

# Long Beach Day Nursery News

SINCE 1912 • PUBLISHED FOR THE FAMILIES, FRIENDS, & STAFF OF THE LONG BEACH DAY NURSERY

## STEPPING STONES TESTIMONY

*Today, Stepping Stones to Success scholarships are more important than ever due to the current economic situation challenging families to balance California's high cost of living and investing in quality education.*

A single parent's struggle for quality childcare is very real and sometimes traumatic. I became a foster parent to adopt a child but agreed to foster children while waiting. Sarah was placed in my home temporarily while her parents completed a parenting course and eventually, she would return home. I worked full time at a demanding job and could not take leave. I desperately needed childcare. I had nowhere to turn for help and a co-worker said, "try LBDN", they are located on Chestnut. My resources were limited, Sarah received a \$318 stipend, a pittance when you must pay for childcare. I was in tears when I approached LBDN as I knew that I could not afford to foster her any longer. Long Beach Day Nursery took Sarah the following Monday and allowed me to pay \$318 for her childcare.

Years later when trying to find a board to serve on, Ivy Goolsby invited me to join LBDN. I did and now serve as Board Chair. I had long forgotten that LBDN saved me and my Sarah. One day out of the clear blue, I remembered that 20 years before LBDN gave me back my Sarah. How you might ask? Well, I received a Stepping Stones scholarship and the rest is history. My Sarah is now 29 years old, an excellent mother and the "hand that I fan with".

Had not LBDN Stepping Stones scholarship subsidized my childcare, I would have lost a beautiful and wise daughter and my loving grandson. I am forever grateful and indebted to our Board and the Honorary Board who supported me then and continue to support me now.

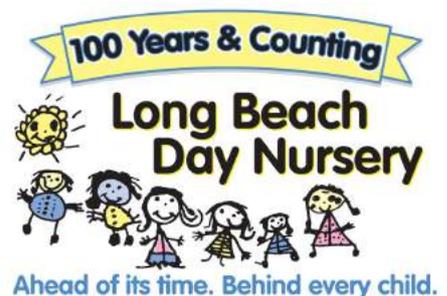
- Robyn Gordon-Peterson, 20-21 Board Chair



*Pictured: Sarah and her son Aramis*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every year I place an order for my annual wall calendar. The past several years I've been doing so through a husband and wife team who run Escape Adulthood. I met this incredibly fun duo a decade ago when Jason was a featured speaker for an early childhood conference. His topic, "Fight Adulthood!" His entire session was focused on getting parents and educators to break out of our adult like state and think like a kid again; to challenge and explore day to day routines; to find joy in unexpected times and places; and to "Celebrate Everything", which has fittingly become the title of his calendar.

The calendar is filled with whimsical paintings Jason creates and includes holidays like "Penguin Awareness Day" and "No Housework Day" (April 7 for those of you, like me, who cannot wait for this day). Unfortunately, Adulthood is a chronic condition and often finds its way back into my life. But, every year when my calendar arrives and each month when I turn to new month full of whimsy, I am reminded to embrace childlike curiosity, welcome silliness, and celebrate everything. This year I wasn't sure how I felt about that. 2020 was full of a lot of suffering; I felt it, our team felt it, and most definitely families felt it. How can I possibly celebrate now?

However, as I un-boxed my calendar and glanced upon the cover, I was struck with a sudden and deep connection to its message as I read this year's edited title "Celebrate Everything; Hope in the Darkness". At LBDN we themed our last quarter around "Hope" and it hit me... wow! Now more than ever, we also need to celebrate. Celebrate what you ask? Celebrate everything! Celebrate the good, even though and probably more so, because many things are still bleak. Celebrate the big things, celebrate the little things, and celebrate everything in between. Celebrate the love for learning at LBDN. Celebrate our 108-years of service. Celebrate our first teacher vaccines! Celebrate how we've worked together to figure out the puzzle that is operating in times of Covid-19. Celebrate our supporters whose generosity has kept our doors open! Celebrate our board who provides vision and direction! Celebrate reaching our Strategic Plan goals. Celebrate everyone who has made LBDN what it is today. Celebrate our families who have worked extra hard this past year! Celebrate our team who continues to be resilient, dedicated, and amazing! And celebrate our students who inspire us as they continue to learn with joy!

I could go on and on. And you know what? I think I will. I will, and I challenge you, to celebrate every good thing along the way (no matter how small). There is "hope in darkness" right here at LBDN, and when I really think about it, there is much to celebrate.

Thank you for giving me many reasons to celebrate. With appreciation,



Whitney

*Ps. My favorite adulthood prescription: a family spaghetti dinner without silverware, trust me it's fun - please send photos 😊*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## YEAR-END RECAP

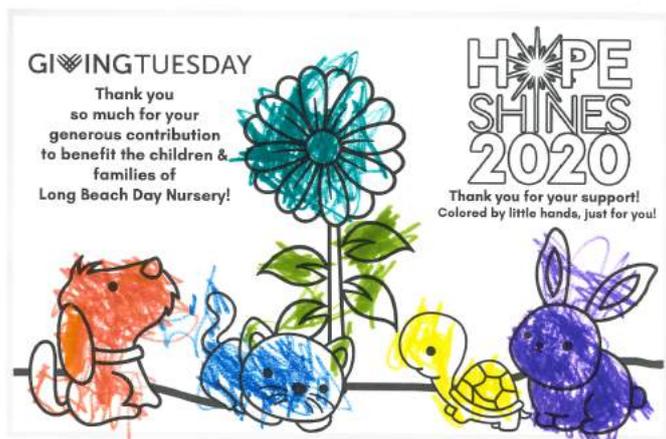
### FALL FEAST

Starting a string of exciting events to close 2020, we held our annual Fall Feast event on November 19 and 20 at both our East and West branches. Keeping this favorite LBDN tradition alive even under strict Covid-19 restrictions, we gave families the opportunity to take beautifully staged fall-themed portrait photos outside each of our branches. In addition, every child received a small pumpkin as a gift to take home with them. Inside the classroom, our teachers arranged a special arts and crafts activity for our students to enjoy. We were happy to be able to safely celebrate Fall Feast with our families this year! To view the photo albums from the event visit our Facebook page [eLBDNsince1912](#).



### GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday, an online giving day to support non-profit organizations, took place on December 1. As a token of appreciation, each person who made a generous contribution that day was messaged an e-card that was handcrafted by one of our young students! The person receiving the e-card was encouraged to forward the e-card to friends and family, bringing joy to their day as well. Thank you to our 19 donors raising \$2,000+ to support LBDN!

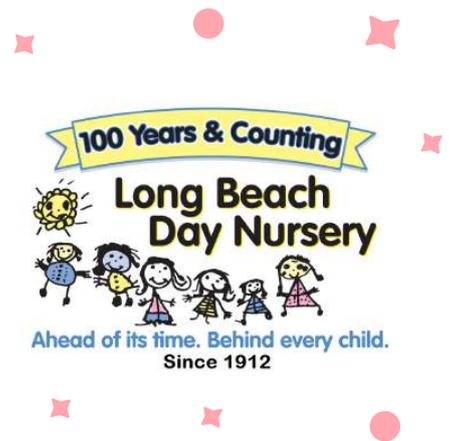


### YEAR-END CELEBRATION

We closed out 2020 with our Year-End Celebration event on December 10 on Zoom. LBDN supporters, our families, staff, Board of Directors, and Honorary Board Members gathered for the occasion. Reunited, we celebrated our successes, gave a glimpse into a day in the life at LBDN during Covid-19, watched video interviews from our distance and onsite families and staff, and showed off and selected winners from our classroom Holiday Door Decoration contest! It was a night filled with joy and gratitude, the perfect way to wrap up the year by spending quality time with our LBDN family.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE LEARNING INITIATIVE



Long Beach Day Nursery is partnering with another local Long Beach organization, the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ), in a Social Justice Learning Initiative training series! The goal of the Initiative is to develop an internal framework and practices to build a sustainable organizational culture that promotes equity and inclusion. The Initiative supports our staff and Board of Directors in a 15-hour training series spread over 5 sessions, each focusing on the following: Valuing Black Lives, Communicating through Conflict, Building Anti-Racism Identity, Living Our Values, & Anti-Racism as a Daily Practice. This incredible learning opportunity will enable LBDN to better serve and support our team, children, and families. Thank you CCEJ for teaching us how to be Social Justice champions in our work, organization, and community!

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: VACCINATIONS

Pictured are a few of our amazing teachers showing their appreciation and excitement after receiving their first round of Covid-19 vaccinations! On January 28 thanks to ECE advocacy in the community, a limited number of vaccination appointments were made available to our team. A big thank you to the City of Long Beach for making this happen, we are grateful for your work in helping better ensure the safety of our teachers, children, and families. As essential workers, we continue to serve our community by providing high-quality early care and education!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Friendship Day:** We will be providing a fun craft activity and character photo opportunity exclusively for our young students on February 10 and February 11. Be sure to check out our Facebook [@LBDNsince1912](#) for the photos following!

**Year-End Videos:** Get an inside look on how we are continuing to serve our young children & families during Covid-19! Watch here [www.lbdn.org/news/yearend](http://www.lbdn.org/news/yearend).

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