alumni news from Lincoln Nursery School at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

Dear Alumni,

This year’s newsletter focuses on connections, a main ingredient in the LNS experience. Connections abound because our teachers intentionally offer the children a multiplicity of relationships with children and adults, open-ended materials, our context of sculpture and art, and time in nature. The LNS teachers’ collaboration with deCordova’s Learning and Engagement (L&E) staff extends the opportunities we offer the children and in turn influences the programming L&E offers to the broader community.

Our cooperative roots continue to engender connections among parents and teachers. At morning arrival and at the end of the school day, parents and childcare providers converse with each other and check in with teachers. Evening Board and committee meetings bring parents together to work on projects that support the social, educational, physical environment, financial, and operational needs of the school. Times change, but the core of LNS remains: valuing relationships. As alumni, you have influenced LNS. I invite you to stop by for a visit. The new courtyard outside the Cafe at deCordova is a lovely place to gather (several LNS alumni parents were involved in the design and development of this space). Be sure to view the documentation of LNS children in the vestibule of the cafe that opens to the courtyard.

“The first and most revolutionary principle in the Reggio Approach is both that individuals are not, as it were, isolated one from the other, and that human sensibility is based on a sharing of minds and hearts in dialogue and interaction.” — Jerome S. Bruner

Warmly,

Warmly,

I would like to make a tax deductible gift to Lincoln Nursery School in the amount of: _______________

My check, payable to Lincoln Nursery School, is enclosed.

NAME: _____________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________

EMAIL: _____________________________

YOUR GIFT KEEPS LNS BLOOMING!

A SUCCESSFUL SNOW GLOBE MORNING

On a Sunday in late January, more than 60 children flocked to the Carriage House at the deCordova Museum to craft their own Winter Wonderland Snow Globes. The wintry morning was part of the annual Lincoln Winter Carnival, and it brought together current LNS families, alumni, and the greater community. Alumna Russell and Lucy Reiner (pictured) enjoyed being back at the deCordova for the event.

Lucy says, “Making snow globes was fun because I recognized that room and I have some friends.” And Russell is a deCordova super fan. He notes, “I really liked the snow globes because I really like deCordova because of all the sculptures and stuff it has.” We agree, Russell!

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LNS parent and alum Andrew Coleman recently spent a morning sharing his talent as a professional chef with the lucky, snacky kids in Studio Yellow, making and serving homemade pasta. When I ask Coleman what it’s like to cook in the classroom with the children, he laughs at the stark difference from cooking in a professional kitchen. “Professional cooking is refined,” he says. “In the classroom it’s all about the joy of creation, and joy in the process.” Coleman enjoys showing his own children, Julia (Yellow) and Sage (Kindergarten), the process of creating a dish and emphasizes the importance of showing them where their food comes from. “They might see a chicken on a farm and not realize that this is where the chicken on their plate comes from. It’s important that they understand that connection.”

Connection is a theme here: Coleman’s upbringing in Lincoln has him steeped in connections to LNS and the DeCordova. He attended preschool at the Old Stone Church, recalls pottery classes and after-school art and jewelry-making classes in the DeCordova studios, and began his culinary career in the kitchen of the DeCordova Cafe. He jokes that he “hasn’t gone very far,” which is funny because it’s not true; after the DeCordova Cafe, he studied at the Culinary Institute of America before his career took him to a five-star resort in Colorado, several prominent spots in Boston, and on to his present position as executive chef at Belmont Country Club.

Coleman uses the word “joy” to describe cooking in the classroom with his daughter and her classmates, and the word comes up again when he realizes that this is where the chicken on their plate comes from. It’s important that they understand that connection.”

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Our amazing teacher Lauri is marking 20 years at LNS! We spoke with one of her former students, Lucy Chatfield (Groton School - Class of 2018), about her memories of being in class with Lauri. “I remember painting with my hands, picking seeds out of a sunflower, making apple cider, playing on the monkey bars, and being read books out loud,” Chatfield says. “But more than just that, there was always an overwhelming sense of warmth and kindness, so thank you, Lauri!”

Do you have fond memories of Lauri to share? Please join us as we celebrate her 20 years of teaching at Lincoln Nursery School!

Thursday, May 24, 6-8 pm
Studio Red and LNS Courtyard
DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
51 Sandy Pond Road, Lincoln
RSVP by May 10 to lisa@lincolnnurseryschool.org

Alum Francesca (Chessy) Singer recently returned to LNS for three weeks as part of a senior school project at the Commonwealth School in Boston. Chessy explains that students at the Commonwealth School have the opportunity to spend some time on “a single project such as a visual masterpiece, programming experiment, or internship.” She decided to spend time learning the workings of a classroom at LNS, using the experience to inform her own future career goals. Chessy says, “For my project, I shadowed and assisted alongside Sue and Alice in Studio Yellow, where I also happened to have spent all of 2001. The tangible charm of my project was that I attended Lincoln Nursery School, and came full circle by joining its community once again. I felt as if I could take a step back from my typically uber-busy schedule and see school the way I initially saw it—as a cozy play environment brimming with friends.” Chessy notes that spending time back at her first school called to mind some key lessons she learned at LNS: “I was able to appreciate and provide the lessons of loyalty, observation, and individuality that I’ve held close to my heart for the past fifteen years.”