veteran's Day -
No school

Nov 28-29: Thanksgiving
Vacation

Dec 16-Jan 3: Winter
Vacation

Jan 20: MLK Day - No school

Daytime orientation is this week. Please see your class schedules on page 4. If possible, try to attend without your children for this focused time for you to share about your child and learn about their classroom and teachers. If you do need to bring your child(ren), that's okay; the board is providing childcare.

Reminders:

Daytime Orientations (without children)

RED (1's) Wednesday, Sept 4	9am-11am
ORANGE (Wed 2's) Wednesday, Sept 4	11am-1pm
YELLOW (Fri 2's) Friday, Sept 6	9:30am-11:30am
BLUE (3's) Thursday, Sept 5	9:30am-11:30am
GREEN (3's) Thursday, Sept 5	12:15pm-2:30pm
PURPLE (4-5's) Friday, Sept 6	12:15pm-2:30pm
WHITE (infants) Orientation is during their first day of class, Sept 9	



Health and Safety Information

There will be a Health & Safety discussion during the evening orientation at school on Tuesday September 3rd.

During that discussion we will review the health and safety regulations here at the school. We'll need a volunteer from each class to work as the class Health and Safety officer. Please let your class president know if you are interested.

The list below contains a few key things to consider before school starts:

- Please ensure that Immunization Forms are filled out correctly and turned in before September 9th.
- *****Your child cannot attend class until the forms are processed!*****
- Please complete the Allergies Form and get it back to us quickly. This is especially important for those children with allergies. If allergies are serious it is not a bad idea to inform teachers and adults in class.
- Please wash children's hands before class. Kids make sure Mom and Dad wash up too!
- Please familiarize yourself with the locations of fire extinguishers and **FIRE EXITS**.

(Many thanks to Steve Collett.)

Registration

*****BEFORE***** your child begins class, all paperwork, registration fees and first and last tuition payments must be completed and received by either the Registrar or your Class President. This includes **IMMUNIZATION** forms and **EMERGENCY CONTACT** information with a **PHOTO**.

See the checklist on our website or ask your class president or the registrars for help.

If you are having difficulty filling out the forms or need any kind of financial assistance please let us know so we can help!

Remember the KM COOP WEBSITE! You can read newsletters there, and find forms online, calendar information, the school handbook and much more!

www.kmcoop.org

Or find us on Facebook & Twitter!

Meet our new teachers:



Tarri Williams:

Tarri Williams is very excited to be joining the KM Coop team! Having grown up in Renton, she loves the Pacific Northwest. After traveling for 4 1/2 years with a repertory theatre company in the late 80's and early 90's, she made her way back to this area to study child development and education. Tarri has been working with children in varying capacities in daycare, church, and school settings for over 30 years and loves the excitement with which children look at each new discovery. She believes very strongly in the learning power of play and enjoys creating opportunities to inspire even further learning. She is the mother of two elementary age girls and her husband works in physical therapy at a local clinic.



Jennifer Wolfe:

"I have taught preschool for the last 11 years at KUMC Mom's Day Out Program! I certainly did not start my career in education; my background was in business marketing, by degree. I never would have imagined that one day I would be teaching preschool. I so enjoy watching and learning from preschool aged children. They have so much energy and so willing to explore and share their love with everyone. I'm looking forward to working with the 1 year old class this year! We are going to have so much fun!"

Inside a cooperative preschool

A cooperative preschool is organized by a group of families with similar philosophies who hire a trained teacher to provide their children with a quality preschool experience. The preschool is administered and maintained by the parents on a non-profit, non-sectarian basis. The parents assist the professional teachers in the classroom on a rotating basis and participate in the educational program of all the children. Each family shares in the business operation of the school, thus making it truly a cooperative venture. Parents, preschool children and their teachers all go to school together and learn together.

For Parents

Parents gain insight into child behavior by observing other children. They observe how other parents and the professional teachers handle various situations and gain greater understanding and enjoyment of their own children through active participation in their education. They have the opportunity to share their experiences and expertise with others while working together in a cooperative setting. Through serving on the Board, parents learn about administration, running meetings and other skills useful to them in other areas and states of their lives. They also learn useful ideas for helping their children at home and in the world around them.

For Children

Children participate in a supervised play and learning setting with children of their own age. Equipment, materials and physical facilities are scaled to child size. An opportunity is provided to interact with adults other than their own parents. The children are able to find security and a feeling of belonging in a world which is non-threatening and interested in them. Learning to respect and accept the rights and differences of others is emphasized. Children have hands-on experiences in creative arts, music, science, literature, and language geared to their needs and developmental level.

For the Community

Parents and children develop an extended family with friendships they carry through their lives. Parents gain a strong sense of responsibility and develop positive self-worth which carries over into every aspect of community life. The cooperative organization provides preschool experiences within the financial means of most families. © Parent Cooperative Preschools International (PCPI)

Fundraising

Welcome to the new school year! We are Jennifer Eastberg (Purple class) and Lisa Leskovar (Blue class), your Co-Vice Chairs of Fundraising. After looking at our end-of-year survey results, we've made some changes to our fundraising schedule. It seems the majority of people like the variety of things we offer so they can pick and choose which fundraisers to participate in, so we kept nearly everything and just rearranged the schedule.

We're kicking the year off with our Fall Flower Bulbs fundraiser. Look for information in your folders during the first week of school. Your class VP will be your main source of information for fundraisers. New fundraiser announcements and various reminders go out by e-mail, so please make sure they have your correct e-mail address. Concurrent with e-mailed announcements a hard copy of the fundraiser sales kit will be placed in your child's folder. The fundraising bulletin board in the main hallway at school will also have basic information about fundraisers in progress.

The planned fundraisers for the rest of the year are:

October: Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough & Baked Goods and Scrip (i.e. gift cards)

November: Entertainment Books, Scrip

January: Taco Time Coupon Books and Papa Murphy Peel-a-Deal Cards

February: Spring Flower Bulbs

March: First Aid Kits, Scrip

In addition to the above fundraisers, we are signed up for Campbell's "Labels for Education" program. You don't earn money towards your fundraising obligation by participating in this program,

but by saving and redeeming UPCs and beverage caps from participating products, you will help our school earn free educational merchandise. More information about this program will be sent soon. In the meantime, check out www.labelsforeducation.com to find out which products qualify for points, then start saving UPCs and sauce/beverage caps. You can also register store loyalty cards at www.elabelsforeducation.com to earn additional points for simply purchasing participating products and become eligible for periodic store-advertised bonus certificates. If we all work together, our point tally will quickly rise and we'll get some great stuff for the school!

You can also register your Safeway Club card with the escrip program and every time you shop at Safeway, you have the potential of earning money for the school. More info will be sent later.

We are looking for volunteers to organize a holiday market and spring rummage sale (dates TBD), but for now if you decide to do any cleaning out please try to stash things away to donate to the rummage sale.

We're excited to get the year going and hope you'll be pleased with the fundraising opportunities to share with friends, families and co-workers. If you ever have any fundraising questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us, we want to make this fun and easy for everyone. Have a great year at KM!

Jennifer Eastberg (eastbejh@gmail.com) & **Lisa Leskovar** (lisamajestic@comcast.net)
Co-Vice Chairs of Fundraising



News letter submissions are welcome from any member of the preschool. Each month the Class Secretaries submit articles highlighting events and activities in their class. We also accept child and parenting-focused poetry and letters, information on community happenings, recipes, small classifieds, etc. **Deadline for contributions is the 25th of the month.**

Comments or suggestions? Contact **MJ McNeill** at editor@kmcoop.org.