

Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



March 2023

Spring Newsletter

www.PACTteachers.org

Letter from the President

PACT Members,

It is with great joy that I look forward to seeing you all in our return to an in-person Professional Development Day. On Thursday March 23rd we will convene at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, Rockville MD. 100 Welsh Park Dr #1900, Rockville, MD 20850

We are pleased to welcome presenter Kathy MacMillan and her unique approach to literacy and storytelling. Our schedule will look a little different than in years past with the business meeting being pushed to the end of our time and our traditional ½ hour lunch being shortened to a 15-minute break.

The full schedule is as follows:

8:45-9:10- Registration and Coffee

9:15-10:45- Presentation Part I

10:45-11:00- Snack Break

11:00-12:25- Presentation Part II

12:30-12:45- PACT Business Meeting

Please know that we've done our best to make a schedule that works for our presenter and takes into consideration feedback we've gotten from our members in the past.

In this newsletter you will find more details about the day and registration information. If you joined PACT in the fall, you are already fully paid and need only to register your attendance. If you did not join in the fall, you will find a prorated membership fee that needs to be paid in order to register.

Thank you for making PACT part of your professional development!

(James) Scott Mitchell
President PACT Board

Professional Developmental Day: Thursday, March 23 8:45am-1:00pm

PACT is pleased to offer an in-person workshop this Spring 2023.

"Hands Up! Hands-On!: Active Multicultural Literacy through Signing, Stories, and More" by Kathy MacMillan

The workshop will be held at [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville](#) located at 100 Welsh Park Drive #1900, Rockville MD 20850.

Workshop Description:

Session 1: Little Hands Signing in the Classroom (2 hours): Studies show that using American Sign Language with hearing children can improve vocabulary, and reading comprehension, defuse behavior issues, support a variety of learning styles and increase overall interest in learning! Learn the fascinating reasons behind this phenomenon as well as strategies for incorporating it into your classroom. The best part is, you don't have to be fluent in the language for your students to reap the benefits.

Session 2: Multicultural Storytime Magic (1 hour): Learn how to seamlessly weave engaging rhymes, stories, songs, and activities representing the diverse experiences of people around the world into your storytimes and lessons, no matter what the theme! In this high-energy workshop, you'll get lots of practical ideas you can apply in your classroom right away.

1 COK/Curriculum, 1 COK/Special Needs, 1 COK/Curriculum

Presenters' Biography

Kathy MacMillan (she/her) is a writer, nationally certified American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, and signing storyteller. She writes picture books, children's nonfiction, middle-grade and young-adult fiction, and resource books for librarians, parents, and educators. She has presented hundreds of programs for children and families and is the author of the *Little Hands Signing* series (Familius Press), as well as *Little Hands and Big Hands: Children and Adults Signing Together* (Hands Up Press) and *Multicultural Storytime Magic* (ALA Editions). Find her online at www.storiesbyhand.com.

Credit Hours and Core of Knowledge Area

Members who attend the full session 9:15am-12:30pm this Spring 2023 will receive 3 Core of Knowledge credit hours (*1 COK/Curriculum, 1 COK/Special Needs, 1 COK/Curriculum*).

Registration

Registration and payment can be completed [HERE](#). Please sign up individually to ensure your email is recorded. Registration should be submitted by [Thursday, March 16](#).

Current Members (dues paid for the 2022-2023 school year): There is no additional fee to attend this spring's professional development day. You are still required to complete the registration using the link above.

New and Returning Members: There will be a \$40 fee to attend this spring's professional developmental day. You must complete the registration using the link above and pay the \$40 fee. *By completing the Spring PDD registration, you are also receiving a membership to PACT for the remainder of this school year.*

Assessments and Evaluations

Members will be asked to complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation via a Google form. QR codes for the assessment and survey will be provided at the conclusion of the workshop. For those of you who prefer to do the assessment and evaluation at home, links will be emailed in the evening.

***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 three-hour presentation and complete a content assessment along with a presenter evaluation before receiving their certificate. Personalized certificates will be emailed to participants within 7-10 business days.

Membership (New or Renewing)

Join PACT (or renew your membership!) by completing the online form [HERE](#). To join PACT now, the membership fee for the remainder of 2022-2023 school year is prorated at \$40 which includes the spring professional development day on March 23, 2023.

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 a [Service Award Nomination](#) by Thursday, March 17, 2022.

Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a PACT Hall of Fame in 2016 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in Early Childhood Education. 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)*
James Scott Mitchell - *Teacher, Silver Spring Nursery School, PACT Board President (2022)*

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 2021-22 Board Members](#)

President

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

V.P. Programming

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

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

V.P. Membership

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

Secretary

[Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative 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**

Listserv

[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

DVD Collection

PACT maintains a collection of educational DVDs that current PACT members may borrow free of charge. Schools that have at least one PACT member on staff may borrow DVDs for training purposes. The borrower must pay postage costs both ways or pick up and return in person. See loan form and instructions on the PACT [website](#).

Job Postings

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website - so check it out [HERE](#). Directors wishing to post job openings should e-mail details to VPMembershipPACT@gmail.com.

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 yvmembershipact@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 [Janise Allyn-Smith](#).

We hope you are having a great school year!

