

Long Beach Day Nursery News

Since 1912 • Published for the friends and staff of Long Beach Day Nursery • Fall 2003

91st Anniversary Picnic - A Good Time for All!

Our second annual Family Picnic celebrating LBDN's 91st Anniversary was held in late August at Heartwell Park, adjacent to our East Branch. Over 450 parents, children and staff members attended and enjoyed hot dogs barbecued by members of the Long Beach Fire Fighters Association, Local 372. Firehouse #18 joined in the fun by bringing a fire truck to the picnic allowing both children and parents to explore the vehicle. Activities and entertainment included face painters, a magician, a storyteller and balloon sculptors.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of a \$5,000 donation by one of our grandparents, Carol DeBoer, on behalf of her employee

group, the Disneyland Resort Cast Community Fund. Carol and her mother, Sharon Stallard, who is a Boeing employee, have for several

years successfully sought donations from their respective employers, and their efforts on behalf of the Day Nursery are much appreciated. Carol is the grandmother of one of our preschoolers at our East Branch. "We are grateful to both Carol and Sharon for their ongoing support of the Long Beach Day Nursery," said Donita Van Horik, President of the LBDN Board of Directors. "To have such wonderful multi-generational support is very important to us and reminds us of our deep roots in the community."

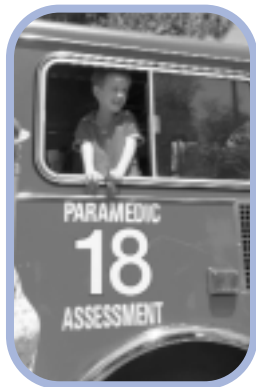
The family picnic is planned and staffed entirely by the LBDN Board of Directors, truly making this an event where both our families and our staff can relax and enjoy themselves. This year's picnic chairs were Melanie Werts and Marta Griffin. We gratefully acknowledge the firemen, the event sponsors and those who donated their time to make our picnic special. Everyone involved did a fabulous job! 🚒

Left: A small boy takes a tour of the fire truck on display.



Top, L to R: Receiving a check from the Disneyland Resort Cast Community Fund are East Branch Center Director Carolynn Douglas, Ryanne Newbold, Nathaniel Newbold, Mahshid Rahimian, Nathaniel's head teacher, and Carol DeBoer from Disneyland.

Above: Picnickers wait to see the fire truck.



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President's Message



I am delighted to be writing my first message as President of Long Beach Day Nursery's Board of Directors. We have been very busy over the past few months. Two new Board committees have been formed recently, and their work has had great

positive impact on our operations. The first is the Program Committee headed by Dr. Georgia Jones. This committee is responsible for working with LBDN's Program Director to develop program goals and objectives. Kathy Berry is chairing the second new committee, Marketing. Working with LBDN's Development and Public Relations Director, this committee is chartered with the development of a marketing plan that will develop strategies for engaging funders, clients and employees. We have a very full year ahead of us!

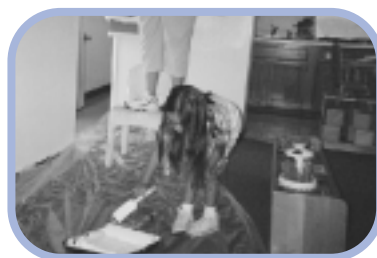
We are planning a Board Retreat in early November to focus on fundraising and resource development to meet the challenges of maintaining a strong revenue stream in the coming years. With the State budget crisis still unresolved, an unsure political and economic climate, and budget impasses at every level of government, our fundraising strategies will need to be more focused, creative and hard-hitting for LBDN to maintain its high quality standards, unsurpassed programming and excellent staff. It will be a tough

road ahead for us, but I know that our Board is up to this challenge.

We recently held an intimate reception to thank Robert and Mary Soth for their role as Honorary Chairs of our Stepping Stones to Success Scholarship fundraising drive. To date, we have received over \$111,000 in scholarship money to assist families who could not otherwise afford to attend our program. We are very grateful for the Soths' participation in this critically important fundraising project. Thanks also to Judy Gumbiner, Gloria Deukmejian, Meg Westlund and their committee for organizing and hosting this wonderful event at the Gumbiners' private art gallery.

I have been reflecting on the role of President and on the many individuals who have served in this capacity during our ninety-plus years of operation. The early leaders of the Long Beach Day Nursery were clearly visionary in an era when formal day care facilities were non-existent and the rare working woman most likely left her child with a grandparent or neighbor. Our later leaders were no less visionary as they served to guide the agency through LBDN's continuing growth and service to the children and families of our community. I feel blessed to be walking in the footsteps of such talented volunteers.

Dorita Van Horik
President, Board of Directors 2003-2004



Memorial Gets Some Paint

Volunteers from the J.C. Penney store in Lakewood helped to paint the classrooms at Memorial Branch on Saturday, September 6 as part of the United Way's 'Commitment to Caring' campaign. Thanks to J.C. Penney and their team of volunteers, and to the United Way for helping make Memorial Branch even brighter!

Welcome New Staff!

Teachers:

Akeika Dawson, Sharon Garlichs, Jasmine Ginn, Gloria Grigsby, Sheajuana Hunter, Norma Leon, Marisela Montes and Katherine Parks.

Director of Resource Development and Public Relations:

May Ma

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

In 1999, Long Beach Day Nursery recognized the critical need for facilitating early literacy skills and promoting family involvement in language development. As a result, we created "Ready to Read," (previously known as the Early Literacy Program) which focuses on classroom literacy and language development activities for all our children, ensuring at least two hours of these activities each day.

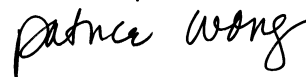
Children take their first critical steps toward learning to read and write very early in life. Those silly rhyming games you play with your children, as well as those songs you sing over and over again, help your kids to increasingly consolidate information into patterns that allow for automaticity and fluency in reading and writing. So the next time you're singing "The Wheels on the Bus" or reading "Good Night Moon" for the hundredth time in a row, be assured that you are helping your child to become more familiar with letters and words, as well as assisting them to relate pictures to words and vice versa. You are playing a very important role in the development of both their expressive and receptive language.

Our "Ready to Read" curriculum, beginning with even our youngest infants, consists of activities designed to encourage language and literacy development at all age

levels. Word and rhyming games are used on a daily basis; dramatic play and story telling are a critical curriculum component to encourage expressive language; child-dictated journals encourage verbal expression and foster association between print and the spoken word. As you can see, "Ready to Read" encompasses many play elements and is fun for your children. Reading readiness is more than just learning the alphabet! I hope some of you had the opportunity to see these activities first-hand at our recent "Sunshine Day" open houses. (For more information regarding "Ready to Read," please see the article on page 6 of this newsletter.)

Take the time to play word games, sing, and read to your children. Take the advice of Albert Einstein, who once said, "If you want your children to be smart – read them fairy tales. If you want them to be real smart, read them more fairy tales."

Sincerely,



Patrice Wong
Executive Director



Our Wish List

Cleaning out your garage, closets and cupboards? We can use any of the following items:

- Garden supplies: seeds, potting soil, gardening tools, watering cans, plastic pots, insect netting
- "Gently used" children's CDs, cassette tapes, puzzles, toys, balls, dolls and books
- Craft items: Silk flowers, Styrofoam blocks or packing "peanuts," leftover party supplies (crepe paper, paper plates, colored or printed tissue paper, party confetti, etc.), bubble wrap, pinecones, seashells, old greeting cards, old magazines
- Small appliances and electronics in working order for classroom activities: popcorn popper, electric griddle or skillet, ice shaver (snow cone machine), microwave, slow cooker, hand mixer, food processor, toaster oven, boombox/portable CD player, cameras (digital), color printer, laminator
- Old telephones and desk calculators for play activities (do not need to be in working order)
- Miscellaneous garage items: Paint brushes, water hoses, flashlights, cooler/ice chest on wheels, small tent, step stool, wagon
- Kitchen items: Serving trays, pie pans, small pots and pans, pitchers, ladles, sponges, dishwashing wands, plastic kitchen utensils (mixing spoons, spatulas, funnels, measuring cups, etc.), oven mitts, plastic containers, brooms and dustpans, adult-sized aprons
- From the linen closet: Flat full or queen size sheets, bath towels or bath sheets, hand towels, big floor pillows, blankets (especially baby-sized)
- Clothes and accessories of all sizes for dress up and dramatic play: shoes (men's and women's), hats (especially men's), scarves, uniforms (firefighter, construction worker, fast food, police officer, etc.), wigs, empty cosmetic cases, brushes, combs, empty lipsticks, neckties
- "Labels for Education" – save labels, UPC codes and lids from Campbell's soups, Franco American, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson Broths, Pace Salsa, Prego Pasta Sauces and V8 Juices.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact the Center Directors at any of our Branches. Thank you!

Long Beach Day Nursery - Gallery of Donors

Thank You to All of Our Supporters!

Contributions received after print deadline are gratefully acknowledged and will appear in the next issue. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact us at (562) 591.0509. Thank you!

PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

IN HONOR OF

Dr. Dick & Susan Bell

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Carolynn Douglas

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Sam Ervin & Margaret

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John Fielder

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L to R: Conor Murray with his dad, Mike.

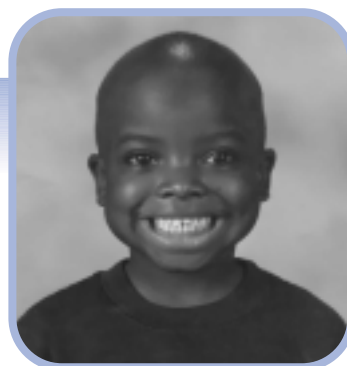
A Parent's Story

Michael Murray's three-year old son, Conor, has been attending LBDN's East Branch for over half his life, and in this short time, Mike says he has seen his son grow and thrive. In a letter to Executive Director Patrice Wong, Mike writes how appreciative he is to see Conor develop from an infant-toddler into a robust young boy. "There is no doubt in my mind that this is due in no small part to the excellent care Conor has received while attending LBDN," said Mike.

"Teachers and administrators (at LBDN) offer feedback, really listen to my opinions and concerns, and are willing to work within my family's needs," said Mike. "The exceptional part of this is that this kind of thing is the norm at LBDN, not the exception, and I thank and bless you all for it."

Like a lot of young parents, Mike and his young family have had some struggles over the years, but are doing much better now. "I would never be able to do my work without the peace of mind I have knowing that no matter what, my son is in the best of hands each day," said Mike.

De'Shawn Jones



De'Shawn (DA) Jones, former LBDN student, passed away on August 26, 2003. He was 6 years old. Even though he was stricken with Hodgkin's disease, DA never wanted to miss school or church regardless of his many doctor appointments.

DA lit up a room with his smile and personality, and will be fondly missed by his family and many friends. Rest in peace, little man.

You have swept many off of their feet. Your presence alone has been angelic. Thank you for being that angel God above sent to show how good He is. Your life is and will be forever honored. I love you and God bless you. Good night.

– Temira D. Massengill

Gallery of Donors (Cont.)

STEPPING STONES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

IN HONOR OF

Bob & Mary Soth

Gloria Deukmejian

IN MEMORY OF

Charles Culbertson

Beverly Culbertson

Dr. Russell Jessup

Pat Weber

Individuals

Daphne Ching-Jackson

Dr. Minnie Douglas

Greg Haeseler

Corporate, Foundation or Organization

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ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC AUGUST 23RD – HEARTWELL PARK

Katy Collins

Michelle Eschardies, SYSCO

Foods of LA, Inc.

Marta Griffin

Hazel Hayes, Camp Fire Girls

Hof's Hut

Georgia Jones

Sylvia Lawrence

Firefighter Tony Bocanegra -

Long Beach Firefighters

Local 372

Fire Chief Terry Harbour

Long Beach Firefighters

Community Service

Long Beach Fire Station 18

Long Beach Fire Station 3A

Ralph's Corporation

Phil Sblendorio, Farmers and Merchants Bank

Joel Valentincic

Melanie Werts

Paula Workman

Wild Oats

LBDN also acknowledges funding support received from the California Department of Education, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Long Beach Health and Human Services Department. Thank you for your ongoing support of our programs and services!



Ready to Read

One Main Objective, Three Main Components

“Reading is central to learning—in school, in the workplace, and in everyday life.”

—The Early Literacy Project, Telus Learning Connection Project Centre

Type in “early literacy” on any Internet search engine and it will return close to a half million entries that include that phrase. Clearly, early literacy and reading readiness is a topic of great concern to many. The growing body of research demonstrates that the “seeds of literacy are planted before children enter school.” (The Early Literacy Advisor) Research also shows that children who are not well prepared in these early years may struggle with reading and learning throughout their lives. In some cases, they never catch up.

As children learn, they increasingly consolidate information into patterns that allow for automaticity and fluency in reading and writing. Teaching a child to read involves complex relationships between whole language, phonics, development, natural environment, direct teaching and intervention; a balanced approach is encouraged through “purposeful, functional use and meaningful context within a print-rich environment.” (The Early Literacy Project, Telus Learning Connection Project Centre).

Based on this knowledge and research, LBDN has developed “Ready to Read,” an integrated and balanced early literacy curriculum, which is implemented at each of our sites with developmentally appropriate activities for all age levels. Beginning with even our youngest infants, at least two hours of early literacy and language development activities are implemented each day.

The three main components of “Ready to Read” include:

Reading Readiness – Activities integrate science, language, arts, math, art, drama, story telling, song time, puzzle play, dramatic play, and other activities that focus not only on language enhancement, but also on development of the children’s large and small motor skills. The curriculum emphasizes:

- Phonological Awareness – playing word/rhyming games to teach children letters and words;
- Oral Language – dramatic reading/story telling to assist children in relating pictures to words and developing expressive and receptive spoken language;
- Print Awareness – child-dictating journals (written by teachers) to encourage verbal expression and fostering

association between the child’s spoken word and print; and

- Alphabet Knowledge – teaching the alphabet and beginning writing skills.

Each classroom is equipped with age appropriate books, games and materials for the children to read or request to teachers. Thanks in large part to the Rotary Club of Long Beach, new books, games and materials are replenished each year, and each child receives an age-appropriate book as a gift during the holidays.

Teacher Readiness – LBDN’s teaching staff takes reading readiness and language development very seriously. Teachers regularly participate in early literacy workshops and programs to obtain the latest training and research in the field. In fact, over 30 teachers participated in the state’s intensive 30 hour “Heads Up! Reading” program and in turn facilitated seven parent workshops on reading readiness.

Parent Readiness – Family members play a critical role in a child’s language development and reading. Each of our sites has prepared easy-to-use “Literacy Kits” available for take-home use. The kits incorporate weekly activities to involve all family members, thus promoting inter-generational reading activities at home. These kits supplement the classroom libraries and the take-home libraries, which offer materials to parents to check out for home review and use. Parents are encouraged to ask any teacher or staff for how to check-out a kit.

Suggested Children’s Books:

- Abiyoyo by Pete Seeger’s Storysong
- Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
- Animals Should Definitely NOT Wear Clothing by Judi Barrett
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
- Borreguita and the Coyote by Verna Aardema
- Brown Bear Brown Bear by Eric Carle
- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodinka
- Catch the Baby by Lee Kingman
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.

For more suggested children’s books, see www.ooeygoeey.com.

LBDN, Young Horizons, Comprehensive Child Development Meet at Joint In-Service Training



Teachers and staff recognized for 5 or more years of service.

At this summer's third annual In-Service Training, LBDN teachers and staff were invited to exchange ideas with similar organizations in the community – Young Horizons and Comprehensive Child Development – at the Reef Restaurant overlooking the Long Beach harbor.

The daylong event offered teachers and staff a chance to network with peers and the opportunity to attend a workshop with noted child development expert Lisa Murphy, otherwise known as “The Ooey Gooley Lady,” who provided teaching materials and innovative strategies for implementing reading readiness activities in the classroom. According to LBDN Program Director Amy Bigelow, the keynote speaker Sally Jue, an internationally known diversity consultant, offered a wonderful presentation on diversity in the workplace. Other sessions included tips on staying motivated and focused, domestic violence awareness, science curriculum, administering medications, infant & toddler activities, mental health and teacher permit matrix update.

During the event, LBDN released an updated emergency & disaster preparedness manual, presented years of service awards (5+ years) and awarded stipends to 22 teachers who have completed 30+ hours of approved professional development. Each of the centers also met individually to discuss agency-specific issues.

Service and Stipends

Years of Service:

Those LBDN employees who have
5+ years of service

Alicia Barragan
Carolyn Brooks
Maria Corona
Carolynn Douglas
Yvette Fletcher
Delmy Garibay
Maria Alicia Guevara
Elizabeth Jenkins
Cynthia Jimenez
Linda Marsh
Rita Rahman
Editha Reapor
Staffy Syniec

10+ years of service

Amy Bigelow
Linda Blackshire
Rita Fezell

(10+ years cont.)

Deborah Napoleon-Holifield
Deborah Mingo
Carmen Nunez
Dianna Pyland
Rosa Taosoga
Delia Thomas

25+ years of service

Penni-Jo Laking
Louise Spurling

Professional Development Stipend :

Those employees who participated
in the Professional Development
Program (30 hours of training) this
past year.

Marcela Brady
Gloria Bueno
Diane Campbell
Rita Fezell
Yvette Fletcher

Carolina Garcia
Veronica Guerrero
La Quanda Hancox
Rosaura Hernandez
Deborah Napoleon-Holifield
Penni-Jo Laking
Clara Lee
Deborah Mingo
Celerina Mosqueda
Sonya Neal
Dianna Pyland
Rita Rahman
Xochitl Ramirez
Editha Reapor
Martha Sich
Louise Spurling
Rosa Taosoga





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Long Beach Day Nursery News

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