

SUPPORTIVE
CREATIVE

COOPERATIVE
NOW

Growing

Summer 2010



This is How We Roll

Shed Roll 2010

Some people have said that parents today are simply too busy for the traditional parent cooperative model. Family, volunteer, and work time all compete over seemingly shrinking hours.

Rob Ferguson, a parent member of our buildings and grounds crew, proved the naysayers wrong.

The school needed to move our 8'x10' shed from the front of the yard to the back. Professional movers were called in to bid on the job, but the minute Rob heard about the ancient technology the movers proposed, not to mention the 500 hundred dollar plus fee, he motivated a cohort of parents,

purchased 8 round wooden posts himself, and got to work. End results: the shed is moved and the parent experience has been galvanized through hard work and another successful team effort.

Through hard work and time volunteered, these folks saved the organization money, but these events offer so much more. Teamwork like this, large and small, gives parents and staff the opportunity to pull together towards a common goal and in the end, build community or maybe, just maybe, a pyramid. Who knows what's next?

This photo shows some of the parents and staff of Shed Roll 2010. Video is available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/TPCNS



Stay in Touch

Share contact information for your family and add a "plus one".



2010

Send us photos, family updates, and community news to include in future issues of this electronic newsletter. Help us build our alumni database. Please provide your information "plus one" by forwarding the link to our website to The Cooperative School friends and family.

More Ways to Stay in Touch

1. Growing Together Blog

The blog is located on the main page of the School's website, www.takomacooperativeschool.org. Our staff shares this space with other educators and professionals as the School extends our "ripple effect" in the great big pond of the parenting cooperative model

2. More Photos Option

A picture is worth a thousand words. Check out the "more photos" option on our website and explore our library on Flickr. Please consider adding your own photos

3. Facebook

Join our fan base. We use this space to share tidbits, like the Friday Flashbacks (for an example see the photo collage at the lower right). We also publicize alumni events like the Garden Party held each year in the month of May, come see what you helped build!

4. The Festivals

Visit our Festival booths at the Folk and Street Festivals (9/12 and 10/3). We enjoy supporting these community events and our current members always get a thrill when they meet alumni



Summer with Alumni and Friends

During the Summer months, we open the space to our young alumni and their friends to experience art, drama, and science camps. This special time is precious for both children and staff. They are able to reconnect, rediscover, and in the end, enjoy more of what our little school has to offer.

Last summer, we enjoyed something extra. We welcomed Suzanna Vaughan, pre-k class of 1994 as a camp aide. She is currently enrolled in St. Mary's College, studying Spanish. Claire Onley worked with us this summer for five fabulous weeks. Also pre-k class of 1994, Claire is still good friends with Suzanna and is enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh as a communications major.

Both young women proved that the cooperative experience "sticks" as they helped the kids, ages 4-10 navigate the tasks at hand (art, tinkering, and putting on a play) while strengthening old friendships and making new friends. Claire also put her recently-gained college "know how" to good use as she helped the Admissions team edit The Cooperative School's brochure for Fall 2010. Very impressive.

Next Summer, we may be looking for other college-aged alum to work with us as Claire and Suzanna will begin looking for internships and experiences that will enrich their studies. We wish them loads of luck and were so happy to have their help.



Cooperative Now!

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Left: Teacher, Cindy Hibbert and her pre-k class, 1994. Right: Claire Onley and campers, 2010