

Collection Contents

RG 332: Overlee Preschool Records (181 records)

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On August 7, 1945, a group of Arlington parents met to organize their own cooperative preschool. World War II brought an influx of permanent residents to the county: the population doubled between 1940 and 1944. An unprecedented demand for day care and early childhood education centers emerged since the county public school system did not offer preschool or kindergarten. Mrs. Hazel Mahler decided to organize a new cooperative preschool when she discovered the nearby Rock Spring Cooperative was full, the waitlist long, and local private schools remained too expensive. She organized a meeting with local, interested parents at her home to discuss how they could provide reasonably-priced education for their young children. The parents decided to form their own cooperative preschool, named Overlee Preschool in honor of the nearby neighborhood, Overlee Knolls. As a cooperative preschool, parents made all the decisions regarding school policy, tuition, and classroom activities. Parents paid tuition, hired professional teachers, managed finances, served on the board of directors, acted as teaching assistants, and maintained the school facilities.

The founding parents secured three rooms for their preschool in the Resurrection Lutheran Church on Washington Boulevard and North Powhatan Street in Arlington. The school opened on October 8, 1945 and offered a morning session for nursery and kindergarten age children. In 1947, Overlee offered a separate kindergarten class for the first time, as well as a nursery class for children aged three and four. Overlee discontinued kindergarten classes in 1960 when Arlington County Public Schools began to offer kindergarten. Instead, Overlee offered a separate class for 3-year-olds (called the Bluebirds) and 4-year-olds (called the Redbirds). In 1980, Overlee introduced an additional class for 2-year-olds (called the Yellowbirds). Overlee classes emphasized social and emotional development over other specific skills (like reading or math) through play, activities involving art, music, and nature, and field trips.

Overlee has occupied several different locations in Arlington since opening, all in local churches, though it has been nonsectarian throughout its existence.

1. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6201 N Washington Blvd (1945-1947)
2. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5533 N 16th Street (April 1947-September 12, 1955)
3. Christ Methodist Church, 5700 Lee Highway (September 13, 1955-1965)
4. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2425 N Glebe Rd (1965-1989)
5. Church of the Covenant, 2666 N Military Road (1989-present)

Field Trip to the Circus
Feeding the Elephants
Retirement/Christmas Banquet
Overlee Preschool Children Painting in the Classroom
Overlee Preschool Children Swinging on a Swing Set
Overlee Preschool September 1974 Newsletter
Overlee Preschool Open House
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Overlee Preschool Informational Brochure
Overlee Preschool February 1946 Newsletter
Overlee Preschool March 1972 Newsletter
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Overlee Easter Parade
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Pumpkin Patch Hay Ride
Halloween at Overlee Preschool
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Overlee Student and Parents
Overlee Student and Parents
Classroom Learning
Teacher and Students
Easter Hat
Easter Parade at Overlee
Feeding a Horse
Roosevelt Island Field Trip

CollectiveAccess

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Halloween Class Photo
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Halloween Clown
Pudding Painting
Playtime at Overlee
Trick-or-Treating at Overlee
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Easter Parade at Overlee
Easter Hats at Overlee
Overlee Halloween Parade
Classroom Lessons at Overlee
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Halloween Class Photo
Class Photo on the Playground
Waiting to Pet Animals
Pumpkin Patch Hay Ride
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Pumpkin Picking
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Kids on the Playground
Kids on the Playground
Kids on the Playground
Kids on the Playground
Painting with Heart
Kids at a Table
Young Overlee Student
Sue Hewitt with Students
Sue Hewitt with Students
Sue Hewitt with Students
Shy Overlee Student
Cello Concert at Overlee
Reading Time at Overlee
Future Fireman
Overlee Students
Harriet Ahalt with Students
Conversation with Sue Hewitt
Piano Lessons
Young Overlee Student
Overlee Students and Teacher
Crafting
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Cello Lessons
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Snack Time at the Pumpkin Patch
Jack-o-Lantern Inspection
Making Menorahs
Halloween at Overlee
Daniel and Clare with Blocks
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Music Lessons at Overlee
Playing in the Snow
Making Snowballs

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Easter Parade at Overlee
Easter Parade at Overlee
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Circus Day at Overlee
Circus Day at Overlee
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Birthday Party at Overlee
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Hungry Cows
Crafting at Overlee
Indoor Moving Day
Halloween Class Photo
Inspecting Construction
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Sue Hewitt with Students
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Sue Hewitt on the Playground
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Mini Train Passengers
Father's Day at Overlee
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Young Overlee Student
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Empty Playground
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Playing on the Playground
Playing on the Playground
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Spinning the Merry-go-Round
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Playing on Playground
Playing on Slide
Playing on Playground
Spinning the Merry-go-Round
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Overlee Easter Parade
Overlee Easter Parade
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Playing on Slide
Flags at Father's Day
Father's Day at Overlee
Field Trip to the Circus
Field Trip to the Circus
Feeding an Elephant
Field Trip to the Circus
Playing in the Yard
Riding a Tricycle
Playing Near the Sandbox
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Slide
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Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Playground
5 Overlee Students
5 Overlee Students
5 Overlee Students
5 Overlee Students
Students with David Pryor
Mrs. Slobogin's Bluebird Class
Overlee Student Art Display
Overlee Student Art Display
Overlee Student Art Display
Overlee Trick-or-Treaters

Series 1: Cooperative Preschool Association Literature and Correspondence

File 1: "Parent Cooperative Preschools International (Overlee a Founder), 1958- 1986"

File 2: "Northern Virginia Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, Inc. Workshop Reports, 1961-1980"

File 3: [Handbook]- "Northern Virginia Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, Inc, 1976"

File 4: "Council of Cooperative Preschools of Northern Virginia-Surveys and Directories, 1970-1989"

File 5: "Council of Cooperative [Pre]Schools of Northern Virginia-Minutes, Bylaws, Newsletters, [pamphlets, calendars, memos], 1981-1990"

Series 2: Financial Records

File 1: "Budgets," [Treasurer's Reports, and Financial Correspondence], 1973-1990

Series 3: Administrative Files

Subseries 1: History File

File 1: "History of Overlee Preschool"-[brochures, newsletters, constitution/bylaws, newspaper clippings, relocation documents], 1946-1968 (3 records)

Certificate of Occupancy

Overlee Preschool Informational Brochure

Overlee Preschool February 1946 Newsletter

Subseries 2: Events and Student Activities

File 1: "Overlee's 40th Anniversary" [Planning], 1986

File 2: "Press Releases/40th Anniversary" [Planning], 1986-1995

File 3: "Overlee's 50th Anniversary" [Planning], 1996

File 4: "Field Trips," [Reports], 1972-1973, 1978-1980, 1984-1985, 1993, 1999

File 5: "Field Trips," [Announcements], 1972-1973, 1978-1980, 1984-1985, 1993, 1999

File 6: "Camp and Playground Reports," 1971, 1973, 1984, 1989, n.d.

File 7: "Class Schedules/Playground Rules," n.d.

Subseries 3: Brochures and Handbooks

File 1: "Child Guidance Pamphlets," 1946, 1951, 1953, 1957, 1959, n.d.

File 2: "Old Advertising Brochures" [and 1988 Overlee statistics, 1989 relocation letters], 1988-1989, 2000-2001, n.d.

File 3: [Handbook for Overlee Parents], 1984, 1990

File 4: "Old Handbooks" [for Overlee Parents], 2007-2013

Series 4: Overlee Preschool Association Newsletter

File 1: "September" [Newsletters], 1990-1994, 1996-1998

File 2: "September" [Newsletters], 1981-1986, 1988-1989

File 3: "September" [Newsletters], 1970-1979 (1 record)
Overlee Preschool September 1974 Newsletter

File 4: "October" [Newsletters], 1990-1994, 1996, 1998

File 5: "October" [Newsletters], 1980-1981, 1983, 1985-1989

File 6: "October" [Newsletters], 1971-1972, 1975-1979

File 7: "November" [Newsletters], 1990-1998

File 8: "November" [Newsletters], 1980-1981, 1984-1989

File 9: "November" [Newsletters], 1970-1973, 1975-1979

File 10: "December" [Newsletters], 1991-1997

File 11: "December" [Newsletters], 1980-1989

File 12: "December" [Newsletters], 1971-1973, 1975-1979

File 13: "January" [Newsletters], 1990-1999

File 14: "January" [Newsletters], 1982-1983, 1985, 1987-1989

File 15: "January" [Newsletters], 1970, 1972-1975, 1977-1978

File 16: "February" [Newsletters], 1990-1999

File 17: "February" [Newsletters], 1980-1989

File 18: "February" [Newsletters], 1970-1978

File 19: "March" [Newsletters], 1990-1999

File 20: "March" [Newsletters], 1980-1989

File 21: "March" [Newsletters], 1969-1979 (1 record)
Overlee Preschool March 1972 Newsletter

File 22: "April" [Newsletters], 1990-1999

File 23: "April" [Newsletters], 1981-1982, 1984-1989

File 24: "April" [Newsletters], 1970-1979

File 25: "May" [Newsletters], 1990-1994, 1996-1999

File 26: "May" [Newsletters], 1980-1989

File 27: "May" [Newsletters], 1970-1974, 1976, 1978-1979

File 28: "June" [Newsletters], 1990-1999

File 29: "June" [Newsletters], 1970-1972, 1975, 1981-1982, 1986-1987

File 30: [Newsletter Editor Instructions], 1983-1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1996

File 31: "Assorted Newsletters," 1979, 1981, 1983, 1988-1990

Series 5: Audio-Visual Materials

File 1: "Mrs. Sue Hewitt, 25 years," videotape, n.d.

File 2: "Photographs-Color," [1984], 1985-1989 (45 records)

Easter Hats at Overlee
Overlee Easter Parade
Overlee Halloween
Pumpkin Patch Hay Ride
Halloween at Overlee Preschool
Kitchen Class
Overlee Student and Parents
Overlee Student and Parents
Classroom Learning
Teacher and Students
Easter Hat
Easter Parade at Overlee
Feeding a Horse
Roosevelt Island Field Trip
Halloween Class Photo
Halloween Class Photo
Trick-or-Treating at Overlee
Halloween Clown
Pudding Painting
Playtime at Overlee
Trick-or-Treating at Overlee
Class Photo with Easter Hats
Easter Parade at Overlee
Easter Parade at Overlee
Easter Hats at Overlee
Overlee Halloween Parade
Classroom Lessons at Overlee
Halloween Witch
Halloween Class Photo
Class Photo on the Playground
Waiting to Pet Animals
Pumpkin Patch Hay Ride
Teacher Luncheon
Crafting with Parents
Captive Audience
Halloween at Overlee
Field Trip Snack Time
Pumpkin Picking
Teacher Luncheon
Easter Hats at Overlee
Snack Time at the Pumpkin Patch
Goose Saying "Hello"
Easter Hats at Overlee
Gardening at Overlee
Overlee Trick-or-Treaters

File 3: [Halloween, Last Day of School], 1988-1989 (4 records)

Kids on the Playground
Kids on the Playground
Kids on the Playground
Kids on the Playground

File 4: "Photographs-8"x10" Black & White," 1986 (8 records)

- Painting with Heart
- Kids at a Table
- Young Overlee Student
- Sue Hewitt with Students
- Sue Hewitt with Students
- Sue Hewitt with Students
- Shy Overlee Student
- Cello Concert at Overlee

File 5: "Photographs-8"x10" Black & White," 1986 (13 records)

- Reading Time at Overlee
- Future Fireman
- Overlee Students
- Harriet Ahalt with Students
- Conversation with Sue Hewitt
- Piano Lessons
- Young Overlee Student
- Overlee Students and Teacher
- Crafting
- Young Overlee Student
- Cello Lessons
- Two Overlee Students
- Playing in the Tub

File 6: [Photograph Album 1], 1997

File 7: [Photograph Album 2], 1992-1993 (1 record)

- Snack Time at the Pumpkin Patch

File 8: "Need Copies," [Loose Photographs and Photo Boards], 1984-2004 (54 records)

- Jack-o-Lantern Inspection
- Making Menorahs
- Halloween at Overlee
- Daniel and Clare with Blocks
- Overlee Birthday Party
- Overlee Birthday Party
- Music Lessons at Overlee
- Playing in the Snow
- Making Snowballs
- Playing in the Snow
- Easter Parade at Overlee
- Easter Parade at Overlee
- Easter Parade at Overlee
- Circus Day at Overlee
- Overlee Students
- Circus Day at Overlee
- Circus Day at Overlee
- Circus Day at Overlee
- Playtime at Overlee
- Birthday Party at Overlee
- Petting Horses
- Field Trip
- Hungry Cows
- Crafting at Overlee
- Indoor Moving Day
- Halloween Class Photo
- Inspecting Construction
- Construction at Night
- Sue Hewitt with Students
- Father's Day at Overlee
- Father's Day at Overlee
- Walking the Baby
- Father's Day at Overlee
- Father's Day at Overlee

Flags and Hats
Traffic on the Playground
Father's Day on the Playground
Sue Hewitt on the Playground
Overlee Playground
Overlee Merry-go-round
Father's Day at Overlee
Father's Day at Overlee
Father's Day at Overlee
Mini Train Passengers
Father's Day at Overlee
Teacher with Student
Playing in the Tub
Young Overlee Student
Father's Day at Overlee
Father's Day at Overlee
Empty Playground
Empty Playground
Moving the Playground
Moving the Playground

File 9: [Photograph Album 3], 1981-1982, 1988-1989

File 10: [Scrapbook 1], 1970, n.d. (50 records)

Overlee Preschool Open House
Field Trip to the Circus
Feeding the Elephants
Retirement/Christmas Banquet
Overlee Preschool Children Painting in the Classroom
Overlee Preschool Children Swinging on a Swing Set
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Playground
Playing on the Playground
Playing on the Playground
Teacher with Student
Two Students on Playground
Spinning the Merry-go-Round
Spinning the Merry-go-Round
Woman in Classroom
Playing on Slide
Playing on Playground
Field Trip to the Circus
Field Trip to the Circus
Feeding an Elephant
Field Trip to the Circus
Playing in the Yard
Riding a Tricycle
Playing Near the Sandbox
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Playground
Playing on the Slide
Playing on the Playground
5 Overlee Students
5 Overlee Students
5 Overlee Students
5 Overlee Students
Students with David Pryor
Playing on Slide
Playing on Playground
Spinning the Merry-go-Round
Overlee Easter Parade

CollectiveAccess

Overlee Easter Parade
Overlee Easter Parade
Playing on Slide
Flags at Father's Day
Father's Day at Overlee
Mrs. Slobogin's Bluebird Class
Overlee Student Art Display
Overlee Student Art Display
Overlee Student Art Display

File 11: [Scrapbook 2], 1947, 1952-1964, 1967-1968, 1970, 1972, 1977, 1979, n.d.