

Pointing The Way

Summer 2007

A Publication of Fishers Pointe Cooperative

President's Prose

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June

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August

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Balloon Fight

As I write this, the end of the school year is looming in the future. In less than a week, I will find myself a parent without a preschool. With Sydney, my youngest, going off to kindergarten (the big K) our preschool days will be over. I have been involved with cooperative preschool since 1998 – NINE years! It surprises even me to see that number on the screen. I see some of our Fishers Pointe moms at school, lugging in babies in car seats and trying to corral toddlers while they deliver their 2 and 3 and 4 year olds to the classroom, and I can remember those days so well. So many of those days – the days when I had two children in diapers or three children under the age of 5 – were spent waiting. Waiting for them to hurry and grow up a little bit so they could walk, feed themselves, and amuse themselves – so that I could finally get a break. What a fool I was. Now at almost 12, 9, 7, and 5 my children are pretty self-sufficient. They can get themselves a bowl of cereal if they are hungry. They can strap themselves into the car. One of them can baby-sit! More experienced parents told me when my children were all very young to savor those years – that time would pass too quickly. And now I understand.

After this week, my youngest child will have spent her last days in a classroom that is filled with blocks and paint and toys and dress-up clothes and imagination. She will have spent her last days in a classroom filled with adults who know and who know and really care about her. She is ready. Oh her years here have helped to make her so ready for kindergarten. But I'm not sure I am. Hang on to these years, as crazy as they may sometimes seem. Before you know it, you too will be looking back as you are moving on.

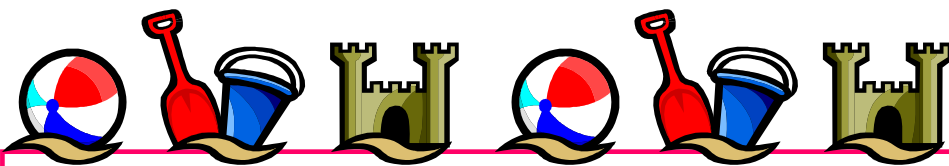
I have so many people to thank.

To "**MY BOARD**" – thank you! I am thrilled to refer to this year's board as mine, not to take their credit, but because they are such a wonderful group of people. Their untiring devotion to our school and dedication to always being respectful and professional sets them apart and they deserve all of our thanks. The board presented me with a lovely mantle clock. I absolutely love it! It chimes on the hour and every time I hear it I am reminded of my dear friends who served the school with me this year. Thank you, everyone!!

Judy (Barmann), thank you for another outstanding Panda year. Your creativity and ability to nurture and yet guide the children (and parents) amazes me. I have learned so much from you in the last three years.

Carla (Bidwell), thank you for always being there to listen and give advice on whatever may be my topic of the day! (smile) Your support and friendship to all of us Ballensky's means the world! Thanks for your part in starting this family of families ten years ago. Without your hard work then and through the years, we might not be here at all.

Teresa (Hinkle), it was a little scary that day last summer when I found out we were losing our Teddies teacher. We had finally found a home, and here we were in another Predicament. You have been the best thing that has happened to our school in a long time! You are such an asset to our school and a good friend to me. Thank you!



President's Prose cont.

Tina (Gordon) and **Maria** (Turner) – thank you ladies for being such a great support – for grounding me – for doing whatever what was asked of you and a lot of things I didn't even have time to ask because you did them before anyone even noticed they needed to be done. You were both there for me every day, whether it was to celebrate something positive or work through a personal crisis. You are both just fantastic and I am so proud to call you my friends.

Some of you may not know much about **Angela Gabbard**. She works stealthily and efficiently, just getting things done and making sure the school has whatever it needs. She never asks for credit or recognition. I can't even remember what job we originally assigned to Angela because, quite frankly, she has done everything. Thank you, Angela!

Thanks to **Meredith** (Pfligenstofer) for keeping our books in great shape – and for entertaining all of my phone calls and questions on the days I would be reviewing the budget. Meredith gracefully took on completely a job she had intended to share, never complaining that this was not what she signed up for. And she has done a fantastic job. Thanks Meredith!

Thanks to **Shauna** (Riley-Roe), my dear friend – thank you for keeping me laughing and on my toes – and always a bit frazzled and worried around Holly-daze time (hee!). You know that I adore you!

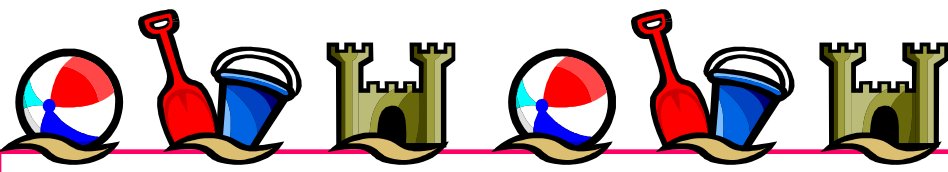
And finally thanks to **Lynn** (Jones) for saying yes when I asked the question "Will you step up and be President next year?" It puts a lot on your plate, I know, but with the support of everyone you, too, will be rewarded many times over. You know I am always here if you need an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on.

And to **everybody** – for doing the jobs that needed to be done – for coming to school every day and supporting your teacher and each other – for believing in the coop philosophy. Thank you all for a terrific year – it was the best ride ever.

See you at the summer play dates!

Cooperatively,
Angela Ballensky





Pandas Update

As this school year draws to a close, I am once again impressed with the quality people I have worked with and shared this year with. You have exemplified the co-op spirit through your support of each other, through your love of the children, and through your work for our school. Together, we have managed the classroom, solved problems, enjoyed social times, learned more about children, and celebrated growth. I appreciate the enthusiasm and generosity you have shared with me and with the school, and wish to thank each of you for that.

If you are moving on, you can feel very proud of yourself for leaving FPCP in sound and stable condition. We currently enjoy full enrollment for next year and a new two year lease on our classroom space. If you are staying with us, you can look forward to the excitement of next year and the satisfaction of team work in action.

The Panda children will be leaving us to begin their elementary school years. I am hopeful they will meet their new challenge with confidence and excitement. Help them keep that "I will try" attitude, and help them feel like positive "can do" kids. Those outlooks on life will take them far.

I have so enjoyed watching your children be explorers, scientists, architects, artists, sociologists, musicians, naturalists, athletes, dancers, storytellers, and actors. They are fun, smart, and busy kids! Thank you for sharing them with me, they are truly a gift to be treasured. Love them, listen to them, laugh with them, and provide limits for them. Enjoy your journey with them.

May God bless you all.

Love, Mrs. Barmann

Another Great Year at FPCP

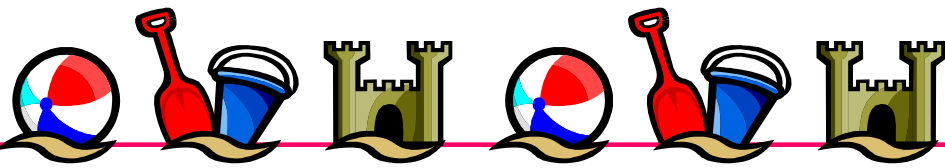
Not only has this school year zoomed by, but also the first ten years of Fishers Pointe Co-op operations. In the beginning we had very little. We had some hand-me-down equipment and we've had nice facilities, but what made our first ten years successful were the dedicated families who stepped up and gave their best effort to ensure our continued success. I'm proud and honored to say that the families of Fishers Pointe Co-op have exceeded my dreams and hopes for this school.

We've had a very eventful and successful school year thanks to the extra efforts by many of you. Together we've raised an impressive amount of money for the school, stepped right up to help with the packing, relocation, unpacking and contributed time and effort into planning for the Water Balloon Fight, Hollydaze, Special Events, Parents Eds and school meetings.

I've seen it before and I'm sure to see it again, but it always overwhelms me with pride and makes me remember what I cherish most about parent cooperatives: families working together to make their school a great place for the children. Co-op is about working together for the mutual benefit of the school. I'm proud and honored to say that ALL the families at Fishers Pointe Co-op have exceeded my dreams and hopes for this school.

A healthy co-op is always evolving under constant change. The families of FPCP have faced all the changes this year with understanding, flexibility and cooperation. I thank you for that.

Everything that's been accomplished this year will leave a positive mark on the children of Fishers Pointe today and provide a sound foundation for the children in our future. We are a strong co-op whose future is bright because of the efforts that each and every family brings to Fishers Pointe. What a fabulous legacy.



Another Great Year... cont.

Some of our long time families have reached the end of their co-op days. It's hard for me to imagine these dedicated people will no longer be part of our school. My undying gratitude will always belong to these people.

These wonderful people and **everyone else** who have graced us with their skills, support and passion have given Fishers Pointe Co-op a future. They may be leaving our co-op but they leave behind a successful and strong school that will continue because of EVERYTHING they did!

With tears in my eyes, a lump in my throat, and love in my heart I say so long – but not good-bye.

Cooperatively,
Carla

Teddies News

The Teddies have been busy learning about Spring! We will finish the year out with learning about musical instruments. We will be introduced to lots of rhythm and movement. We will have an outdoor class on Tuesday, May 15 weather permitting. I have enjoyed working with all the parents and I look forward to seeing all of the Teddies progress in FPCP in the future!

Cubs Corner

The Cubs have been very busy learning all about Spring! We will be finishing the year with a full plate of activities. We will read some fun books about moms and boxes. We will explore musical instruments as well. On the final day of class, everyone will bring in their bikes for a fun bike day in the large motor room! I want all the parents to know that I have had a great time working with all of you and look forward to working with all of you again next year!

Reminders for 2007-2008

Current FPCP families need to pay September's tuition by the end of the school year. Please put your checks in the tuition box and mark them as "September Tuition." This will ensure your place in the school for next year. Tuition costs are as follows: **Teddies** - \$55/month, **Koalas** - \$65/month, **Pandas** - \$100/month, **Multi Age** - \$65/month.

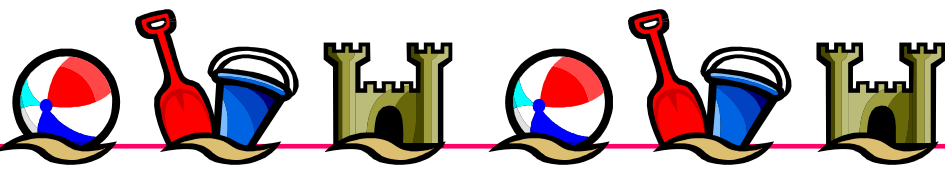
An information packet was distributed last week which included a Member Contract, a Student Information Form, a Health Record, a TB Test Form and the Child Protection Policy. These forms should be completed and returned at the start of 2007-2008 school year. Participating parents should obtain a TB test within 30 days of the start of the school year. Any questions, please contact Laura Bowers via email at sandlbowers@sbcglobal.net or by phone 776-0038 or contact Melissa Woods via email at melissa@flyingpylon.com or by phone at 842-5629.

Classroom Clean-Ups



We have two classroom clean-ups/packing scheduled for the end of the school year. We will start clean-up on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. and will resume again on Thursday, May 24th at 6:00 p.m. Each family is required to assist at one classroom clean-up. If you have not done so, this is your last opportunity.

We will also need extra hands to help with packing beginning the week of May 28th. Any questions, please contact Jill Kozikowski jillkoz@wildfire.net, 774-7177 or Lynn Jones indymom@insightbb.com, 578-8972.



Fishers Freedom Festival

FPCP will again be marching in the Fishers Freedom Festival Parade on Sunday, June 24th at 3:00 p.m. All current members and alumni are invited to walk and join the fun. This is a great event and is really fun for the kids. For more information visit <http://www.fishersfreedomfestival.org/Parade.htm>

We are also looking for volunteers to help at the FPCP booth at the Festival on Sunday, June 24th. There will be a sign up sheet available at the End of Year Picnic or contact Lynn Jones indymom@insightbb.com or 578-8972.



Class Photos

Class photos and individual photos which have been paid for in full will be available for pick up at the End of Year picnic. Please see Shauna Riley-Roe or contact her at shauna@circlecitymultimedia.com or 585-5995.

End of Year Pitch-In Picnic

Date: Thursday May 24th
Time: 11:00-?
Place: River Heritage Park, Carmel

From 116th St: Go west towards Carmel. Turn right on River Rd. (Just across the bridge at the light) The park is on the right.

We have reserved a picnic shelter. Please come and join the fun and bring a dish to share.

We have a rain date scheduled for Friday, May 25th.

Contact your Class Reps with any questions.

Water Balloon Fight



Mark your calendars for the World's Largest Balloon Fight. FPCP will be hosting a water balloon fight on Sunday, August 26th at 4:00 p.m. This is a fun event for the whole family which includes food vendors a band and of course a water balloon fight. The school will donate \$1.00 of every ticket sold to St. Vincent Children's Hospital in memory of Riley Kozikowski.

We are looking for volunteers to help fill balloons at various locations starting on Thursday, August 23rd. For more information or to volunteer please contact Shauna Riley-Roe shauna@circlecitymultimedia.com or 585-5995.

