

Welcome to Cookie Cafe!

Carol Guest, aka "MOM Guest," had some time on her hands. In September of 2007 she thought she needed something to do between the Band of Sisters meeting that she monitored, and catching a ride home. Armed with a gallon of milk and some cookie dough made the night before, she set up some paper plates and cups in Land Hall and began baking. As the hall is open to Midshipmen who want to study, relax or take a cat nap, she worked very quietly. It didn't take long before the smell of freshly baked cookies perked up the students' noses and led them to her wonderful confections. For those in dreamland, she placed a cup of milk and warm cookies by their side.

Imagine their surprise when they woke up...

MOM Guest didn't spread the word, but it wasn't long before the news traveled *fast*. Rules of the house? Everything is ON the house. Do not stand at attention or salute, enjoy as much food and drink as you like and relax. MOM's biggest delight was getting a hug from the students, and they happily lined up to make sure she got those hugs.



By spring of 2008, the numbers had gone from 5-10 attendees to over 450. And MOM Guest had her work cut out. After three straight days of baking at home, she would stuff her van to the brim with cookies, drinks and kitchen equipment (you might even say "everything but the kitchen sink" and be perfectly accurate!). And the crowd went wild. More than the cookies, the Mids ate up the little bit of home that they missed so much. "I'm able to make it through the week knowing Cookie Cafe is coming. It keeps me going when the regimental lifestyle starts to get me down," says one Mid as he hugs MOM Guest. "I feel like I am home," says another.

As the end of the school year approached, more and more parents started to pitch in by sending cookies and supplies, and a plan was put into place for the 2008-2009 Cookie Cafe schedule. A website was created, and the Kings Point Parents Associations across the country were invited to help out by sponsoring Cookie Cafe events.

And they responded in a big, big way! Were it not for the generosity of KP parents, Cookie Cafe would have suffered greatly. No Mid is ever turned away without treats - all because of you parents who love to bake. And you must admit...it IS fun!

After over 17 years, Cookie Cafe is bigger and better than ever! Many events sport 700+ eager eaters. Carol calls this perfect balance a "well-oiled machine" and a "three-legged stool:"

- Leg 1. Parents who bake cookies and send them
- Leg 2. Parents who come and help on site each week
- Leg 3. Parents who help organize behind the scenes and keep up the communication.

It's a most wonderful way to stay involved and stay close.

THE DETAILS:

Cookie Cafe begins in September and is scheduled for as many Thursdays as possible. Parents and volunteers (and any parent may arrange to volunteer!) arrive at Land Hall around 9 am to unpack boxes and set up table after table of goodies, *hundreds of dozens*, that have been baked and shipped by KP parents across the country. They also set out an array of beverages, fresh fruits, yogurt, bagels, health bars and the like. We also do our best to accommodate special requests from parents who donate.

The Mids start arriving late morning and clean-up ends the day. In between, this is a well-loved, well-deserved break where the kids can unwind, have some great food and enjoy each other.

AND IT'S ALL FREE TO THEM

A **HUGE Thank You** goes out to the indispensable wives of KP staff members who have kept CC running through thick and thin! Without their loving help, CC would surely have foundered.

Parents who join their regional USMMA Parent Associations will be contacted by a coordinator about the date(s) their PA is sponsoring. Parents bake and ship boxes and/or donate money via PayPal or check. Many CC events have holiday or novelty themes that add a lot of fun to the day. Other sponsors include "KP Classes of..." individual Companies (Band Co, 5th Co, etc) and KP sports groups.

Parents who are not a member of a USMMA Parent Association may contact leslie@kpcookiecafe.com or muffi@kpcookiecafe.com and contribute goodies as a "Cookie Angel" whenever they desire. Sometimes Cookie Angels are called upon if extra goodies are needed. All will be provided with an exclusive shipping label that ensures the packages arrive at the right place at KP.

Our website www.kpcookiecafe.com has much more information about the Cafe and how to help, along with a schedule of events and their themes. Take a look around the site. Links to email Leslie or myself are also easy to find. We also have a private Facebook group, [KP Cookie Cafe](#), where tons of photos are uploaded each event.

We heartily welcome you to the Cookie Cafe Family and hope you enjoy it as much as the Midshipmen and all of us do!

— Muffi Grinnell, Chief Cook & Bottlewasher
Spencer, KP 2011 & Jamison KP 2014

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