



# Pointing the Way

Summer 2009



A Publication of Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool

## Calendar of Events

### August

- 3 - Play date @ Billerica Spray Park 10am
- 7 - Play date Movies in the park @ West Park in Carmel
- 11 - Board Meeting @ 7pm  
Monical's Pizza 141st/37
- 21 - School Picnic @ Billerica Park 11am
- 27 - Orientation Night

### September

- 8 - First day of school
- 14 - Board Meeting @ 7pm

Summer is almost over, and it's time to start thinking about returning to school. We are looking forward to a great year! We are thrilled to introduce new changes to the school this year in our teaching staff, as well as welcoming many new members.

Mrs. Teresa has decided to stay home and devote her time to raising her family this year. We are fortunate to have many qualified early childhood specialists. Our current Koalas teacher, Mrs. B, will teach the Teddies class this year, and Marlo Landis, a former elementary teacher and FPCP parent, will teach the Bears class. Lynn Jones, a speech therapist and former FPCP president, will return in January to teach the Cubs class. Bios for all of our teachers and board members are on pages 2-3 of this newsletter.

There are several upcoming events that we look forward to seeing you at. Please check out the enclosed calendar for details. Be sure to save the date for our New Member Picnic on 8/21 at 11:30 a.m. at Billerica Park. The food and beverages will be provided by your Board of Directors.

Our Orientation meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27 from 6:30 – 9:15 p.m. and will be held at the preschool. This meeting is for parents only. Please be sure to bring your calendars and a notebook, since we'll be signing up for classroom participation, fund raising volunteer jobs, and much more! We will be bombarding you with a lot of information and dates, so be prepared!

Cooperatively,

Meredith Pfligenstofer and Rachel Byrne

FPCP Co-Presidents

## Orientation Update

FPCP Member Orientation will be held Thursday, August 27 in the auditorium. Orientation is intended for parents only. We do not have baby sitting available. Children will meet their teachers during classroom visits the week of August 25th – 27th. The schedule will be as follows:

6:30 – 7:15 pm: Pandas and Bears Meet the Teacher

Meet your child's teacher, tour the classroom, and sign up for your classroom participation and your child's classroom visit.

7:30 – 8:15: All Member Orientation

Meet the board of directors, learn the details of co-oping, and win fun prizes!

8:30 – 9:15: Teddies and Koalas Meet the Teacher

Meet your child's teacher, tour the classroom, and sign up for your classroom participation and your child's classroom visit.

# **Fishers Pointe Cooperative School Board Members**

## Teachers

### **Judy Barmann**

Judy is married to her high school sweetheart, Kelly, and they are the parents of four grown children. She and her husband are both graduates of the University of Illinois, and longtime residents of Indianapolis. They were co-op parents, themselves, for ten years, while their children were growing up. Since college, Judy has had a number of jobs. She has taught preschool for 15 years, was a kindergarten assistant in Washington Township public schools for 7 years, was a substitute teacher briefly, and currently works part time at Kid's Ink Bookstore in Indianapolis. Not to mention the many years as a full time mom and school volunteer. Judy has been at Fishers Pointe for five years and loves watching and guiding her students throughout their Panda (4/5's) year, as well as working with their parents. She knows very well how co-op provides the best support and friendships for kids and parents for those valuable preschool years.

### **Carla Bidwell**

Greetings to all our new and returning co-op families. My name is Carla Bidwell but the kids call me Mrs. B. and this year I'm teaching the Koalas & Teddies classes and co-teaching the Panda Enrichment class. I begin teaching at Fishers Pointe when the school opened in September of 1996 and take great pride in our great success! I've been involved with co-ops since 1989 when my two children attended Willowcreek Co-op. I served on the Parent Cooperative Preschool International Board for two years and have been involved with Indiana Council of Preschool Cooperative (ICPC) since 1994. My own co-op kids are now grown; Patrick is a Purdue graduate and Kelsey is entering her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Indiana University. My husband Kirk and I live in the Geist area, close to where we both grew up and where much of our extended family live too. I love co-op families and I'm very excited to begin another school year at Fishers Pointe!

### **Marlo Landis**

I have 5 year old twins, Alex and Evan in the Bears class. The boys started out at FPCP in the Cubs class room. I was a preschool teacher for several years and really like the coop Philosophy. We moved to Indianapolis about four years ago when my husband was offered a job in the area. We are originally from Pittsburgh. We are big football and hockey fans. LET'S GO STEELERS! I love taking pictures and scrap booking (when I have time!). I also like to read.

## Executive Board

### **Meredith Pfligenstofer**

Hi, I am Meredith Pfligenstofer. I am excited that this is my second year serving as Co-President. I have been on the Board of Directors since 2007, serving as the treasurer and Co-president. I started with FPCP in January of 2006 with my son Gavin in the Cubs class and he is now 6 and attending Lantern Road Elementary, my daughter Meghan is now 4 and entering her final year here as a Panda. I also have a baby boy, Noah who was born December 15<sup>th</sup> of 2009 and are planning on returning in January of 2011 for the Cubs class. I was a co-op kid at Parkview in the mid 70's and love being part of a co-op family. I look forward to meeting and working with all of our families this year.

### **Rachel Byrne**

I'm Rachel Byrne, FPCP Co-President. I've been on the board since the 2003-2004 school year. I have three boys: Emerson is almost 11, Ethan is 7 and Eric is 4. My oldest son started as a Teddy in 2001, and our family has been with the preschool ever since. This year my youngest child is a Panda. We love FPCP because it is a wonderful place for our family—where else can parents be so involved that they are growing and learning right along with their children?

### **Rebecca Hollowell**

Hello FPCP Membership! I am Rebecca Hollowell, this will be our 3rd year at FPCP. My Husband, Todd and I have 2 boys, Hunter (a Panda) and Hayden (a Teddy). I will be Co-chairing the VP of Membership position this year. I am also a part-time RN for the St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana and actively involved in operations of Todd's American Family Insurance Agency. We feel quite blessed to have found FPCP and are excited to experience another year!!!!

### **Melissa Voelker**

This will be my 6th year with Fishers Pointe, and my second year as Membership Co-Chair. My husband, Chris, and I have three children. Nathan and Justin are FPCP graduates, and Meghan is going to be a Koala this year. We have been so fortunate to be part of the Fishers Pointe family and learn and grow alongside our children. My background is in social work, which I hope to return to once Meghan is in elementary school. I also was a figure skating coach for many years. My other interests include: reading, scrapbooking, gardening, exercise, and spending time with my family. I look forward to getting to know our new families and having a wonderful year at Fishers Pointe!

### **Lisa Switzer**

I am beginning my second year in the Secretary position for the board at FPCP. I have been at Fishers Pointe for 3 years and currently have two children enrolled for the 2009/2010 school year (Kaylei is a Teddy and Taylor is a Panda). I have really enjoyed being a part of Fishers Pointe the last two years and having such a wonderful opportunity to see my children learn and grow right before my eyes. In addition to being a mother and a wife I am also a Registered Nurse in Labor and Delivery at Community Hospital North. I have been a nurse for 8 years and can't think of anything more rewarding than seeing life be brought into this world each and every time I work. I am able to work on the weekends so that I can be home with my children during the week. I am very excited to get this school year started and I cannot wait to get to know each and every one of you.

### **Melissa Woods**

Hi everyone! My name is Melissa Woods and my job this year on the executive board is ICPC Delegate. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year with Fishers Pointe. I have two children: David, age 7 and Emily, age 4. David and I had a wonderful three years together at the co-op and he is now entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Emily and I had a fantastic time in the Koalas class last year and she is really looking forward to being a Panda this year. I've been a member of the board for the past four years (2 years as New Member Liaison and 2 years as Membership Co-Chair) and really enjoy being involved in the school. Fishers Pointe is a special place – I've had so many memorable moments here with my kids.

### **Courtney Floyd**

I have a daughter named Grace who is in the Koalas class this year. This is our third year at FPCP! I love the co-op philosophy and can't imagine us being anywhere but here. I am excited to be Parent Ed chair this year and look forward to organizing some great parent ed opportunities! I am a former special education teacher who is still having a hard time deciding what I want to be when I grow up! Grace and I are active in a playgroup, as well as a local mom's group that I help organize with a few other friends. My interests include spending time with family and friends, watching movies, and shopping. I also love to read and am part of a book club.

## Board Members

### **Julie Guldberg**

I am very pleased to be this year's Koalas class representative. My husband, Aaron, and I have two girls, Emily (6) and Sarah (3) and have lived in Fishers for about 6 years. On some evenings and weekends I work as a case manager for people with severe mental illness. I am happy to be able to be with the kids during the week. I have enjoyed our time with FPCP and look forward to a great year.

### **Danielle Thompson**

We are excited to be returning for our second year with Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool with the position of Pandas Class Representative! My son, Collin, is a Panda this year and I have a one-year old daughter, Delaney, who can't wait to be a part of the Fishers Pointe family soon too! Other than my most important job of Mom, I am an Occupational Therapist with Indiana's Early Intervention Program (First Steps) which I do part-time. I also run a small business... Danielle Marie Photography. Some of you may know me as the one behind the camera for last year's school photos! I look forward to meeting all of our new members and helping to make this a great year for our children!

### **Angela Noble**

Hi Everyone! My name is Angela Noble. My husband Jim and I have two boys; Miles, age 2, will be in the Teddies Class and Dylan, age 5, is starting Kindergarten at Cumberland Road Elementary School. This will be our third year with FPCP and we have truly enjoyed it. Last year I was on the board as the Parent Ed Chair, and this year I look forward to being the Teddies Class Rep. I will work closely with Mrs. B and all of you "Teddie" parents so that we may all have a fun year learning and growing with our little ones.

### **Kristin Brown**

My name is Kristin Brown, and this will be my second year as a Ways and Means Co-Chair for FPCP. My husband Matt and I moved to Fishers when our oldest son was born. We now have two boys: 3 year old Zach, who began attending FPCP as a cub and will be a Koala this year, and Josh, who was born early this summer. Before Zach was born, I worked full-time for the State of Indiana overseeing their employee giving campaign. I now work part-time for the Indiana Association of United Ways in the area of employee giving campaign services. I love all that FPCP has to offer, and I look forward to putting the "fun" in fundraising for our school again this year!

### **Anthony Gerardot**

This will be our third year at FPCP and my second year as communication chair. Our oldest daughter, Janel, was in Pandas last year and is headed to Kindergarten this year. Taylor will be in the Koalas and Kate, 17 months, will do her best to stay out of trouble around the school while we are there. I stay at home with the girls most of the week and work part-time as a financial advisor while my wife, Amy, is home one day a week. Please feel open to ask any questions that you have by email or by catching me at school.

### **Jennifer Edmonds**

My name is Jennifer Edmonds and I am on the ways and means committee. I have a 13 year old son named Sam, a 8 year old daughter named Alyssa who is a FPCP graduate and a 3 year old named Megan who will be a Koala. I have been married to my wonderful husband Randy for 15 years and have lived in Fishers for 9 years.

### **Laura Haan**

This is my third year at Fishers Pointe and second year as Health and Safety Chair. My husband Paul and I, along with our three children, have lived in Fishers for 2 years now. Our oldest daughter Ella (5) is a FPCP graduate and off to kindergarten this year. Ava (3) will be joining the Koalas class, while our son Elliot (1) will be hanging out at home with me. After teaching both preschool and first grade for many years, I chose to stay home with our children. I really wanted to be involved with their early years of school and finding Fishers Pointe has allowed me to be even more involved than I ever expected.

### **Charity Reine**

Hello! I'm Charity Reine, Bears Class Rep. I have been involved with Co-op Preschools for four years. I love being a part of my children's first school experience and watching them learn through play! I have three kids: Clara (6), Charlie (3) and Caroline (2). FPCP is wonderful and we look forward to a great year.

## A message from Teresa

Dear Co-op Family,

Yes! I do consider all of you my extended family! You all know I had a beautiful baby girl on Christmas Eve. She is the greatest baby! I also have a wonderful girl starting kindergarten and a second grader. With James and Katelen, I was able to stay at home with them and still work. A wonderful scenario for me as I feel the first 5 years of life are the most critical in developing attachment and in overall development. Therefore I have made a very difficult decision. I am going to take a year sabbatical from teaching at Fishers Pointe. I love teaching so much that this was a VERY difficult decision for me to make. However at the time, I believe it to be the best for my family. I plan to spend LOTS of time with my baby and to volunteer at James' and Katelen's school. However, you will still see me LOTS at the school as I do plan to attend Board meetings and other functions for the school. I also plan to do the New Teacher training for ICPC. I will probably just come and hang out some as I know how much I will miss being there. Please know that I feel extremely confident in the teachers that will be taking over the classes I have been teaching. I also want you to know that I have every intention in returning to teach at Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool because I know it is THE BEST SCHOOL around!

Teresa