



ANGELA GERHART CLACKAMAS PRINT

Childcare director Sue Kemp enjoys lunchtime with preschoolers Jaden McKinnis (LEFT) and Matthew Pavey. Kemp took over position of retired director Judy Kling on March 29.

Benevolence breeds opportunity for Kemp

Kemp assumes position as director of YMCA childcare center

Karen Hill
FEATURE EDITOR

Sue Kemp loves children. She began working at the YMCA childcare center, currently located in the Family Resource Center on campus, 15 years ago. Shortly after being hired, she began teaching classes for the center and five-year-olds. Five years ago, she was promoted to assistant manager, and on March 29, 2004, she assumed the position of director from retired Judy Kling, as the center was in need of a new director of childcare. "It's a joy to watch [kids] grow and change," said Kemp. "I never know what kids are going to tell you ... we used to use a notebook of cute things to use to say. It'd just knock socks off."

The center (FRC), has a long history of change and development. The center opened in 1965 as a lab school for the Early Childhood Education program at CCC.

In 1989, Mt. Hood Campfire assumed management. In 1990, the center was licensed for 44 children and Judy Kling was hired as the director. The following year the FRC was built and 2 years later, the center employed 18 staff members, and was licensed for 88 kids.

During the late '90s, YMCA assumed management, beginning kindergarten and school age programs. A series of growth and development projects carried the center to the place it is now: a staff of 32 members serving 170 children (with a waiting list of over 200.)

Kemp sees her newly obtained position as a challenge ... but one she'll enjoy.

"[They're] big shoes to fill," Kemp said of former director Kling, who has been a familiar face at the center for 14 years, when she was hired as director.

"She's so well known in the childcare community ... she's built a lot of successful programs. It's going to be a tough act to follow."

Aside from her children at the center, Kemp has spent many years raising four children of her own.

"They have all at one time or another worked here," said Kemp, who has a daughter Kristy, 19, and a son Kevin, 25, who are currently employed.

Many of the children at the center have been members for a very long time.

"There are kids who started here as infants, and they're still coming back for summer day camp," she said. "We actually have a couple of girls who'll be too old soon and they're like, 'You better hire me!'"

Kemp looks forward to being able to work with kids of all ages.

"It's just fun being able to be with all the different age groups ... you're not really assigned to just one specific one," Kemp said.

New club digs up mystery on campus

Student finds hidden boxes and starts Letterboxers Club

Bethany Monroe
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

A strange request at the ASG office led to the founding of a new campus club, CCC Letterboxers of North America, which consists of a group of students interested in the nationwide recreation of hunting for boxes hidden in scenic places.

Stephanie Neuhauser, a Clackamas student, started the club with the help of faculty adviser Ann Goldade.

"It's sort of a roundabout story of how me and my friends got into it," said Neuhauser. "I was sitting in the student government office one day and a woman came in wanting to know if she could dig up the campus."

The woman claimed to be searching for letterboxes—waterproof containers holding a stamp and notebook—and gave the ASG a website listing the clues needed to find the letterboxes.

The students found the woman's request rather strange but promised to look into it. They visited the website and found clues for six or seven letterboxes that had been hidden around campus. Neuhauser and a few friends set out to find these mysterious boxes, but they remained skeptical.

"We were like, 'Who would do this? Why would you do this?'" said Neuhauser. "But after we found the first one, we thought, 'This is pretty fun. We should start a club.'"

According to the Letterboxers of North America website (www.letterboxing.org), there are over 8,471 registered letterboxes hidden across the

United States.

"It originally started over in England, but it moved over here," said Neuhauser.

An article in Smithsonian Magazine about English letterboxing inspired several Americans to organize the activity in the United States. Oregon was one of the first three states to have letterboxes and now the Portland area alone is home to 349 letterboxes, according to the website.

After retrieving clues from the website, letterboxers—armed with their logbook, inkpad and a personal rubber stamp—set out to track down the hidden container. When a

box is found, letterboxers use their own stamp to mark the container's logbook. As their reward for discovering the box, letterboxers use the unique stamp found inside each container to mark their own logbook, creating a record of their finds. The stamp and logbook are then returned to the

container and left for the next letterboxer to locate.

"Letterboxing is a combination of a scavenger hunt mixed with mystery," said Goldade.

The letterboxes hidden around campus have been removed temporarily, due to the college's concern about property being dug up in order to find the boxes. However, the CCC Letterboxer's club eventually plans to re-hide the containers since they do not need to be buried.

"Part of [the club's] goal is to increase awareness of letterboxing," said Goldade. "[We're] always interested in having more [members]."

Students interested in joining the CCC Letterboxers of North America can contact adviser Ann Goldade at ext. 2556, or e-mail Stephanie Neuhauser at stephn@clackamas.edu.

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www.letterboxing.org



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