



LINCOLN NURSERY SCHOOL
at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

News & Notes

JUNE 2014



Please join us!

**The Last Day of
School Celebration!**

Thursday June 19th

The Dewey Gallery, 11:00am

Mark will lead us in a Sing-a-Long followed by the showing of the LNS 2013-2014 DVD



Dear Alumni,

Since our move, I'm often asked, "How are things going for LNS at deCordova? Do you like the new location?" My response is always a resounding, "It has been terrific!" Our school philosophy of play-based education, parental involvement, deliberate pace and outdoor exploration continues at deCordova. Between the Sculpture Park, Museum and conservation trails, the children have so many interesting possibilities for discovery. In addition, this year we have hosted many educators, both local and international, for professional development work. They are amazed by the environments created within the studios by our dedicated teachers, and consistently share the observation that the children are so happy and engaged.

Many friendships begin at LNS. For parents, it is a time in life when the stresses of family and work create the need for support. Our new space helps to facilitate parent communication and friendships. Where do parent conversations take place? In addition to the parking lot and outdoor play space, we now have an indoor hub for social and work interactions that support the development of adult friendships—the LNS office! The new office space has work counters and stools for teachers and parents, a small reception area for families arriving for enrollment tours, a business desk, and a director's office with a window and a door! It's very exciting to have the "form" to support the many interactive "functions" of our school. You are always welcome to stop by and see what's happening at LNS. It will brighten your day!

Our school's history states, "LNS was started in 1944 by a group of parents who believed in a cooperative preschool education..." Happy 70th Anniversary Lincoln Nursery School!

Warmly,

Nancy Fincke

Director, Lincoln Nursery School



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Staff News

Studio Red Welcomes Natalie Kleefeld

Natalie joins us after graduating from the Masters program in Child Development at Tufts. She has spent the last year working with Lella Gandini (U.S. liason for the Reggio Emilia approach), studying children as researchers and the design of children's learning spaces, and helping Lella prepare her professional archive to be submitted to the Museum of Play. In addition to her work with Lella, she has been teaching for the past seven years in Reggio-inspired preschool and kindergarten classrooms, both in San Francisco and Boston. She is passionate about her work with young children and we are all thrilled to have her join our LNS community!



A Parent Perspective— Carl Robinson, Dad of Sawyer in Studio Purple

Our experience with LNS began before our son Sawyer ever stepped foot onto the campus for his first day of school. From the outset of the Open House, we knew that this would be the right place for him. Having taken a look at a number of other local preschools, the "children first" attitude of the teachers, the clear learning through play teaching philosophy of Reggio Emilia, and the passion of the director, Nancy Fincke, came shining through. Over a xylophone at that first introduction, Sawyer rapidly made a connection with Mark Weltner, one of his first year teachers in Blue class and his Music and Movement teacher since. After Sawyer's acceptance at the school, we decided to attend the annual Gala fundraising event, where we had the opportunity to meet the rest of the LNS parent community. We immediately felt at home. By the start of the school year, we felt as though we were already a part of the community and this made the transition extremely easy.

Unlike most other pre-schools, we have found that the cooperative aspect of the school enables parents to be an integral part of the school and its community. Parents play an enormous role serving as board members, on committees, and in the classroom. The time spent in the classroom has given my wife and me an amazing opportunity to get to know the teachers, Sawyer's friends, and what they are doing in the class. Importantly, we try to incorporate these same activities and discussions into our time with Sawyer at home.

Additionally, parents can bring a great deal of added value to the classroom setting. The kids are much more comfortable and on a first-name basis with the parent helpers, and at the same time the parents become more comfortable becoming a part of the curriculum. There is a great deal of excitement on Sawyer's part when one of us is room parent, as he gets to choose what we are going to bring for class snack that day and even select the book that will be read to the class. On that day, we really feel like we are an integral part of the class, while making a positive impact on the children.

We know that the LNS experience is one which will set our son up for success when he moves on to Kindergarten, and that the tools, skills, and friendships which he has generated during his time will be prevalent for him moving forward. I truly believe that the LNS experience has been profound not only for Sawyer, but for his parents too.

—Carl Robinson



Letter from LNS alumni— and current studio purple co-teacher, Cathy Mara

Hard to believe that it was more than 17 years ago when our family first joined LNS. At my first board meeting, I remember rocking my newborn son in his car seat with my foot while I recorded the meeting's minutes. Secretary twice, room parent twice, editor and president, but one of my favorite parts of LNS was parent helping. With sisters 3½ and 2 at home, there was no shortage of that activity in those years. I marveled at the creativity of the staff and the depth of their caring. I was in awe of their insight and understanding. Modeling what I saw – and much to my husband's chagrin – I set up learning centers throughout our small cape in North Lincoln. Those were magical years.

It's no wonder that when my "baby" was ready to leave LNS, I just couldn't go. Luckily, another favorite part of LNS – Nancy Fincke – didn't want me to go either. (One could say that my children graduated from preschool, but I didn't.) For the next four years, I worked on my early childhood education certification and taught at LNS. We learned and we explored the world together. It was a beautiful and life-changing experience.

When my husband's job beckoned us to Washington State, I left LNS with a heavy heart. Summer visits kept us in touch, and I learned from Nancy about the pilot program at deCordova. Talk about exciting! We had been deCordova regulars in those early years. I remember lunching with the "ladies in the trees" as my 3-year-old called them. We were perched on a steep incline as she and her sister danced around the "ladies" – pine trees artfully clad in green mesh "dresses." The girls were also deCordova summer camp regulars. This was the place where our eldest's interest in photography began, and perhaps even her interest in the world. We'd go to deCordova to walk and talk and change the air, and our perspectives. Some things – luckily – just don't change.

Each morning as I drive into work, I once again marvel. I greet each of the sculptures that line deCordova's entryway. Seven years after our departure, I find myself back at LNS with Nancy, and new and familiar – but all equally amazing – colleagues. We gather here in this stunning setting to nurture children, to help them become their best selves. Inspired by the schools of Reggio Emilia, we encourage these children to find their methods of self-expression, their voices. We guide them inside to find themselves, and outside, to discover the world around them. I am so honored and moved to be a part of the magical synergy that comes from LNS' collaboration with deCordova. I don't believe it's overstated to say we're making the world a better place one child at a time.

✂ — Cathy Mara



We would love to hear from you!

Please send us news about your family, and especially your kids, to be featured in the next newsletter! Either send us a note in the mail or email us at alumni@lincolnnurseryschool.org.

Every little bit helps!

amazon We earn **8-10% back** on any Amazon purchase! Please just launch it from our website www.lincolnnurseryschool.org and shop! It's an easy way to help us raise money for the school.

Donating is easy!

You can make a secure online donation to LNS through Paypal. Just visit us at: www.lincolnnurseryschool.org/about/alumni

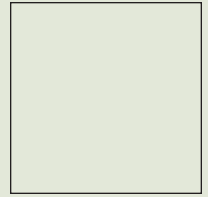


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LINCOLN NURSERY SCHOOL

PO Box 6075, Lincoln, MA 01773



We welcome your support!

Fundraising is an important piece of keeping LNS thriving. Many thanks to those families and individuals who have already generously donated! If you are interested in making a contribution, please fill out this form and send it to **Lincoln Nursery School, PO Box 6075, Lincoln, MA 01773**



I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to LNS in the amount of:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Comments/Volunteer Skills and Availability: _____

Amount Enclosed:

(Payable to Lincoln Nursery School)