



Lincoln Nursery School

P.O. Box 6075
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<http://www.lincolnnurseryschool.org/>

LNS NEWS AND NOTES

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Dear Alumni Families,

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It's wonderful to have this opportunity to stay in communication with you through our second annual alumni newsletter. This edition is focusing on the importance of nature experiences for children. The fabulous location of Lincoln Nursery School, allows us to continue the tradition of incorporating nature into our curriculum. When children are given the opportunity to explore nature on a regular basis their imaginations, observation skills and curiosity are stimulated. Teachers and the parent helper connect the nature experience to the classroom by providing opportunities for children to express their ideas and share their discoveries with each other. The children and the teaching team pose questions and together research answers, the children may then express their thoughts and ideas through drawing, sculpture, collage and other creative mediums. Teachers and parent helpers often record conversations and take photographs of the children's work to document their learning experiences. We invite you to stop by and visit and see the marvelous work the children have created. -Nancy Fincke, LNS Director 1995-present

One Parent's View of LNS

Lincoln Indian summer sets the scene for my family's third move. We had just arrived from California to the East coast. After unpacking boxes, I set off to find a preschool for my 4 year old. I asked around. People responded, "All of the local preschools are good; however, if you want a co-operative experience, Lincoln Nursery School is a gem." A co-op? I had never considered one before. Do I have to hold hands, bake bread or sing KumBaYa? Do I have the time?

I set up an appointment with the director, Nancy Fincke, and wind my way up Bedford Road to Lincoln Center. Open fields stretch behind the play-yard filled with new, inviting equipment. The classrooms are calm and well organized awaiting the children and the first day of school. I can see my child thriving within these walls and long for the freedom of uninhibited

play and exploration myself. For me, the play-based curriculum is a mandatory requirement.

I had always done casual volunteering in the classroom and was curious how much further LNS would take parent volunteering. I realize now that casual volunteering limits ownership. In a co-operative school, the parents are an active part of the school. They are the Board, the maintenance committee and the classroom aids. The children see their parents nurturing their school as well as their own education.

Parents experience the classroom first hand. They know the children personally and form a sense of community that extends well beyond the preschool years. LNS parents make the time for their children.

At Lincoln Nursery School, we do hold hands, if only metaphorically.



2001- New playground completed !

I will gladly bake bread, and if Mark, the school's music and movement teacher, is leading, I will sing KumBaYa anytime!

-Adele Revere, LNS parent 2006-2007

LNS is fortunate to have fields and woodlands right outside its door. The teachers deliberately integrate nature education into their curriculums. Weekly nature walks are routine in several classrooms, many materials in the classroom are from the natural world, and there are always children's books that connect children to nature.

Wendy Klix, lead teacher in the green class, hopes to foster the children's interest in and understanding of the natural world, and ultimately to ignite their love for the environment. She believes that "young children's curiosity about nature and their need to make sense of the world presents an opportunity to incorporate science as a natural and critical part of children's early learning."

Nature Education at LNS

After reading the book [Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder](#), by Richard Louv, Lauri Bounty, lead teacher in the yellow class, decided her classroom would "scale back and rely less on my imposing curriculum on children, and would greatly reflect the natural world, the fragile world around us. Nature's rhythms are like a child's, it gives us all time to slow down."

The teachers often take their class on the same route for nature walks. This helps the children to gain confidence and familiarity, and to notice changes when they occur. Findings from the walks are often used back in the classroom for observation, an art project or to tie into a book the class is reading.

This past October early childhood educators, and others, met for the *Working Forum on Nature Education for Young Children* http://ccie.com/wf/wf2006_nature/. They identified these advantages of nature education for young children:

- By exposing children to nature, we're giving them a gift of a faithful, life-long friend
- It provides life-changing, shaping memories
- It offers a sense of peace and reconnecting to nature
- Nature has a therapeutic quality – it is calming.
- The natural world supports the development of caring, pro-social behavior.
- How we relate to nature gives us lessons about how we relate to each other.
- It fosters self-regulation and learning.
- Nature develops understanding of oneself.
- It brings out the best in children
- Nature helps children with disabilities, particularly those with sensory integration deficit.
- Children's pretend play outdoors in natural settings tends to be more complex and therapeutic than indoors.
- Play and interaction with the natural environment and materials helps develop cognitive, social and emotional skills.
- Nature is crucial for total development of the whole child, regardless of stage, ability or problem.
- Nature education is crucial for preserving of culture, community, learning, healthy being and world habitat.



Welcome New Teachers

Erika Christakis, an assistant teacher last year, is now the lead teacher in the purple class. She is working on her masters degree and public school certification in early childhood education at Lesley University in Cambridge.

Ursula Nowak is the new assistant teacher in the green class. Ursula holds advanced degrees in Chemistry, and has been a tutor in math and science.

Mark Weltner became an assistant teacher in blue class this year, while remaining in his role as the school's Music and Movement teacher.



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Are you in this birthday picture 1996?

Alumni News

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 <http://www.lincolnnurseryschool.org/>

Sudbury graduates **Meg & Caroline Fearey, Peter & Andrea Reynolds**, and **Jack & Brett Parker** still all see each other quite frequently - especially the Feareys and the Reynolds because they're neighbors. We still think about LNS all of the time!

Charlie Hopkins, son of Mary & Bob Hopkins, attends the University of Chicago. For the past two years he has returned to LNS to work at summer camp. Last year Charlie went to Jordon to assist in the building of the

King's Academy, a non-denominational high school. He worked with middle school children on their English and technical skills.

Nancy & Steve Wilcox wrote in to say that their boys cherish the "End of the Year" books that they received from their LNS teachers. "What a gift! We will forever treasure them and all of our LNS memories!"

Tucker Smith, "stay and play" teacher at LNS, provided this alumni news about the **class of 1991**:

Savannah Sachs is a junior at Princeton University majoring in Psychology, she's on the crew team and president of the Red Head Club.

Lindsay Donaldson, a history major at Yale University has earned All American in track 5 out of 7 seasons. **Sam Smith**, son of Tucker Smith, is a junior at Colorado College majoring in English with a film minor and taking full advantage of all that Colorado has to offer. **Sean Neri**, a talented musician, is at Emerson College majoring in Media Production/Audio. **Hallie Moran**, a junior majoring in Art History at Tufts, is currently spending the semester in Florence. **Mark Salem** is also a junior at Tufts. **Annette Frost** is a Poetry major at Gallatin College, NYU. **Adam Swaim** is a junior at Tulane, **Adam Donovan** is a senior at MIT, and **Eliza O'Neil** is at Bates College. **Carolyn Mansfield**, is an Eco-Anthropology major at Stanford.

Wacky Cake (dairy and egg free)

Several students in one class have food allergies, so the teacher gave all of the parents this recipe from Katie Bigelow, former LNS parent. This is the cake the class has for all of its birthday celebrations.

One Layer Cake:

1 1/2Cups	Flour
1 Cup	Sugar
3 Tbs.	Unsweetened Cocoa powder
1 tsp.	Baking soda
1/2 tsp.	Salt
1 Tbs.	Vinegar
6 Tbs.	Salad oil
1 tsp.	Vanilla
1 Cup	Cold water
Unlimited quantity	LOVE

Double recipe to make a two layer cake or 24 cup cakes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients. Bake in ungreased layer pan(s) for 25-30 minutes. Slide a knife around the edges to aid in removal. Allow to cool before frosting.



Busy in the Blue Class

Making a cake in the green class



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Lincoln Nursery School welcomes your support!

Each year LNS conducts a fundraising appeal the proceeds of which are an important part of our operating budget. Many thanks to those families and individuals who have already generously contributed! 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.

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

___25 ___50 ___100 ___ Other (_____)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Comments: _____



Mrs. Lorraine Miller's class, 1954-1955