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Hi, parents. Here is a summary of what we discussed on Sunday at the parent meeting at Macomb:

Number of children at each co-op location

I hope to enroll 10 to 13 children at each summer co-op site. Based on the number of applications received so far, I think we will achieve that.

Start and end dates

The start date of the summer co-op is Monday, June 22. The last day is Friday, August 21.

**Please keep Saturday, August 22 open for an end-of-summer co-op party.** We brought all the summer co-op families from all the co-op locations the last three summers to Magic Ground, an indoor playground in Columbia Heights, to celebrate the end of summer co-op. The children enjoyed eating pizza and ice cream in addition to running around the indoor playground. We will do something similar at the end of the summer for our new cohort for summer 2020 families. TBA. (This is included in the price of the tuition.)

Tuition for 9 weeks

The tuition is $1,350 for both Macomb and Hamilton (6-hour program). This is with the DPR subsidy included to keep tuition affordable. The amount covers the entire 9 weeks of summer co-op.

Family Friendly Environment

Our summer co-op is family friendly. We intend to maintain more flexibility than less. For instance, parents may bring their sibling children during their duty days. We’ve had a number of parents with newborns over the years. On their duty days, the parents had them on their chest in a wrap and the newborns slept most of the time. With regard to older siblings (who might be out of summer camp during parent’s duty day), they typically keep to themselves reading a book or doing some activities on their own at co-op. More frequently, the older siblings would participate in the summer co-op themselves. This is totally fine.

Age Mix

Unlike the DPR cooperative play program, our summer co-op combines the young and older children into a mixed age co-op. Historically, the average age has hovered around 2.5 to 3 y.o. with some variance.

Staffing

Selma Ramic, a co-op veteran mom, is helping organize the summer co-op this year. Her daughter attended DPR co-op at Raymond and three summer co-ops with me (at Macomb Rec Center in 2019, Kennedy Rec Center in 2018, and Hamilton Rec Center in 2017). Selma is working with me on a full-time basis.

Kahlil Kuykendall is our children's yoga instructors. Kahlil will lead our children in various movement exercises to help our children develop their motor skills in addition to developing music appreciation. She is a former development economist who made a career change to have more time with her family.

Sylvana Christopher is our children’s dance instructor. The genre of her dance instruction is wide, from hip hop to lyrical modern. She has taught dance at a number of dance studios across the District, including Joy of Motion and The Washington Ballet. Sylvana is also a co-op mom whose child attended summer co-op at Kennedy Rec Center.

Steve Leroy is our children’s music instructor. He is a Certification Level 1 Music Together Teacher and has been teaching Music Together classes in and around Washington, DC since 2013.

Elizabeth Corinth is our STEM craft instructor. She used to be a science and math teacher before she came to DC and became a full-time mom. (She and I used to be neighbors when I used to live in Capitol Hill.) Elizabeth is great.

Glory Rodriguez has been a facilitator our summer co-op since last year and before that worked to help with co-op duty days of parents. Glory hails from Colombia where she taught in elementary school. I have asked Glory to return to facilitate summer co-op at Macomb Rec Center.

Mary Douglas and I go back five years. A graduate student at Catholic University, I have asked Mary to be the facilitator at summer co-op at Hamilton Rec Center. She needs a couple of weeks to figure out her summer schedule and whether she can commit to the group. Mary is completely dependable and works great with young children. (In fact, she used to be the facilitator for my daughter when she was at Volta Park co-op.)

\*\*Each summer co-op sites will have two to three private instructors selected from above. Each instructor will come in once a week for 30 minutes. (For instance, on Tuesdays Steve Leroy will teach music. On Thursdays Kahlil Kuykendall will teach children's yoga.) I will work with the instructors on when they can come in to work with our group.

Duty days

After our student roster is finalized, parents of the summer co-op will select the duty days that they wish to work. Some parents in the past have frontloaded (or backloaded) the duty days so that they are free for the rest of the summer. Depending on the summer co-op location, parents should expect to work from 6 to 9 duty days for the whole summer.

Floating nannies

To help with duty days, some sites (especially Macomb) have utilized 'floating nannies' to support parents who cannot come in to serve their duty days. These 'floating nannies' have all passed the criminal background check. They are also very reliable individuals. Obviously, parents may find another parent to swap duty days if they cannot work a particular day. The 'floating nannies' are just an additional layer of support for the co-op.

Classroom prep day

Seth Shapiro, DPR manager for permits, told me that there will be very little time allotted to us for cleaning / prepping the classroom this summer. We will only have the Saturday and Sunday prior to the first day of summer co-op. I would like to ask a group of volunteers to help me wipe down surfaces, sweep and mop, and in general, make the classroom inviting before co-op starts.

I will quarterback this process as we approach the summer. TBA.

Next steps

Once the student roster is finalized next week, below are the next steps:

(1) Collect tuition (for the 6-hour program, parents may submit two equal size payments)

(2) Select duty days

(3) Parent meeting at each summer co-op location (We will go over the duty day selections, meet and greet the other members of the summer co-op families, answer any lingering questions, etc.)

Thank you all for coming out on Sunday. Big thanks for reading this awfully long summary!

Selma & Young

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