

the

SEED

newsletter

2011-2012

6630 S. 40th Street • Phoenix, Arizona • 85042 • (602) 454-2606



It's Year #35 for the Seed

In September 1977, we started the Seed with nine young children in the Glovers' Tempe garage. This year, our 35th year, we have 143 students from all over the valley who love to learn in their spacious classrooms and play on our huge playground. We have six Seed alumni on staff and nine second generation Seeds. It's been quite a journey. We welcome you all to this new year and look forward to getting to know new friends and families as we continue our school lives with our beloved returning Seeds.

Student Files and Information

We need you to help us complete and update your child's file. Please fill out COMPLETELY all forms you receive and return them to Kristen. All immunization information, doctor's names and addresses, etc. need to be included. We didn't require a new Emergency Card for

returning students this year. Also, make sure we have your updated email address so you will receive school communications electronically. If you want a hard copy of newsletters, you can pick one up in the office. This is a busy time for Kristen as she processes all of the documents for new and returning students, so please help her out by turning in your paperwork on time.

T-shirts for Sale

We have white T-shirts for sale in the office the first few weeks of school. Our design, in honor of our 35th year, is the vintage Seed design from the late 70s. You may pay cash for your shirts or make out a check to the APA. Tie Dye/Tile Painting Day will be held on the same day as our new Gathering of the Seeds event on Friday, August 26th. See the description below. on Thursday, September 23rd. More information will follow about Tie Dye Day.

Volunteer Committees

The hallway bulletin board across from the bathrooms holds all of the volunteer committees we need help with this year. Each family is asked to volunteer a minimum of ten hours per year. Please take some time to check out the board and the committee descriptions at your convenience. Committee sheets for the fall will be posted later today. Spring committees will be posted in November. If you have any questions, see Mary or send an email to seedsdirector@me.com.

Gathering of the Seeds

Gathering of the Seeds is held on the second Friday of the new school year from 4:30 to 7 p.m. It is an opportunity to meet other families in each class, learn more about the school's philosophy and procedures, and meet the APA leadership team and Seed board members. Furthermore, there is a pot luck supper and time to paint a tile and/or tie dye your new Seed T-shirt. This event replaces beginning of the year class picnics, New Parent Orientation, and Tie Dye/Tile Painting Day. Here is the link: <http://www.awakeningseedsschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Gathering-the-Seeds-2.pdf>

Newsletter Format Change

This year we are changing the newsletter format. We'll publish monthly newsletters with a specific theme. September's theme will be the Seed philosophy. Mary will also be sending out a weekly email update to all parents with school news and important information. Make sure you read your child's teacher's blog each week for the latest classroom news.

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Mary's Blog

Mary posts a blog on the Seed's general website each week. The link for her blog is: <http://www.awakeningseedsschool.org/seeds-of-possibility/>

Toddler 1s

Sarah/Jenn/Nancy

The lead for the Toddler 1s class is Sarah Richeal. Sarah was an original Seed in 1977 and she inspired the Seed toddler program, established in 2000. Assisting Sarah are Jenn Taylor and Nancy Carrazco. Jenn is a former staff member who recently moved back to the Valley. Her older children are Seed alums, and her youngest son, Drew, is a student in the kindergarten class. Nancy is a second year Seed staff member who worked in the after school program last year.

Toddler 2s

Jamie/Jessie

The Toddler 2s lead teacher is Jamie Larson, who is beginning her eighth year on the Seed staff. Jamie was our PE teacher and also assisted in the toddler class before becoming a lead four years ago. Jamie's assistant is Jessie Coyle, a Seed alum, who subbed for us last year in many classes.

Preschool 2.5s/3s

Danielle/Emily Q.

Danielle Dueppen is our lead teacher in the Preschool 2.5/3s class. This is her first year as a lead at the Seed, after teaching several years in public schools and serving as an assistant last year in the Toddler 1s and PreK. Assisting Danielle is Emily Quinn, who worked in the after school last year and also was the assistant in the 2.5/3s class during the spring. Emily also works in the after school program.

Preschool 3s

Kevin/Katie

The Preschool 3s is taught by Kevin Veillette, who is beginning his eighth year as a lead teacher. His assistant is Katie Loughlin, who has been on staff for two and a half years, as assistant in the PreK class and in the 3s last year. Katie will also be the lead teacher on

Tuesdays and Thursdays in the toddler after school program

Preschool 4s Deb/Billie

The Preschool 4s line-up is the same as last year with lead teacher Deb Hopkins and assistant Billie Cruz. Deb has been a Seed staff for eight years and This is Billie's ninth year at the school as a staff member.

PreK

Emily/Deana

Emily Murphy, the PreK lead teacher, is beginning her fifth year at the Seed. This is Emily's second year as a lead teacher.

Assisting Emily is Deana Hernandez, a Seed alum who joins our staff for the first time.

Deana has a son, Sol, in our Toddler 1s class.

K-1

Kerri/Christine

Kerri Tornow is the lead in the kindergarten.

She has been on the Seed staff since 1984 and has taught almost every class at the school during that time. Kerri's assistant is Christine Cleveland, who subbed extensively for us last year. Christine is married to Mr. Jay, our music teacher!

1st/2nd Grades

Becky/Dina

The 1st/2nd graders will be taught by the same team as last year, Becky Lewis and Dina Tseffos. Becky has been a lead teacher at the Seed since the late 1980s and has taught first grade most of that time. Dina has been an assistant at the Seed, in the Toddler 1s class, and last year in the 1st/2nd grade class.

3rd/4th Grades

Aimee/Kaylee

Aimee Benton Arnold is the lead teacher in the 3rd/4th grade class. Aimee was a student as a child at the Seed and has been a lead teacher since 1999. Assisting Aimee for another year is Kaylee Dunlap, who has been on the staff nearly three years.

Specials

All three of our specials teachers are returning staff members. Diane Hughes is the Seed's Spanish teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. Our PE teacher is Mindy Bender, who started working at the Seed last year. She has experience teaching dance, working with special needs students, and studied elementary education at ASU for a few years. Mindy is a certified yoga instructor and is quite enthusiastic about working at the Seed. Back by popular demand, Jay Cleveland is our music teacher once again this year. We're expecting great things in our specials classes this year.

After School

Our after school director is Candice Porter. Candice has been on the Seed staff for three years and took over the after school program last year. Working with Candice will be Nancy Carrazco, Mila Ward, Emily Quinn, Katie Loughlin, Aimee Arnold, and several other staff members working a few hours a week.

For further information about staff members, see the school website. All bios will be updated in the next week or so.

Gathering of the Seeds

Friday, August 26th

4:30 to 7 p.m.

**New Parent Orientation
meet the APA
tie dye/tile painting
potluck dinner
meet your classmates and
their families
meet the Board**

ALL FAMILIES INVITED