

Potomac Association of

Cooperative Teachers Inc.



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September 2023

Fall Newsletter

www.PACTteachers.org

Letter from the President

Dear PACT Community,

As I sat in our beginning of the year staff meeting looking at an agenda that ranged from epi-pens to developmental assessment forms, school campus security, continued education plans, evacuation drill paperwork, and behavioral plan development, I was struck by how many hats an ECE professional wears in a day. In addition, as a co-op school we perform all of these roles on a stage in front of our members' families in a job that is widely considered to be undervalued. If you have not taken a moment lately, take a deep breath and give yourself a pat on the back for being a beacon of light in our society. You. Are. Amazing.

I would also like to invite you to join your PACT teammates for another year of accessible continued education at a great value. We have a fantastic lineup of professional educators on tap to help us grow as teachers. We are once again offering 7 clock hours that qualify for COK (Core of Knowledge). Our membership fee remains the same as last year at \$60. We will have virtual sessions this fall (Oct 19th and 25th) and will be in person in Rockville, MD once again this spring (March 14th). See below for specific details and registration information.

I would also like to invite you to join our PACT Facebook group. I am hoping that we can experience the enrichment year-round as a tool for amazing educator to share their questions, resources, and wisdom with one another. [Join us](#) or search for PACT Teachers in groups.

Cheers,
James Scott Mitchell
PACT President
Presidentpact4@gmail.com

Professional Developmental Days: Thursday, October 19 & Wednesday, October 25

PACT is pleased to offer two virtual workshops this Fall 2023: *"Story Voices: The Importance of Selecting Culturally Responsive Literature for All Children"* by Petrea Hicks and *"Music and Art in an Integrated Curriculum"* by Gail Multop (CWO-161865). We have scheduling options for your convenience; sessions will be held **Thursday, October 19 from 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM, and Wednesday, October 25 from 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM**. You may choose to attend both of the 3-5 PM sessions, both of the 7-9 PM sessions, or both sessions on a single date! See below for more details about the workshops content and presenters.

Workshops Content Descriptions:

"Story Voices: The Importance of Selecting Culturally Responsive Literature for All Children"

by Petrea Hicks

Thursday, October 19 **7pm to 9pm** OR Wednesday, October 25-**3pm to 5pm**

Description: In this 2-hour course, participants will identify the importance of culturally responsive literature that represents the home cultures of families and children. Reflective learning opportunities will include how ethnic, cultural, and special needs children's literature builds respect for the social context that children and families bring with them.

2 COK/Curriculum

"Music and Art in an Integrated Curriculum" by Gail Multop

Thursday, October 19-**3pm to 5pm** OR Wednesday, October 25-**7pm to 9pm**

Description: During this two-hour course, participants will engage in learning activities and discussions that empower them to use art and music as an integral part of their school day. Participants will develop activities for young children that strengthen the bonds between the teachers/caregivers and extend it to all content areas. Behavioral guidance with music, movement, and art will be discussed.

1 COK/Curriculum, 1 COK/Community

Presenters' Biography

Petrea Hicks has over 30 years of experience in the early education field with a master's degree in Early Childhood Education-Curriculum and Instruction. She has witnessed various changes and believes that through it all, one thing remains constant...children.

In 2015, Petrea was recognized as a Master Leader in the Exchange Leader Initiative (ELI) and has contributed noteworthy articles to Childcare Exchange magazine (July/August 2017, May/June 2018, and May/June 2020.)

She has presented at local, state, and national early education agencies, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 2017, 2018 and 2022. As an approved trainer with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Learning in Washington, D.C., She conducts interactive training workshops on young children from birth to school age. Workshop topics include, but not limited to, social-emotional development, brain development, curriculum instruction and design, the classroom environment, positive behavior strategies, and culturally responsive literature.

Gail Multop is an adjunct professor of early childhood education at Northern Virginia Community College. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree and sang as a professional for many years, but turned to early childhood education when her children were in preschool. Earning a master's degree in ECE, she has taught at NOVA since. Gail's expertise in Arts Integration has enriched her teaching. Her 37 years in early childhood have given her many adventures with young children in diverse settings, with stories to tell. Gail has given workshops and keynotes for NVAEYC and Smart Beginnings. Her blog on [Bam Radio Network](#) gives educators insight into the important concepts in ECE, including play, music, both in and outdoors, open-

ended art activities both in and outdoors, behavior management, the importance of relationships, and authentic assessment.

Credit Hours and Core of Knowledge Area

Members who attend the **full two-hour session** of either workshop this Fall 2023 will receive 2 Core of Knowledge credit hours in either Curriculum or Curriculum & Community.

Registration

Registration and payment can be completed [HERE](#). Please sign up individually to ensure your email is recorded. Registration should be submitted by Thursday, October 12. By completing the Fall PDD registration, you are also receiving a membership to PACT for the 2023-2024 school year and will have access to our Spring Professional Developmental Days.

Access to the Zoom Link for Fall Professional Development Days

A Zoom link will be e-mailed to registered members 24 hours prior to each session. Please join your training session at least 15-20 minutes early to check audio/video, sign in, and hear announcements from PACT.

Assessments and Evaluations

Members will be asked to complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation of the virtual course via a Google form. The link will be e-mailed to participants following the PDD and should be completed within 24 hours. ***Requirements by MSDE also stipulate members from MD must pass the assessment with a score of 70% or higher.*

Certificates

In accordance with MSDE regulations, **participants MUST attend the full two-hour virtual presentation** and complete a content assessment along with a presenter evaluation before receiving their certificate. Further details about completing the assessment will be covered at the pre-PDD business meeting. Personalized certificates will be emailed within 2 weeks of each Professional Development Day.

Membership (New or Renewing)

Join PACT (or renew your membership!) by completing the online form [HERE](#). Current members are eligible to attend one or both of the virtual Professional Development Days in the Fall of 2023 and the in-person Professional Development Day in the Spring 2024. The membership fee for the 2023-2024 school year is \$60.

Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

We are pleased to announce the return of the annual PACT award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education! Is there a staff member at your school who stands out for their dedication to the preschool, its families, and the cooperative model? Please fill out this Google Form to nominate your staff member for recognition! (The two reference letters may be emailed to the address provided in this form.) Please submit the [Service Award Nomination form](#) by Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a PACT Hall of Fame in 2016 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of Early Childhood Education. The following are the members who have been inducted to date:

Janise Allyn-Smith - *Teacher/Director, Silver Spring N.S., PACT Board member (2017)*

Jennifer DeBernardis - *Teacher, Silver Spring N.S., PACT Board member (2018)*

Annette Fitzpatrick - *Director (retired), CCUMC Preschool, PACT Board member (2018)*

Edie Mossberg - *Director, Glenbrook N.S., Board member, ECE Consultant (2019)*

Bernadine Occhiuzzo - *Director/Teacher, Cedar Lane N.S. (2019)*

Nancy Renner - *Director, Fort Hunt Preschool (2020)*

Helene Segal-Turner - Director, Kensington N.S., PACT Board member (2018)
Cindy Walsh - Director (retired) CCPC Weekday N.S., PACT Board member (2018)
Fran Warthen - Director, Suburban N.S. (2018)
Angie Zeidenberg - Teacher, Bannockburn N.S. (2019)

Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. There are still some open positions, so we need members to step forward! Please check the list below and contact Scott Mitchell if you are interested in joining our team. Information about Board positions can be found in PACT's By-Laws on the website www.PACTteachers.org.

The 2023-2024 Board Members

President

[James Scott Mitchell](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

V.P. Programming

[Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

[Doreen Bunten](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

V.P. Membership

[Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

Secretary

[Rebecca Brunson](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

Treasurer

[Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

Logistics & Hospitality

VA - **OPEN**

MD - [Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

Professional Development Day Administration

[Jessie Auten](#) Providence Nursery School, VA

Exhibits/Resource Table - **OPEN**

Assessments and Evaluations

[Emily Ederer](#) Silver Spring Day School, MD

Legislative Contact

MD - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#)

DC - **OPEN**

VA - **OPEN**

Google Groups

[Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

Web Master & Newsletter Editor

[Meredith Savage-Myers](#) Ashton Christian Preschool, MD

Past Co-Presidents

[Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane N.S., MD

[Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane N.S., MD

Job Postings

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website. Check the postings out [HERE](#). Directors wishing to post job openings should e-mail details to [Meredith Savage-Myers](#).

Google Groups

PACT members' Google group: To stay up-to date on PACT information, the google group is open to current PACT members. To join this Google group, send an e-mail to vpmembershappact@gmail.com.

Directors' Google group: Share resources, ideas, and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join the Directors' Google group, send an e-mail to [Rana Oriolo](#).

We hope you are having a great start to your school year!

