



Lincoln Nursery School

News & Notes

MARCH 2009



Please join us!

**Connect with LNS alumni
and current families at
our annual fundraiser.**

For tickets, e-mail
Crista Oppenheim at
cristalynopps@gmail.com.

**Bemis Hall, Lincoln
Saturday, March 7, 2009
6:30 – 11:00 p.m.**



Dear LNS families,

This past year we've all seen democracy in action at many levels. As a cooperative school, the principles of democratic participation for parents, teachers and children are at the core of our school culture. Do you remember participating in a board meeting, a committee meeting, a work day and parent helping? I would venture to say that these were democratic experiences and sometimes, the length of a meeting (long) was a telltale sign that the democracy was working! The faculty also participates democratically as they collaborate with each other and with parents in the classroom. Our study of Reggio (a municipal system of infant-toddler centers and preschools in Reggio Emilia, Italy, which is world renowned for pioneering advancements in the field of early childhood) encourages us to think about how we create democracy in our classrooms.

The LNS environment respects and values each child, and is rich in the quantity and quality of relationships with children and adults. These elements provide a basis for democracy. Eliciting children's thoughts through conversation, listening to possibilities and offering a variety of ways for them to express their ideas offers children a way to make meaning of their world. Playing and working in small groups that share an interest gives children the opportunity to make discoveries at a deeper level. Our work is to give children their voice and make it visible to the community, and to celebrate the important role of parents in the classroom, as well as in the administration of LNS.

As you will see in our newsletter, our year has been filled with growing, learning and fun, and our hope is to stay connected to the important people in our past who have helped us create our future. Our alumni have played a key part in the democracy of Lincoln Nursery School and create continuity for our school. I invite and encourage you to stay in touch, and also to come visit. Whenever you decide to come you will be most welcome and you'll have a chance to reconnect with a community where the seeds of democracy come to life in our classrooms, and childhood explorations begin. Be well,

— *Nancy Fincke,*
LNS Director



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LNS faculty news

Congratulations to Carla and Michael Griffin on the birth of their twins!

Garrett Michael and Joseph Carmen joined the world on December 10, 2008.

Welcome Kelley! Kelley Lewis joined us this year as a lead teacher in the Yellow Class. Kelley has over 10 years experience teaching in Waldorf Schools and earlier in her career taught for 5 years in early childhood settings. She has a Master of Science in elementary and Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College of Education.

Welcome Sue Higson! Sue is the assistant teacher in the Green Class. She has a Bachelor's from the Boston College School of Management and certification in Early Childhood Education. Sue was a Family Child Care Director for 8 years.

New Blue Class Team — Since Carla will not be returning after the birth of her twins, **Mark Weltner**, our music and movement teacher and assistant teacher in the Blue Class, has become the lead teacher. **Stacy Mach** has returned and will be the assistant teacher in the Blue Class. She has shared many of her skills (past president, parent helper) with the LNS community. Stacy is a speech and language therapist and will be supporting LNS in yet another dimension!

Lauri Bounty is now working full time as the studio teacher as part of our Reggio-inspired program.

Kjerstin Salvesson began working last year as an assistant teacher and now is a Stay & Play teacher.

Our new curriculum

Our Expressive Arts Program at Play...

The Reggio approach to early childhood education engages children, teachers, parents and the community in a collaborative learning experience. For the past 2 years, the faculty has incorporated a Reggio approach into their teaching practice. It is an approach that gives voice to all children as individuals, and takes our curriculum in directions that really come from them. Sometimes it's hard to describe how it comes to life, so we thought an example might shine some more light on Reggio at play at LNS...

On a fall morning, a nearly life-size cardboard moose, was placed in the woods behind the nursery school by Yellow Class teachers Lauri Bounty and Alice Edwards, as a provocation for the children when they ventured out on their weekly nature walk. There was tremendous excitement when a child spotted a moose, causing the group to gather around the large cardboard animal with many questions and curiosities. The group decided to carry the moose back to school and then the children began to create the story of the moose, first by giving him a name, "Mitch," and then by incorporating him into their imagination and play. The teaching team recorded the children's conversations about Mitch and offered opportunities for children to extend their thinking. Where does Mitch live when he is not at LNS? What do moose eat? What happens when a moose gets sick? A few children thought that Mitch was bothered by mosquitoes, so they applied mosquito repellent sticker dots to help! It was determined that Mitch was magical and he came to life at night. In the weeks following, when the children arrived at school in the morning, Mitch had often changed his location, written a note or left some evidence that suggested he had been busy during the night. One night, Mitch left the school and WAS LOST! With the entire school in on the search, eventually he was found, thanks to persistent problem solving! The children's imagination created the magic of Mitch and infused the school with excitement. Our parents knew Mitch intimately and several designed Mitch T-shirts using a child's drawing to celebrate the day Mitch was found. The Mitch story culminated with a photograph of the entire school wearing Mitch t-shirts! Sadly, that night Mitch left the school to return to his family in the woods. In January, a full year later, Lauri received a postcard with a picture of a moose, posted in New Hampshire, indicating that Mitch lives on, at least in our hearts, and that's what matters most.

It's wonderful to see this philosophy come to life through our children at our school ... who knows where the children will lead us this year, but mostly likely it will be another wonderful adventure. ✂

We have a few new items to share, thanks to the efforts of our technology team.

🔗 **You can now shop at Amazon and donate money to LNS!** Just launch the Amazon page from our Web site, www.lincolnnurseryschool.org, and the school will receive a portion of the proceeds. If you shop there frequently, it's a nice way to help out the school.


🔗 **We've made it even easier...** You can now make a donation online through PayPal, an industry-leading security system. Just go to the Web site <http://www.lincolnnurseryschool.org/about/alumni>.

🔗 **Yes, we're on FACEBOOK!** Now, LNS alumni can connect. We've set up a page on Facebook and hope you will add it to your profile to find old LNS friends. It's an easy way to keep in touch, and we encourage you to visit and share stories or any pictures you may have.

facebook

A special gift

This year, LNS has been extremely fortunate to receive a very generous financial gift from The Tom Wilson Foundation. This family foundation was established by Tom Wilson, the grandfather of Emma (Purple Class), Andrea and Pete (alumni) Reynolds, and the father of Nell Reynolds. We are most grateful to Nell, who believes in the work we do with children and submitted a proposal to the foundation on behalf of Lincoln Nursery School. Half of the money will be used for technology for teachers to support the work of documentation, and the other half will be used for operating costs and professional development.

We are humbled and excited to receive the recognition and support of Mr. Wilson and his foundation. This gift is graciously received as a validation of the quality of early childhood educational programming at Lincoln Nursery School. 


Parent education focus

Guiding our children through a world of media

With support from the LNS community, the Parent Education Committee is focusing its efforts this year on media education and the commercialization of childhood. Media consumption has become a very large part of our culture and our families' everyday lives. While there are some positive elements, parents and educators will benefit from a greater understanding of some of the harmful effects that both the content and delivery experience of media have on young children.



To encourage this year's discussion, we are facilitating a series of activities for the school. The 2008–2009 plan features a book discussion on media culture's effect on make-believe play and features materials to help parents better evaluate the impact of media on their family. Also, the school is sponsoring a public speaking event as part of its Parent Education Series. This year's speaker

will be Susan Linn. Susan is Associate Director of the Media Center at Judge Baker Children's Center at Harvard University and an instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. The talk is scheduled for March 18th (see below) and is open to the public. Our hope is to offer parents information on the media and encourage small changes that could have a positive influence on children and families. 

Please join us!

**Come enjoy Susan Linn's
"Nurturing Creative Play in a Commercialized World"**

**March 18, 2009 at 7:30 P.M.
Lincoln Nursery School, Lincoln**

**A special thank you to the John Hancock Creative Services Team
for donating their time to create and produce our newsletter!**

**We would like to hear from you!
We're updating our contact list, so
please e-mail us any changes or
stories to keep in touch!**



**Send an e-mail to
alumni@lincolnnurseryschool.org
or call us at (781) 259-8866.**



Back row (L to R):
Jamie DeNormandie, Wendy Shaffer, Vanessa Moss,
Brette Kameny, Teacher: Gail Wild, Lynn Fraser
(in lap) Middle row (L to R): Adrienne Marcus,
Jake Stam; Front row (L to R): Rosalie Parker,
Eli Ridgeway, Meghan Barry, Adrian Smith

- Thank you Meghan Barry! She found the above picture of her 1977–1978 LNS Class and her very organized mom had written everyone's name on the back. Meghan keeps in touch with Vanessa Moss and Brette Kameny. Meghan, like so many of us, has connected with old friends through Facebook. She asked if LNS had set up a page because it would be a great way to keep in touch. We agreed and have set one up. Read more info in our technology update.



- True blue friends have kept their friendships strong since graduating from LNS in 2001. The group has gathered for museum trips, cookie swaps, painting, needle work, sledding, skating, climbing and other adventures.



A parent's perspective

Eloise Patterson — Green Class Parent



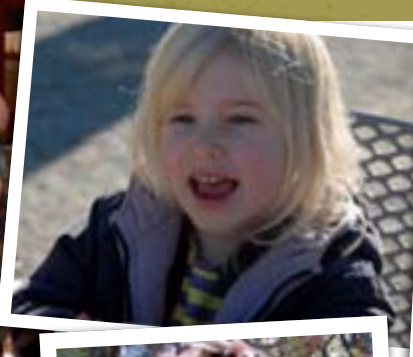
Lincoln Nursery School

I was a little bit worried about coming back to LNS this past fall. Our first three children had attended the school consecutively without a break. After a year off for our family, I wondered how it would feel to be back parent helping again. Would it be able to live up to the magical memories we had there with our older children? Would I be able to delve into the experience as completely with this last child as I had with our first?

They had me back heart and soul by Orientation Night. The magic is still here and stronger than ever. What amazes me about this school is its ability to continually reenergize itself while holding tightly to its core values. We have a remarkable leader in Nancy Fincke. Her unique mix of experience and imagination allows her to be open to new ideas without ever losing sight of the big picture. In the midst of innovation, she always manages to keep the school sailing a steady course. The staff and parent leadership eagerly explore new directions, while never forgetting that at its heart, this is a cooperative school with children and teachers at its center and a rich community of families that complete it. In the one year that I have been away, the Reggio focus has really expanded and Lauri's studio program has come to life. Both elements have breathed new energy into the school, more than I could have imagined when we were talking about them before I left just two years ago.

As I see our child blossoming before my eyes, forming new relationships with the children in his class and a myriad of adults, I realize that this experience will never get old. Each child of mine is unique, and so are their journeys at LNS. They have each taken what LNS has given them out into the world, as I have too. Our LNS friends remain our closest, and even those who we don't know well become our friends more easily because we are all part of the greater LNS family. We are all richer for having been part of this community and we carry its spirit with us wherever we go. ✂



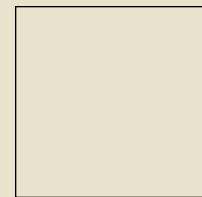




Lincoln Nursery School

P.O. Box 6075

Lincoln, MA 01773



Lincoln Nursery School welcomes 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, P.O. Box 6075, Lincoln, MA 01773** or go to our Web site www.lincolnnurseryschool.org.

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

☐ \$25

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ Other _____

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments: _____

