



Lincoln Nursery School

# News & Notes

MARCH 2008



## Please join us!

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

Items for our auction include Red Sox and Patriots tickets, pieces from local artists and much more!

For tickets email Karen Smyers at [mkanisks@comcast.net](mailto:mkanisks@comcast.net) or call her at 781-259-4428.

**Bemis Hall, Lincoln  
Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 – 11:00 p.m.**



## Dear LNS families,

Another year has passed bringing some new ideas to Lincoln Nursery School while still keeping constant what we cherish. This year, we have created an art studio where Lauri Bounty works three days a week as a studio teacher. The goal of this program is to offer children the materials they need to express their ideas, develop questions and engage in discovery in the classroom and in the studio. You can read more about our new program in the *Our New Curriculum* section.

And, we have also begun to invite parents to document when they parent help, by writing their observations on a card in the "Catch a Moment Box," a system developed by one of our parents, Betsy Yeates. We've done some work on our website and have set up a special email address for our alumni to stay in touch. Also, hopefully you've noticed that our News & Notes Newsletter has gotten an update, as well as some color. Our goal is to continue to develop our school and to stay better connected with all LNS families.

As you know, LNS has a 64-year history of cooperative education that continues to honor **play** as the cornerstone of early childhood education. The social relationships that develop between parents, teachers and children create a **loving** environment that encourages us all to be learners. Our faculty continues to **work** on facilitating children's exploration by observing and documenting children's conversations and play and then using this information to influence and develop curriculum.

I have just read *The Power of Play, Learning What Comes Naturally* by David Elkind. The book responds to today's overemphasis on academics, competitive sports and passive, electronic entertainment. I would like to share with you the last sentence in the book. "It is only when we integrate play, love and work that we, as children and adults, can live happy, healthy and productive lives." It was wonderful to read a book that reflects the ethos of Lincoln Nursery School, play, love and work. Be well,

— Nancy Fincke,  
LNS Director



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## Our new curriculum —

### A holistic and expressive arts program

This year LNS has embarked on an exciting new studio program to expand our expressive arts offerings. Specifically, we have funded a studio teacher position to support children's inquiry and explorations. The former parent room (now "hive") has been transformed into a beautiful sensory feast with children's work displays, classroom documentation, studio materials, and a variety of visual and tactile invitations for children to develop their ideas and interests. The hive and the all-school studio across the hall are new spaces where our studio teacher, Lauri Bounty, works with our children on an ongoing basis.

## LNS staff news

**Congratulations, Mrs. Griffin!** Yes, Carla Cannistraro has tied the knot! On December 1st, she married Michael Griffin and also got to spend two weeks at Playa del Carmen in Mexico on her honeymoon. LNS had fun helping her celebrate by hosting our own wedding celebration with a nice outdoor party that included a wedding march with kazoos and birdseed!



**Lauri Bounty**, one of the Yellow Class lead teachers, has taken on the role of studio teacher for three days a week as part of our new arts program. Alice Edwards is now lead teacher for the class during the time that Lauri is dedicated to the studio.

**Welcome to Kjerstin Salvesson!** Kjerstin joined us as assistant teacher in the Green Class in November 2007. She is a great addition to the LNS staff as she brings not only her experience as a Lincoln mom of three, but also a very tenured career in early education.

**Erika Christakis** is on a ten-week leave to student teach in the second grade. It's the final step in earning her master's degree in early childhood education.

Inspired by the renowned Reggio Emilia preschools in Italy, the studio teacher at LNS plays a critical role in helping children to represent their thinking — to plan and execute a large group project, for example, or to document a scientific observation, or to solve an architectural or design problem. This inquiry-based approach to visual arts is a departure from the traditional American preschool model where children go to an art corner to "make art" that may be disconnected from their attempts to ask questions and express ideas. In our vision the primary motivation for a child's creativity is to express their wonder, not a desire to create a teacher-designed product.

Through our studio we are trying to bring this comprehensive and holistic expressive arts program to every child in the school, not only to those who are naturally drawn to visual arts. We believe that all young children speak the "hundred languages of childhood": painting, drawing, collaging, sculpting, building, and so on. We are excited about our initiative and feel it represents the way LNS continues to evolve by building a relationship with each child to foster their development while also staying on the cutting edge of early childhood education. ✂



**[www.lincolnnurseryschool.org](http://www.lincolnnurseryschool.org)** is getting an update! Through our technology committee, led by Libby Maynard, our website will see some new changes this year. We are in the process of adding all of the classroom schedules and other important events so that parents can stay better connected. Look for more changes to come over the next year.

## News and notes

This past fall students participated in the annual **Magical Harvest Walk**. This special tradition involves a walk in the woods behind the school in which various characters representing different aspects of autumn appear and say a few words and/or sing a song about who they are. This year's characters included Queen Corn, Elf Nutkin, Mother Pumpkin and Jackie Frost. It was a beautiful fall Lincoln day and the children had a wonderful time!





## A parent's perspective

### The Dahmen Family — a new perspective

LNS had our son Will and us smitten from our first visit. On the first day of school he marched onto the playground beaming, without a trace of anxiety. His previous visits to the campus had left a fantastic impression. He hung his backpack up like a pro in his cubby and when Mark picked up his guitar and began to sing the "good morning song," I knew the first day of school would be a happy experience. Now it is January and our three and a half year old is frequently talking about the "sensory table" and what will be in it when he gets to school. As a parent, I am amazed and impressed by the boundless creativity of the teachers. On a day that I parent helped there was a perfect pace of excitement and discovery. We ventured over to the studio with Lauri and each child was given a cup of black paint and a brush and asked to cover up some lines. They crouched around the sheet on the floor and painted. While painting, they sang, laughed and ruminated on what their grand creation was turning into, how it was changing and what it looked like. Some hands were painted (some intentionally and some not), some shoes were painted and most of the floor around it was painted too. The kids had a fabulous time together.

I wish I could be a parent helper every day as it is a true treat. Will is having a ball at LNS and I have to admit, I really look forward to dropping him off and picking him up. It is pure enjoyment having the chance to talk with the other parents, check in with the teachers to see how the day went and to see Will's schoolmates. The conversations and relationships with other parents on the playground is my lifeline and one of the great benefits of being part of LNS... standing in the presence of our children, connecting with their world and each other.

### The Jahrling Family — an alumni perspective

It has been five years since my last child sat on a riser in a Lincoln Nursery School classroom. Loretta and Karye were still teachers, the entrance to the school and mail boxes were in different locations and there was one massive pick-up time every afternoon when cars did battle for coveted parking spaces. Things have changed in five years but certain constants remain, most importantly the loving community of learning provided to our children.

Our family has remained in close contact with LNS over the years because we share a backyard, the fields and the woods that serve as nature's classroom. Last year, my interaction with the school suddenly and unexpectedly changed and I was talking with students and teachers on a more daily basis. Our family got a new puppy. His name is Ditto because he is a black lab just like our older dog, Hero. He loves being outdoors, is very independent and like most labs, loves people, especially children. So it was no surprise that Ditto was lured over to the nursery school on a daily basis by the joyful cries that arise from the playground. I could almost set my clock by the noontime call. He went on many walks through the woods with Mary Hopkins, but was always returned safely, often right to my back door.

Just as I knew all three of my children were part of a loving and caring community, I knew Ditto was safe on his little adventures and my thanks go out to the school. Now that he is older and has an electric collar, he doesn't go over to the playground every day, but he still loves his visits from the kids as they stroll through the yard. Just as the LNS community has provided us with strong bonds and friendships, the children of LNS are Ditto's family. So next time you see him, give him a pat and he'll be your friend forever.



## Alumni news

Please keep in touch!  
Send us an email to  
[alumni@lincolnnurseryschool.org](mailto:alumni@lincolnnurseryschool.org)



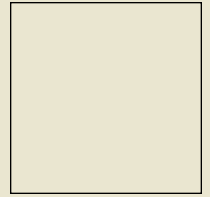
We're pleased to offer a new email address. Send us your stories, memories and updates to help us better stay in touch with our alumni!



- In the spring of 2007, Lauren Ready and her family hosted a LNS reunion at their home. Thirteen previous LNS students attended, all of whom were heading off to high school in the fall. Teacher Laura Garand and Director Nancy Fincke also enjoyed catching up with the group.
- Evan Hodges-LeClaire, 18 years old, is a senior at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. For the past nine years, he has been actively involved in the world of fife & drum and 18th century reenacting. He is a drum teacher and the leader of the drum line in his junior corps, he drums with His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot and the Lincoln Minute Men (opposing sides!), in addition to being the drummer for the 1812 Marines on the USS Constitution. He has recently been busy with college applications and interviews and plans to study engineering and business. And he's as passionate about numbers as he was at LNS!
- Adam Hodges-LeClaire, 15 years old, is a freshman at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. He is passionate about history and current world events. Nine years ago, he got his entire family involved in fife & drum and 18th century reenacting. He plays the fife with His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot (watch for him on Lexington Green on Patriots Day) and the Lincoln Minute Men (watch for him in the center of Lincoln). He accompanies his brother Evan on the USS Constitution. He played soccer on the 9th grade team this fall. He is also interested in theater and enjoys acting. And he's as passionate about books as he was at LNS!



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.**

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

