



June 2009

ISLAND COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

* JUNE 2009 *

Our mission is to inspire, nurture and involve children and parents in the exploration of learning



2008-2009 Annual Report

Island Cooperative Preschool: More Than Just a Preschool

As parents, we seek a preschool to provide our children the opportunity to play, socialize and learn. We want the best for our children. In the short term, we want to prepare our children for kindergarten. Ultimately, we want to prepare them for success in all of their future learning opportunities! At Island Cooperative Preschool (ICP) we take a unique approach to preschool education: children and parents invest in learning together through our cooperative early learning program and parent education classes.

Each school year is an opportunity for our dedicated teachers to nurture a new community of children and parents. While our children learn to share the toys, our parents learn to share parenting experiences. While our children learn positive behavior and how to be a good friend, our parents learn positive discipline and more parenting survival techniques. Our children recognize colors, shapes and letters, while our parents recognize strengths, weaknesses and celebrate successes. Our children play, while our parents nurture, involve, inspire and teach.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of parent education in Washington through cooperative preschool programs. ICP has been a part of this tradition for 38 years and we thrive on the investment each member makes in our preschool. Parents choose to participate in the classroom and apply the knowledge learned in parent education classes. They volunteer to improve our school, participating in the care of our building and classroom, fundraising, and outreach. A community grows as teamwork, respect and friendships develop.

We are preparing both our students and our parents for a

successful career in a bigger school system, public or private.

When our students graduate, parents and children alike have the foundation for successful lifelong learning together. That foundation supports academics, relationships, and even an educational system. We are more than a preschool. We are a community. We are friends. We are family.

Thank you for being a part of ICP. Congratulations to all of the students, and especially to the 2009-2010 graduating Orcas and their families!





"I asked Evangeline if she thought her sister, Nell, should go to her old preschool and she said "Oh yes! Every kid deserves to go there!" She has many fond memories, and always speaks adoringly of you."

*Rachael Rohr
(Evangeline is an ICP graduate)*

"I think Ellen is an incredible educator. She is energetic, exceptionally creative (in the classroom and in problem solving), accepting, and very sharp at understanding the children's needs. She has a unique combination of being very kind but also no-nonsense, which I believe is the reason the children respect and trust her almost immediately."

Sherry L, Orca Parent

A Letter From Teacher Ellen:

Twenty-eight years ago I first learned about cooperative preschools when I enrolled my then 3 year old son in Alki Co-op in West Seattle. Together we found a community of like-minded parents and children and experienced the pleasure of learning together on our school days and in parent ed. This was really important for me at that time as I knew few parents with children and I was desperately trying to figure out how to be the kind of mother I hoped to be. I became the co-op president the next year, before moving to Bainbridge Island, and after 5 years of working in the resource room at Wilkes, I became the teacher and parent educator at Island Co-op. I was so excited I could hardly stand it!

So, next year is my 20th year of teaching at the co-op. If you had asked me way back in the beginning how long I would be with ICP I would have ventured 5 years, maybe. Well, look at me now! It's that wonderful combination of parents and children that keep me coming back for more, year after year. I love the creativity, different ways of doing things, and sense of humor that parents bring to the class each day. I delight in sharing our special preschool times with parents and watching the joy the children have

when they share experiences with their parents, as well as watching the parents watch their children with amazement and adoration. I am moved to my core by the openness and sharing that parents do in parent ed classes, and I am honored to be a part of it all.

Our littlest children, the Penguin class, have grown and matured tremendously over the school year. From being passive observers in the beginning during Circle time to curling up as Little Chickies and singing and dancing together, they have become independent, confident little people. The smiles on their faces as they flock in to Circle is such a pleasure!

We have a group of strong, confident children in the Sea Otter class. They know what they want and they easily tell everyone. A big deal in this class has been working together to build long roads from the blocks and then driving our cars on it. Snack is very popular, as is writing stories, and cooking with the sand and rocks in the play-house outside is a favorite. The friendships have really blossomed as well, and they eagerly seek out best buddies.

[\(Continued on back pg\)](#)

2008— 2009 Highlights:



Fundraising

Fundraising was a focused effort under the direction of Dominique Cantwell, our volunteer fundraising chairperson. We raised nearly \$7,400 from a broad list of efforts! With the help of Adam and Kelly Morrow, Carol Ann Davidson, Jennifer Walser and Kathy Vogel, along with each of our member families, we held two fundraising events including the Annual Rummage Sale and the first Winter Wonder Party. Shannon Dow lead our efforts with One Call for All seeking individual donations and achieving the highest donation levels of the past three years. Julie Cooper ambitiously wrote three grant proposals in support of our technology needs, and we anxiously await the results. We also enrolled in the "10% Back to Schools" rewards program through eScrip.

Marketing & Outreach

ICP's outreach efforts included the Spring Speaker Event on children's safety, sing-alongs at KidiMu and Bubble Day in the glorious sunshine! We initiated web site improvements executed by Kiyō Toma to make www.islandcooperativepreschool.org more user friendly, informative and timely. Keely Sawyer and Vicki White published regular newsletters to keep our preschool community informed of events, dates, parenting tips and classroom updates.



Stewardship: Building & Classroom Care

Volunteers improve our building and classroom in so many ways! Sherry Lamonica fit a few minutes each school day to remove the debris and branches that fell on our playground, and planted beautiful spring bulbs and evergreen shrubs to keep the color in our planters. Duncan Montgomery took on the job of cleaning the gutters and helped with building maintenance. Kristin French regular batches of fresh play-do, while Veronica Weindl and Kathy Weibel checked out library books to fit each of the curriculum themes. Karen Sprague regularly washed the preschool hand towels and Jessaca Gatens helped our teacher whenever necessary as the Teacher's Assistant. Corey Goff introduced us to Scholastic Books and coordinated our book orders, and with each order we earned new books for our preschool library.

Our Community of Friends & Family

Dedicated class representatives, Christina Doherty, the Cantwells, and Kirsten Bouma coordinated the parent-teaching calendars and field trips! Our preschool community was visible each time our children wore their red ICP t-shirts and we shared a few comments on our new Facebook page. Our members also welcomed new babies into their families including Corbin, Rex, Emily, Maggie, Weston.

A Look Ahead: Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors, Dan Miller, Joe Deets, Nikki Lounsbury, Laura Hegarty, Carrissa Barbee, Kirsten Bouma, Christina Dougherty and Marc Cantwell, developed a three year strategic plan to further the preschool's mission. A vision for ICP's future was created to focus the efforts of the board of directors, teachers and our member volunteers. For example, some of the priorities outlined are:

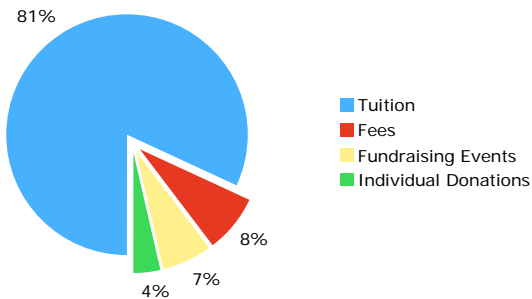
- Improving enrollment
- Expanding our marketing and outreach
- Improving member communications
- Seeking third party accreditation of our curriculum and classroom.



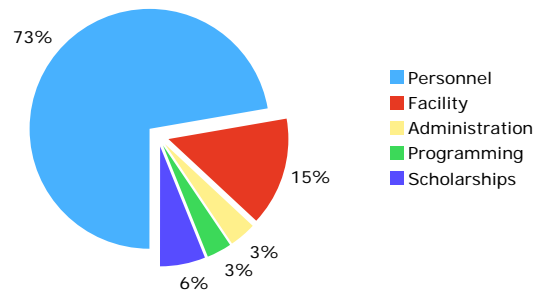
Funding and Budget:

Here is a glance at where our money comes from and how it was spent in the 2008-2009 school

Where The Money Comes From



Where The Money Goes



Did You Know?

- ◆ Head Teacher, Ellen Carleson, has dedicated 20 years to Island Cooperative Preschool as our creative, passionate and inspiring teacher!
- ◆ Research shows that early childhood programs involving both parents and children are more effective than programs focusing exclusively on children!
- ◆ Our Scholarship Program is funded by individual donations received through One Call for All, and 25% of the fundraising dollars earned from our annual fundraising events.
- ◆ We are growing! Enrollment is up for the 2009-2010 compared to this time last year!
- ◆ By following Assistant Teacher, Tifanie Mitsui's finesse and "teach by example" approach, teaching parents became experts at nurturing the children's needs and interests while involving them in the discovery of new ideas!

TEACHER ELLENS LETTER (Continued from pg. 2)

The Dolphin class has had a plethora of ballerinas (and break dancers) this year, and we have done a lot of dancing together. A lot of time has been spent in the loft, as well, playing all kinds of creative games there. They, too, have favorite friends, and we have done much learning about how to be a good friend.

And last, our Orca class has had a very busy and productive year. They, too, did a lot of work on being a good friend and eagerly complimented their friends for being helpful or kind or sharing, and gave them Friendship Stickers. We "traveled" to Mexico when we were learning about transportation, and even went "swimming" and "surfing" while we were there. We worked hard to produce and perform in a wonderful Orca Show. We learned lots about math with Teacher Tifanie in Math Group, and did lots of writing in Writing Group. Journal writing has been a favorite, and the children are even doing their own

writing now! Each and every child has grown and begun to realize their potential, and they leave our Orca class feeling great about themselves and loving school!

Parents did a lot of growing, too. Parent ed classes were well attended and there was always lots of discussion, both during class and afterwards for days. Birth order was a popular topic and caused a lot of discussion. We had 21 fathers attend Dad's Parent Ed, and we had a very lively discourse on self-discipline that went on in one form or another for weeks. Parents made friends, and laughed, and even cried together.

So many of our co-op families are returning next year! What a great thing both for our children and for us. We start out the new school year knowing and caring for each other and we are more ready to trust and grow together. A big "thank you" to each and every one of you for sharing this great year with Teacher Tifanie and me!

TEACHER ELLEN