



KPM Institute News

Spring 2007

School Directors Pattye Henderson and Nancy Moore



Many of us already know the story: in 1994, Pattye Henderson and her husband Cliff Chapman were asked by Atma Vidya Educational Foundation to visit and observe Sri Atmananda Memorial School in Kerala, India, then in its 7th year of operation. Their young son, Mars, accompanied them and attended the model school during their six-week visit. Due partly to the happiness and intensity of his experience, Pattye and Cliff wished to start a KPM School in the US. That was the first step in the inauguration of Sri Atmananda Memorial School, Austin in September of 1995, with Pattye as its first director.

Among the initial group of KPM teacher trainees for the Austin school was Nancy Moore, already an experienced teacher. When Pattye left the school in 1999, Nancy took on the directorship. This spring, after seven years as director and twelve years at the school, Nancy announced her retirement. Pattye has agreed to return in August as

director, but has been active this spring in getting to know parents and teachers and in working with the Board of Directors.

Nancy Moore leaves with the deep appreciation of all for her dedicated stewardship of the school during critical years of development, and Pattye Henderson is welcomed with enthusiasm for the continued years of growth and development to come.

First Graduation

June 2, 2007 saw the Austin KPM School's first graduates take the stage and accept their diplomas from Director Nancy Moore. Almost 200 family members, school community members, and well-wishers participated in the brief but moving ceremony that drew most on the graduates' own experiences in the school. Graduates Marianne Shea, Katy Pyle, and Staci Ellison will all attend college in the central Texas area. As the school's first alumni they will set the same positive tone they exhibited as the school's vanguard students, and will continue to be a treasured part of the school community.



"The school has prepared me for life beyond... From the first day, I was told that I could do whatever I wanted, and I have been reminded of that every day since."

2007 Graduate

Dates to Note

Open Doors Coffees
Every Thursday 9-10am
Every 2nd Thursday
5:30-6:30pm
Every 2nd Sunday
3:00-4:00pm

Education Dialogues
First Monday, 7-8:30pm

We all share in the success

For more information about KPM Institute or school activities: 512-467-2820 or info@kpm institute.org

If you would like to volunteer in the school, in preserving the buildings and grounds, or in the KPM Institute, contact Susan Maze 512-467-2820 SusanMaze@kpm institute.org

If you wish to make a donation, please send a check or credit card information to KPM Institute 4100 Red River Austin, TX 78751 or contact Suzanne Pitman at 512-689-6109 or suzannepitman@kpm institute.org

KPM Institute is a tax exempt non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible.

4100 Red River Austin, TX 78751
info@kpm institute.org
512-467-2820
www.kpm institute.org
www.samschool.org

AVEF Accreditation

As a KPM School, Sri Atmananda Memorial School, Austin, depends on the support of Atma Vidya Educational Foundation (AVEF) to ensure that the KPM Approach to Children is practiced to the maximum benefit of the children. Teachers take their KPM training in India and KPM Institute Board members consult with colleagues there regularly. This collaboration is critical to keeping our implementation of the Approach strong. Periodically, AVEF conducts an accreditation review to refine the alignment of all aspects of the organization with the KPM Approach to Children. This year, the process began in March with a visit from AVEF staff members Edward Shelton-Agar and Sheridan Wilson. Sheri will return with Suzanne Buckley in August. Both visits include meetings with board members, managers and staff, teachers, and parents, as well as offering training sessions, question and answer opportunities, and general discussions. As a result of the process, we are experiencing changes in policy and procedure, new assignments and areas of focus, and a deeper sense on everyone's part of the benefits to be realized by practicing to the fullest the KPM Approach to Children.

"My teachers have always wanted to help me develop a passion for new knowledge, and it worked."

2007 Graduate

NPSAA Accreditation

Parallel to AVEF accreditation of the school is the US national accreditation that validates school credentials such as transcripts and diplomas. In March 2007, the school received full accreditation from the National Private Schools Accreditation Alliance following an

extensive self-study submitted in compliance with a number of standards and guidelines.

School Highlights

The alignment process has sparked progress on some long-held goals. Our salaried teachers will receive significant raises next year, and wage staff will see modest raises. The school website has been upgraded and is due for imminent release, thanks to the volunteer efforts of a group of talented parents. During the AVEF visit in August, we will



introduce upgraded training programs for new and volunteer staff, as well as strengthened parent education presentations. With almost all students returning next year, along with an anticipated ten new students, enrollment will approximate fifty-five. We will be hiring new teachers to fill in vacancies left by departing part-time teachers. Our core teaching staff remains stable, and to encourage that stability, we are working to convert wage positions to full-time salaried positions each year.

Purchasing the KPM Institute Grounds

The KPM Institute grounds have been ours — and the bank's — since 2002. That bank changed last year, from Bank of America, to A+ Federal Credit Union. The refinanced loan is for ten years, \$400,000 less than the original loan, and at a slightly lower monthly payment. Our StrongHold pledge

program, which supports the monthly loan payments, has been successful, and is approaching levels that will secure the payments for the duration of the loan.

Mansion Renovation

A group of parents and other supporters has assembled to try to obtain grants to help with maintenance and restoration of the Mansion. We have several likely granting agencies, and a team ready to start writing grants. Bids have been collected for roof repair, external woodwork, and iron-work (including the front door) projects, which are the most urgent. The property's designation as a Texas historical site is a resource, and likely to help us put together a series of grants over time that will not only bring the mansion and other buildings back to their original state, but bring us into fruitful contact with Austin's historical community.

Challenge Grant

Inspired by the AVEF accreditation process, two Board members have combined to offer a \$20,000 matching challenge grant. Goals of the accreditation process include making sure that the physical facilities fully support the learning environment, and ensuring that teacher salaries and wages contribute to building the strongest possible faculty. The challenge grant kick starts real progress in these areas during the coming year. The challenge will end September 30, and any new gifts between now and then will help us all to meet and multiply this generous opportunity.

"Because of all I have been given while a student here, I will carry this school with me wherever I go."
2007 Graduate