THE COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL OF THE PALISADES
IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL IN KENT!

Photo by Andrea Joseph

Your Stories. Your Photos. Your Community!
IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME IN KENT
EVEN THE PRESCHOOLERS ARE GETTING EXCITED!

Within the Kent neighborhood, there is a wonderful preschool that was founded in 1986 as part of the ministry of Palisades Community Church. The Community Preschool of the Palisades now operates as an independent, not-for-profit entity that remains dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood programming. Through a stellar effort by the school's board, several of whom are and have been Kent residents, the Community Preschool of the Palisades continues to be an integral part of the neighborhood, offering our littlest residents the perfect place to start their path to learning and socialization with other children. “The school is full of love and is such an enriching and fun place for kids to grow,” comments Brian Bennett, a current board member. “My son is going into second grade and still talks about the preschool. It’s wonderful to have such a gem in our community.”

CPP focuses on high-quality education for ages 2-5 with emphasis on the social-emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being and individual development of each student. A key component of the school’s mission and philosophy is that young children learn best through interactions with peers and teachers as well as play. It is a highly personalized approach and exhibits a great value for each child as a whole person while promoting all aspects of his or her growth.

The original concept was for the school to reflect a pond, hence the names of the classes. The children are divided into these groups: tadpoles (age 2), poliwegs and minnows (ages 2.5-3.5), frogs (ages 3-4) and dragonflies (ages 4-5). In each age group, there is an emphasis on developing language, motor, critical thinking, and social skills, all of which are guided by an experienced teaching staff.

As the new director, Kate Murphy describes, “While I was interviewing for my position at CPP, the most common term that families and board members used to describe the preschool was “magical.” I have spent my entire career in the field of early childhood education in various settings, but when I came to CPP, I truly understood what everyone meant. I have been so incredibly impressed by the consistently warm and loving interactions between teachers and children, as these positive interactions provide children the necessary foundation for learning, exploration, and risk-taking.
Our preschoolers are provided with opportunities for hands-on learning experiences, such as baking, gardening, playing at the water table, painting, building, and engaging in dramatic play. They also spend plenty of time outdoors on our expansive playground where they can run, jump, and climb! Not only are children loving school, but the families do, too! CPP truly fosters a sense of community – for children, families, and preschool staff, and I am thrilled to work in the service of this amazing and magical preschool!

The school impresses neighbors as a very happy place for children. Kent resident Flynn O’Neil states that “As a mother, I love the community and convenience at CPP. Being able to walk my son down the street to school is truly an infrequent luxury in our increasingly frantic lives. I have really enjoyed the new families we have met at the auction and playdates. The teachers are warm and welcoming – many mornings we stay to chat. We look forward to our son Charlie’s second year in the fall. He is quick to say that his favorite part of school is playing with Legos and his many new friends. Charlie is excited to return as a ‘Frog’ in September.”

The Kent neighborhood has so much to offer including this magical, nurturing place for our littlest residents and a sense of community for the families.