

# The Schoolhouse Cooperative

Different Enough to Make a Difference



## What is “different enough to make a difference”?

From the beginning we knew that our goal was to foster children who would be different enough to make a difference in the world. That “difference”—the goal of nurturing creative change agents versus cogs in a wheel—has become one of our guiding principles. With that end in mind, we have chosen to focus on the children as learners and producers and not just test-takers and consumers. It is far more . . . Continued on Page 2.

## Why a cooperative?

We believe that our best resources are people! If you believe in the principle of multiplication, then what can you do with just a few students who are willing to grow and engage the community? Now what if you impacted not just students but whole families as well? We believe that if you get whole families involved in education, then you are that much closer to impacting an entire community!

While our teachers are well-equipped in their fields, we believe that every parent has something special to offer. So we create time and space for our parents to participate and share their skills with the children. Because of this, our children are learning animal husbandry, gardening, cooking, wilderness survival, and more!

## Save the Date!

### County Fair Day September 19

The kids are entering several projects into the County Fair! We will tour the fair and learn about animals.

### Visit to Orphanage October TBD

We will take gifts to the San Carlos Group Home and visit with the kids and staff.

### Thanksgiving Potluck November TBD

We will host a potluck and present what we've been learning.



## The Three Cs

Our pathway to raising up producers and learners is to focus not on content and curriculum but rather on **CREATIVITY, CURIOSITY, and CHARACTER.**

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...important that our children focus not on what they can *get* out of life but what they can *give* out of their lives. Instead of insisting on the mastery of content, we urge the kids to think and express themselves creatively, to engage the world with curiosity, and to develop a noble character.

**Creativity applies a multi-dimensional dynamic to learning.**

A creative learner thinks outside the box, not simply regurgitating information but digesting it, reforming it, and applying it in refreshing ways to new thoughts and actions. A creative learner develops his true voice, expressing himself in a way unique to him.

**Curiosity has inquiry at its center.**

A curious learner asks good questions and doesn't rest until she is satisfied with the best answers. A curious learner is a “wonderer,” often wondering why things are the way they are and wondering about the possibilities. Curiosity spawns the motivation to learn and discover new things.

**Character is the backbone of a learner.**

Character demonstrates the depth and resilience of a learner. Character determines whether a learner can persevere through a challenge, be it a difficult math problem or a relational squabble. Character causes a learner to choose to help his classmates rather than gloat over them. A learner of noble character disciplines himself to take responsibility for himself and for his learning community and in time the world.





## The Schoolhouse Farm Project

### Teaching families about sustainability

by Leslie J. Kang Kim

It has become common knowledge that the globe's resources are depleting little by little. The rise in food and gas prices plus the energy shortage are just a few signs of trouble ahead. My personal journey has led me to realize that my traditional, academic background has not prepared me at all for responsible or sustainable living. I became convicted that we needed an educational model that would not only teach children how to read, write, and do arithmetic but also train them how to live off the land and use the earth's resources in a sustainable way.

This led to the purchasing of a three-acre property with a weed-infested yard, a semi-dilapidated workshop, and abandoned animal pens. Thankfully, there was a small house on the property

as well. Much labor and money has already been invested into the project. The house is a beautiful, cozy setting for the children to learn; the garden has been expanded and yields giant squash and spicy peppers in particular; the creek in the back provides endless hours of exploration and solace to the kids during recess. But this is just the beginning.

We have several projects that have yet to be started due to limited funding. Please see page 5 to learn about our **Pending Projects**. But for now, I feel that I daily witness the beauty and strength of transformation, the growth that is born when imagination and inspiration meet the industry and investment of real people. Thanks to all who helped make the Schoolhouse Cooperative a reality!

## Does homeschooling prepare for college?

**74% of homeschooled graduates attended college versus only 46% of other 18-24 year olds**

Also, according to a US News article, 66.7% of students coming from a homeschool graduated college and had higher GPAs in comparison to only 57.5% from other schools.

*Many parents feel concern over homeschooling children who are college-bound. However, research shows that homeschooled graduates are not only better prepared academically but also socially for college. In fact, many college admissions officers actively recruit homeschooled graduates.*



## Meet our teachers!

### Leslie J. Kang Kim

Leslie is privileged to be a co-founder of The Schoolhouse Cooperative and the humanities teacher. After completing two masters' degrees, she worked for ten years as an educational pastor at a church in Mountain View, CA. She has several years experience as a volunteer in various cooperative schools in the SF Bay Area and spent two years as a teacher at a public charter school in Arizona.



### Christine Shin

After ten years of consulting at a Fortune 500 company, Chris turned her attention to education, co-founding The Schoolhouse Cooperative. With two years experience at a primary school in the African bush, she began teaching preschool and math at a public charter school. She continues to teach preschool at the Schoolhouse, which has served dozens of children in just a few years.



### Bryce Barnes

With a rich experience of working with youth as a community leader and teacher, Bryce comes to The Schoolhouse Cooperative as our math teacher. Over the last nine years, Bryce has taught and equipped a range of students from middle school to college. He currently teaches GED at the San Carlos detention center, where he piloted a project applying math to a garden on site.



### Stephanie Chan

Having recently moved from the SF Bay Area, Stephanie is joining our learning community as a science teacher. She graduated from Stanford University with a major in biological sciences and continued to UC Berkeley for her doctor of optometry. She has worked as an optometrist for five years and has had extensive experience working with children, tutoring both math and science at a Title 1 school.



## “When imagination and inspiration meet the industry and investment of real people...”

### Some pending projects and current needs

#### **The Schoolhouse Farm Project**

has just completed phase one of its growth plan, which focused on the schoolhouse itself and included the gardening project. The gardening project is on its second year and has produced baskets of fresh vegetables for our families and friends. The kids have recently measured out an expanded garden plot with Bryce who incorporated a math lesson into the activity. The children are currently researching fall produce with a plan to plant in the next few weeks.

**Animal husbandry and tree planting** are the focus of Phase two of the growth plan. We have a few animal pens, including a chicken coop and incubator. They need to be repaired and the land needs to be graded and sown with grass seed. While we already have connections to provide the animals, we are desperately in need of a tractor for the grading and sowing and for the planting of the trees. We are looking into planting a variety of fruit trees that do well in our subtropical climate. Our town runs a farmers market, and the idea is to sell the produce—fresh eggs and fruit and vegetables—at the market. This would be an invaluable lesson to the kids about sustainability and running a business, even a very small one! To start and finish the animal husbandry and tree project, we are looking to raise **\$30,000**.

**Building Expansion** When we began The Schoolhouse Cooperative, we already knew that we would quickly outgrow our building. Already it is amazing that we are able to serve as many families as we do! We have plans to expand by installing a modular building on the plateau above the schoolhouse. This building would serve two purposes. First, we could do school in it during the day and take some of the students off our waiting list. Secondly, we could start expanding the Schoolhouse Farm Project to include other families over the weekends. We would offer training on sustainability to these families in short weekend seminars. We already have several families who travel from other states—even some from overseas—to learn from us and share in the labor. We need **\$50,000** for the unit itself.

**Educational Technology** is a must in our day and age. We have been fortunate to receive several computers and science equipment from generous donors. But we still need educational technology to keep the kids up to date on current STEM initiatives. We are especially interested in getting a Smart board for the classroom. We would like to raise **\$10,000**.

***Tax-exempt donations** The Schoolhouse Cooperative is part of a nonprofit, which is pending approval by the IRS. If you are interested in donating or learning more about us, please contact us at [info@endlessknotcommunity.org](mailto:info@endlessknotcommunity.org). We would love to hear from you!*

# The Schoolhouse Cooperative

We are a learning community of children, parents, teachers, and community volunteers, who have joined together to raise up children who are different enough to make a difference in the world. We earnestly believe that new kinds of people can create new possibilities that can create very real prosperities for the community. Whether the person is a thriving three-year old or a struggling ninth grader, whether the learner is a writing teacher or a grandparent volunteer, we are committed to discovering our true potential and transforming together as a family.



Thank you!



## The Schoolhouse Cooperative

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[Recipient]

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