

CRANBURY PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School (CPNS) has completed its 34th year of providing a Christian preschool environment to preschoolers and their families.

Our enrollment for the school year 2018-2019 is as follows:

- 2 ½-year-old classes have 19 of the 24 spots filled
- 3-year-old classes have 36 of the 42 spots filled
- 4-year-old classes have 27 of the 32 spots filled
- KSB class have 15 of the 14 spots filled

We currently offer 8 classes. They are as follows:

- 2 ½-year-old classes: Monday/Wednesday AM and Tuesday/Thursday AM
- 3-year-old classes: Tuesday/Thursday AM
 Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
 Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday PM
- 4-year-old classes: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
 Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday AM

- Kindergarten Skill Builders: Monday/Friday PM

Our statistics for the school year 2018-2019 are:

- 5 of our current students have a parent as a church member, 2 children have a grandparent as a church member. Many other families are active in our church's programs. We continue to welcome CPNS families to participate in the life of our church. There are a few families that currently attend worship and Sunday school, and many that teach in Vacation Bible School.
- 8 families have siblings enrolled, 4 of these families have twins.
- Approximately 42% of our families this year are from Cranbury.

We offer our Lunch and Fun program 5 days a week. We also offer a variety of enrichment classes including Alphabet Soup, Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead, Let's Pretend, and Power of Play. For children not yet able to attend our regular CPNS classes, we offer our Mommy and Me program on Friday mornings.

This year we hired a new music teacher, Sue Sumutka. Ms. Sumutka has over 38 years of experience educating children in music and movement through creativity and individuality. Dorothy Klotzbecher has been instrumental in establishing our music program at CPNS since its inception in 1986 and continues to assist with our special music programs throughout the year. Music is so important to the development of preschoolers and we are blessed to have these individuals sharing their special talents with CPNS.

Our community participation continues through our involvement in Cranbury Day, sharing a table with the church, and our continued support to the volunteers of the Cranbury Fire Department and First Aid Squad with our Cranbury Community Volunteer Program. We are also a member of the Cranbury Business Association.

Our 2018-2019 staff totals 21, which includes 10 Teachers: Vicki Bain, Francine Coffee, Pam Dressel, Felicia Halligan, Debbie Petro, Linda Protinick, Denise Reilley, Kay Scott, Sue Sumutka and Theresa Vaccaro; eight Assistant Teachers, Vicki Bain (also a teacher in one of our 4/5-year-old classes), Felicia Halligan (also a teacher in one of our 3-year-old classes), Kathy Iorio, Gretchen Potter, Sandy Price, Linda Protinick (also a teacher of our Mommy & Me class), Denise Reilley (also a teacher in one of our enrichment classes), and Renee Spero

Vicki Bain, one of our teachers, also serves as our Head Teacher. Gretchen Potter serves as our Lunch Hour Coordinator, Kathleen Cenci assists with various administrative duties. Denise Reilley continues as our Purchaser. Our Lunch Program Teachers are Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Pam Dressel, Felicia Halligan, Tannashae Perrine, Heather Podlesny, Gretchen Potter, Linda Protinick, Renee Spero, Nancy Kietlinski, Roopal Tripathi, and Annam Thaneermalai.

Pam Dressel teaches our Let's Pretend Enrichment Program, assisted by Renee Spero, Denise Reilley teaches our Alphabet Soup Enrichment Program assisted by Vicki Bain, Debbie Petro and Kathy Iorio teach our Power of Play Enrichment Programs, Denise Reilley teaches our Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Enrichment Program, assisted by Renee Spero. Kindergarten Skill Builders class is taught by Vicki Bain and Kay Scott and Linda Protinick teaches our Mommy and Me Program.

Sue Sumutka provides a Music Program to all of our 2½, 3 and 4/5year-old classes along with Dorothy Klotzbeacher assisting in our wonderful parent music programs with all of our CPNS families. Janice Parker is our Director. We also have a variety of individuals who substitute teach for CPNS. Lori Kleppe from the West Windsor/Plainsboro School District serves as our Learning Consultant. Janet Wheeler is our Business Administrator. Pat Cavender and Matt Rhodes support us in maintaining our CPNS web site. Stan Dickerson continues to provide us with building and grounds support along with the very dedicated members of our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

During our Christmas Party we not only celebrated the service awards but also several accomplishments. The service awards went to Theresa Vaccaro for 5 years of service. All together the CPNS staff has over 170 years of service. The accomplishments included Felicia Halligan for obtaining her Child Development Associates Credential (CDA). Janice Parker earned a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Teacher Leadership from Rutgers University. Her dissertation topic was, Improving Oral Language Instruction during Playtime: A qualitative Study of a Professional Development Initiative. It is so important in this ever-changing field of Early Childhood that we continue to learn all we can to provide the most appropriate education to our preschoolers.

The CPNS Board for 2018 consisted of 9 board members, of which 6 are church members and 3 are non-church members. They are: Samantha Andrews, Jessica Corriveau, Jane Curran, Dina Ellsworth, Adria Janni, Nicole Minguillon, Patria Sullivan (Moderator), Jim Taylor, and Kristen Taylor. The Board also has two non-voting advisors, Lori Kleppe (learning consultant) and Chris Cenci (financial consultant). We are so grateful to have these individuals share their gifts and talents with CPNS.

At the conclusion of the year 2018 Adria Janni, Dina Ellsworth, and Patria Sullivan completed their terms. Patria completed two terms for a total of six years. Adria and Dina will be returning

as a board member to complete another three-year term beginning January 2019. We have one new member joining the board in 2019– Erin Toomey a non-church member.

Our 2018/2019 annual tuition fees were as follows:

- \$2,072.00 for all two session programs
- \$2,981.00 for all three session programs
- \$2,189.00 for Kindergarten Skill Builders

Here are a few highlights from our year:

- We continue to provide an example of an appropriate early childhood learning environment for students from TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) who are learning to be teachers. Every Wednesday a group of students from TCNJ participate in their sophomore field experience at CPNS.
- We continue to maintain our national accreditation with the National Association for the Education of young children (NAEYC). We are currently in the process of renewing our accreditation and look forward to our site visit from our NAEYC assessor.
- Our CPNS Pre-Summer program was held for two weeks in June.
- We continue with the kindergarten transition collaboration with the Cranbury Public School and look forward to our continued relationship with this initiative.
- Our McCaffrey receipt collection, thanks to Lil Conley, continues successfully, and we receive 1% of the total sales. We also continue to participate in a program through Amazon, called “Amazon Smile”.
- Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School continues to offer a screening and monitoring program for our children. Because a child’s first five years of life are so important, we want to help provide the best possible start for our children. As part of participating in a developmentally appropriate academic program at CPNS, we provided the Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition (ASQ-3), to help keep track of each child’s development.
- We continue our participation in “Grow NJ Kids” which is New Jersey’s new rating and improvement system designed to assess early care and education programs, provide training and incentives to improve, and to communicate their level of quality to the public.
- We established an investment account with VanGuard STAR Fund, an open-end mutual fund. A thank you to Ken Gordon for his help with establishing this investment opportunity and for his continued support to help CPNS meet the long-term investment primarily for capital appreciation over the long-term.
- Our work with Montclair State University and their social emotional formation (SEFI).
- Security Update: We purchased wireless intercoms to provide communication necessary in all our classrooms. Our first lockdown drill was completed with the children in the Spring with the support of the Cranbury Police Department.
- A new addition “Jump Bunch” which is a sports and fitness program for children was added to our annual Panda Picnic in the Park.
- The CPNS Employee Handbook was updated and revised to reflect the current polices and procedures from NAEYC and GROW NJ Kids.
- We began a monthly parent program called, Coffee and Conversations with Janice. We meet the second Wednesday at 9:00 am in the church library. Our unstructured, informal time together will give us an opportunity to discuss the values and goals of your families and the qualities you would like your children to have. We will talk about the barriers you might be faced with as parents, how we can connect with children and strengthen our relationships with them through “Play”, and the “Effect of Stress” on child development.

- We noticed a significant increase in the diversity of our families. About 26% of our student population comes from various cultural backgrounds and are dual language learners.

Our year was once again filled with a variety of milestones, activities and new opportunities. CPNS successfully maintains a developmentally appropriate Christian preschool program offering the guidance for learning important life skills and the appropriate academic requirements kindergarten programs are now demanding in addition to the accountability pressures that are reshaping the learning environment for young children and their teachers. Our CPNS Curriculum resource and our curriculum of choice, “Creative Curriculum”, provide additional opportunities to do what we do best regarding children and their learning. We are the most developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool in the area and we are blessed to continue to offer this outstanding preschool program to our church members and local community.

CPNS is a place where children are safe and comfortable and succeed in an environment filled with love and Christian values. The preschool years provide the important foundation for each child to build upon. CPNS provides this very important foundation by using a developmentally appropriate curriculum and with teachers who share their unconditional love and respect with each and every child, and work to meet each child at their own developmental stage. Children blossom in their care! CPNS children become successful preschool graduates who continue to want to succeed and learn. The dedication and commitment of our teachers, assistant teachers, and each staff member, never goes unnoticed and is so greatly appreciated.

As part of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, we are blessed with a church staff that is always there to lend a hand, including our pastors who share important Christian messages to our children, and their spiritual support shared with all of us. We are also blessed with our Buildings & Grounds Committee comprised of volunteers who maintain our facilities and provide a safe environment for our children. They continue to go above and beyond expectations. Our Senior Fellowship group graciously invites our children to participate in their events and our Mission, Service and Grants Committee continues to provide opportunities to show our children how to help others. The Outreach Committee provides a connection to our community through advertising and the church website. Pat Cavender, Ann Mooney and Matt Rhodes, part of our Website Committee, continue to exceed in helping to provide CPNS with a website that is easy to navigate and filled with valuable information for our existing families and new families looking for a preschool for their children. They also share their knowledge and guidance regarding how we can enhance our communication through our website. I cannot thank them enough for all they do and for the time they dedicate to CPNS and our church. Support is evidenced continuously through the many church committees and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury.

We have been awarded accreditation in the National Association for the Education of Young Children and, through the dedication and hard work of all of us at CPNS, we continue to maintain this national recognition. The recognition let’s everyone know just how special CPNS is for all children and to affirm the commitment and dedication of excellence at CPNS. We are also participating in New Jersey’s quality initiative, GROW NJ Kids as one of the few star rated programs in the state.

A personal note from our Director, Dr. Janice Parker:

I earned a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Teacher Leadership from Rutgers University this past summer. My dissertation was a professional development initiative aimed at improving the

teaching of oral language during playtime. I am excited to continue to share the information that I am learning with all of us at CPNS, and the opportunities to help CPNS excel with new and appropriate ways for children and our teachers to learn. I maintain certification as a Professional Development Specialist and continue to teach at the College of New Jersey as an adjunct professor in the Early Childhood Department. I have completed 19 years at CPNS as the Director, and prior to that as an assistant teacher for one year and taught in the 3-year-old program for four years for a combined total of 23 years of service to CPNS.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and support to help make what I do an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide this special preschool experience to our children as we continue to rise to meet their needs. Thank you also for your continued warm welcome into the church family at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury and for always including CPNS in church programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Parker, Director and Patria Sullivan, CPNS Moderator