

Preschool in Trouble

Little French School needs a new home.

There is a valiant effort going on in south Eugene right now to save a small but significant school that has been an important part of the community's early childhood educational offerings for many years.

The Little French School, a non-profit organization, was founded 20 years ago as the Eugene International Preschool and Kindergarten by Katherine Parrish, a French woman who has since left the community. At the school's inception, it was housed within the O'Hara School building and both French and Spanish were offered. The Spanish program was later dropped and the school was relocated to the Pearl Buck Center at the end of West Amazon 17 years ago. The school has been operating successfully since then in close proximity to the French immersion elementary program offered at Charlemagne Fox Hollow.

Just a few weeks ago the school was given two-months notice to find a new location, as the Pearl Buck Center now needs the space to expand its own programs. This gives us a very short timeline in which to find a new home for our school. We currently have eight dedicated full- and part-time employees whose livelihoods depend on the continuation of the school. We already have 50 families enrolled for next school year who are depending on us to provide the French immersion education they have chosen to pursue for their children.

The curriculum offered at the Little French School is unique in that it includes a program of language immersion in a nurturing atmosphere for children at an age when the acquisition of a foreign language is most natural and most easily absorbed. Along with the language component is the accompanying exposure to the diverse cultures of the world in general and the French-speaking world in particular. Our immersion program seeks to sharpen a child's overall intellectual abilities by using a second language as a medium of instruction and to help the children develop their cultural awareness.

Unlike most other countries in the world, preschools in the U.S. receive no governmental subsidies or support and rely solely on tuition to keep the schools running. An occasional fundraiser helps us to meet operating costs. Despite the tight budget constraints, we have been able to extend scholarships to families in the community who might otherwise be unable to meet the cost of tuition. We work closely with EC Cares to ensure that any of our students with disabilities are accommodated.

With the July 1 deadline quickly approaching, we now find ourselves in a state of crisis and are actively looking for both temporary and permanent solutions to this dilemma. The ideal short-term solution could be a rental that would fill our minimum requirements of three classrooms, three restrooms, office space and access to a playground, kitchen and gymnasium, as well as available parking.

We are appealing to the general public and parents of past and present students whose children may have benefited from our program. Any and all help would be appreciated, whether it is in the form of donations, investments, professional services or suggestions.

We need our community's support now more than ever. Direct donations may be made to our account, The Little French School, Inc., at Oregon Community Credit Union (account number 465112). Please contact the school at 345-3818 with any questions or ideas that you might have.

Sharon Sless is a kindergarten teacher at the Little French School.



bambini

EXTRAORDINARY THINGS FOR EXTRAORDINARY KIDS!



THE STORE FOR ALL YOUR SUMMER NEEDS

- Baby Bikinis • Spinning Dresses • Swim Trunks
- Sandals • Pool Shoes • Swim Diapers

JUST IN: New Quicksilver for Boys (sizes 2T - 7X)

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS! • 205 W. 5th • 485-1222 • MON-SAT 10-5:30 • SUN 11-5

buy sell trade

ca\$h for fashion

Buffalo EXCHANGE
New & Recycled Fashion

131 E. 5th Ave (between Oak & Pearl) 687-2805 BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM

Head of the Class PERS and Retirement

"We are ready to give you clear, concise and helpful answers for your PERS and Retirement questions and help you get on the right track with your financial future. We combine high levels of expertise with a positive attitude and just the right amount of fun to create a perfect financial relationship. Call today and make an appointment—there's no charge or obligation to talk to us."

The SELCO Financial Solutions Smart Team

members are registered representatives of CUSO Financial Services, L.P.



SELCO

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

selco.org

541.744.7500

Investment products and services offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS), are not obligations of nor guaranteed by the Credit Union, are not NCUA / NCUSIF insured, and involve investment risks including loss of value. Representatives are employed by SELCO Community Credit Union and registered through CFS. SELCO is a limited partner with CFS (Member NASD/SIPC). Insurance products are offered by SELCO Group Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of SELCO.

Children grow up so fast.

Here's a crib that will grow with them!

Convertible cribs come in a variety of styles and finishes. Come see our large selection.

We carry a wide selection of cribs from Baby's Dream, Pali, Sorelle, Ragazzi, Million Dollar Baby, Morigeau, PJ Kids and more.



Fletcher's

for Children

541-342-5883
Valley River Plaza, Eugene (by El Torito)
Mon-Sat 10 am - 6 pm • Sun 12 pm - 4 pm