



The First Presbyterian Church Nursery School 12 W 12th Street New York, NY 10011 212-691-3432

Nancy-Ellen Micco
Interim Director

Susan Nason
Assistant to Director

Helen Makohon
Director of Admissions

November 15, 2013

On behalf of the First Presbyterian Church Nursery School and the Search Committee for the Director of the School, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Kathleen Cook as our Nursery School Director effective August 1, 2014. Our community wholeheartedly endorsed her candidacy with input from teachers, parents, and staff.

For the past several months, the Search Committee, working in conjunction with Linda MacMurray Gibbs of Resource Group 175, conducted a wide-reaching search, reviewed numerous applications and interviewed a number of talented and experienced candidates before enthusiastically making the recommendation to extend an offer to Kathleen.



Kathleen has ten years of experience in the classroom teaching young children from kindergarten through third grade at Packer Collegiate, Friends Seminary, and The Town School. In addition, she comes to us with eight years of administrative experience at independent schools in New York City, the most recent of which is the Trevor Day School where she serves as the Director of Lower School Admissions: from Nursery-Fifth Grades. At Trevor Day, Kathleen oversees the entire admissions process from inquiry to enrollment. She represents the school at open houses and admissions events throughout the city and we believe her experience, relationships and network will serve our families well in the on-going school process. As a member of Trevor's Leadership

Team, she reports directly to the Head of School. In addition to her most recent work at Trevor Day, Kathleen served as Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Financial Aid at Bank Street School for Children.

Kathleen graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in early childhood education from Brooklyn College: School of Education, and holds a Master of Arts degree in early childhood education from Columbia University - Teachers College.

She credits her parents who immigrated to the United States in 1971 for her work ethic and strong values. She is the youngest of six children and considers herself very fortunate to have had a strong education throughout her life as well as the love and support of her family.

Philosophically, Kathleen believes in developing all aspects of a young child's education and feels that the child should be met where he or she is and gently guided forward. She believes that children who are given the space to grow and develop their skills in a supportive environment develop confidence and kindness toward others. "Socially, children need to be encouraged to embrace the similarities and differences in their peers... Ethnic, religious and socioeconomic differences are an opportunity to teach inclusion and embrace diversity." Kathleen is supportive of the Reggio-Emilia inspired program at FPCNS.

Kathleen is married to Pierre Cook, the Athletic Director at Marymount School. They have a young daughter, Vivian.

We thank the entire Nursery School community for their support and involvement in this process, including Nancy-Ellen Micco for her continued leadership as Interim Director, the faculty for the time spent with our candidates, parents for their important feedback and the members of the Director Search Committee— Michelle Ackerman, Leslie Chang, Jason Fox, Margaret McClure, Larry Tallamy, Kara Van Norden, Cara Wall and Steven Wells. Each of them gave so much of their time and commitment to lead us to the next Director of the school. As we make this important announcement, we want again to thank Ellen Ziman for her leadership and vision in guiding the Nursery School over the last 20 years.

We are confident that Kathleen's leadership, collaborative style, strategic focus, and commitment to early childhood education will make her a wonderful Director to lead the Nursery School to the next level of excellence in the future.

Margaret L. McClure
Chair, FPCNS Board

Anne L. Gray
Chair, Director Search Committee