



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kids and Parents Get "Fired Up" for Creative Development  
at the new Kids 'N' Clay Pottery Studio in Stafford (*Fredericksburg*) VA!**

Berkeley, CA – Thursday, April 12, 2007 – Kids 'N' Clay Pottery Studios ([www.kidsnclay.com](http://www.kidsnclay.com)) are pleased to announce the opening of their newest location in the DC Area – Stafford, VA (other locations include Baltimore/WhiteMarsh and McLean, VA). The **Stafford** studio will hold a **GALA Grand Opening on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Plantation Commons Shopping Center, 11 Smokehouse Drive, Fredericksburg (at Route 17 and Plantation Dr).**

**Joyce Leatherwood**, the local owner and studio manager, is excited to bring Kids 'N' Clay to the Fredericksburg area. As a mother of two herself, and her years as an arts educator in the No VA school system, Joyce is vitally aware of the dramatic effect that the creative arts can play in children's development and success in life. <sup>1</sup>

"I receive great pleasure seeing kids (*and big "kids" too!*) learn and grow by letting their imaginations and creativity blossom", says Joyce. Ms. Leatherwood has been a professional clay artist and arts educator in the area for many years. Joyce continues; "I'm excited to continue my involvement in helping the children of our community thrive through these positive educational programs. Exposure to the arts forever changes the way a child views the world around them. And, it's important that they have fun, too!"

Kids 'N' Clay offers a variety of programs and activities, including ongoing wet clay classes for kids and adults, a beautiful and expansive "Paint-Your-Own" pottery studio and special event programs such as Birthday Parties and Scout Parties.

As part of the national expansion of the Kids 'N' Clay Pottery Studios system, the Stafford studio is proud to be the third location in the greater No VA / DC metro.

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<sup>1</sup> Living the Arts through Language + Learning: Shirley Brice Heath, Stanford University and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Americans for the Arts Monograph, November 1998  
[http://www.americansforthearts.org/public\\_awareness/facts/](http://www.americansforthearts.org/public_awareness/facts/)

ABOUT KIDS 'N' CLAY: Kids 'N' Clay Pottery Studio, founded in Berkeley CA in 1988 by recognized and collected ceramic artist Kevin Nierman, has achieved national acclaim for its innovative programs, as documented in the best-selling book "The Kids 'N' Clay Ceramics Book" (*Ten Speed Press*). Due to the continuing cuts to extracurricular programs within the schools, combined with the success of the book, Mr. Nierman had been receiving calls over the last few years from all over the U.S. regarding his programs.

The atmosphere at Kids 'N' Clay Studio is conducive to experimentation and originality. Skills gained through their involvement in the program include social interaction skills, math and creative problem solving techniques and self validation through accomplishment of a task; all while learning the craft of ceramics. Children participate in techniques that include hand-building, wheel throwing, and sculpting, as well as glazing and finishing.

Kids 'N' Clay is structured to enable children to find their own unique solutions. Nierman observes, "It's important for children to make their own decisions and mistakes, as part of the developmental process. This freedom to explore is a significant part of child development that is sometimes lacking in our traditional educational environments today."

The high teacher-to-student ratio at Kids 'N' Clay enables the proper level of assistance and supervision to support the creative process and maintain studio order, while still fostering the fundamental tenant of personal freedom and the expression of individuality.

Another important element that Kids 'N' Clay nourishes is that of community; both between the participants as well as between the families.

Kids 'N' Clay Pottery Studio in Berkeley has been nurturing creativity in young people since 1988. Students range in age from 3 to 18 years and are encouraged to explore their creativity while they learn the craft of ceramics. Kids 'N' Clay was founded by Kevin Nierman, a widely-recognized ceramic artist, who believes that by learning to express and execute their personal visions in clay; children can become empowered in ways that go far beyond the walls of their ceramic studio or classroom. Kids 'N' Clay is currently expanding throughout the North American market through their franchise offering, which was launched in late spring 2005.

For more information, please contact Kids 'N' Clay by phone at 866.KID.CLAY (866.543.2529), ext 310, by email at [press@kidsnclay.com](mailto:press@kidsnclay.com), or visit [www.kidsnclay.com](http://www.kidsnclay.com).

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