

Ethical Society Nursery
School Newsletter
Our forty-seventh year



September 25, 2016

Notes from the Director

Welcome to the new school year! We are so happy that you have chosen the Ethical Society Nursery School for your child/ren. As a teacher in the Blue Room, I loved the beginning of the year, finding out who would be in our classroom and which strengths and personality traits they would bring with them. This year, I am excited to sit in the director's office, ensuring that our tradition of play based education continues.

Meanwhile, the teachers have prepped their classrooms and discussed project and theme ideas. Our Yellow Room returning students have visited their former classrooms, Blue and Green. But they are confident and eager to play in their new room. Some have siblings in other classrooms and they peek in during the day to say hello to the

teachers or hug their little brother or sister. Our younger students are tentative at first but I notice now that, in the third week of school, they know where they are going and greet their teachers with familiarity.

Amazing how quickly a new routine can be established.

Our school is a tight knit community with the core being our outstanding teachers. This newsletter highlights our awesome educators.

Newsletters will be written occasionally throughout the year and will outline what the children have experienced in science classes, as well as updates from the classrooms and upcoming events.

We will continue our theme of:

Taking care of ourselves

Taking care of each other

Taking care of our school.

We will be having an assembly soon to illustrate ways to take care of each other and will be reinforcing this theme in the classrooms throughout the year.

Welcome – Jill Allen

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our Board members for providing delicious snacks during our first days of school

Thank you to our parent volunteers and trustees: Cape Zern, Allison Brose, Heidi Dean, Laura Lander, Chris Chisholm and his daughters for volunteering on Parent Work Day to weed and prep the playground and paint bookshelves. Your work is very much appreciated!

Remind – text alerts

I will be using remind.com to send out last minute, urgent information like school closings due to snow. If you sign up, you will be in our text reminder group. If I send any text out, I will also send an email with the same information.

Please send the text “@ethicals” to 81010 and you will get a confirmation text that you are in the group.

The Calendar

Thursday, October 6th – Evening Open House for all parents (children not included) 7:30-8:30pm

Parents are an integral part of our community. You are the most important figures in your children’s lives and we value our connection with you as a way to understand and support your children while they are here in the classrooms.

We would like for you to have a better understanding of what happens here during the day while your child is with us. To begin the evening, you are invited to explore the classrooms. Our teachers will explain the daily routine and answer any questions you might have. Then, at 8:00 pm, we will migrate downstairs to the assembly room for a welcome and slideshow. Our evening will be short but an important, informational event. I hope to see you there.



Cell Phones!!!

Please refrain from using your cell phone during pick up and drop off times in the parking lot – for the safety of the children!!

The Board

The Board of trustees is the governing body of the Nursery School. The Board is responsible for the overall management of the Nursery School establishing school policy, formulating the budget, organizing fundraising activities, determining staff compensation and selecting the director. In the Handbook you received on the first day of school, you will find a list of trustees and their contact information in the back of the book. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact them. They will be contacting you at some point in the future to help with school functions and fundraising.



Private Facebook Group

If you haven't already, please accept an email invitation from me (Jill Samuels Allen) to a private group on Facebook. This is where I will share photos of your children, updates on events (like the wine tasting fundraiser) and exciting developments in the classrooms. This group is only for current families. You

will be able to download pictures from there.

We will also post pictures of the snack calendar in each room and projects and theme calendars. The theme calendars can help with formulating questions to ask your child about what happened at school today.



Birthday Books

Celebrate your child's birthday by donating a book to the school library. We can provide a wish list of book titles or you may choose one of your child's favorites. (Call me and I can let you know if we have it already.) We will put a special name plate in the front of the book so that your child will be remembered whenever we read your book donation. Thank you for helping us keep our library current.

Music

Hello Ethical Society Nursery School Families –

I am Robert Bernstein and I teach/make music every week with your children. I was asked about 10 years ago to be the music teacher for the ESNS summer camp and that

continued into the next school year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to make music with the Green, Blue and Yellow rooms ever since! I have been a drummer and musician since my teen years and have loved music since early childhood. I didn't realize my path would lead me to teaching early childhood music until I went to a Music Together program with my son while living in California. I was so impressed that when I moved to St Louis in 2003, I decided to start teaching Music Together here.

One of the essential ideas I have learned from teaching this program is that it can never be too early to introduce and learn music. It is generally understood that learning a second language can start from infancy. Language and music learning share the same part of the brain, so introducing music at infancy can be beneficial AND fun – an important Music Together concept is, “Music learning supports all learning.” Hopefully, your children will tell you at some point about some of the music we make at school. I hope you will take the opportunity to continue the music learning with them at home using some of those songs from our music time as well as introduce songs/music that you enjoy with them as well. If you ever want

information about any songs we do in class (lyrics, etc...) just let me know!

I feel that music is an amazing art form, activity and learning tool. It can be experienced on many levels: physically (dance,) emotionally and intellectually (among others.) I try to include all of these aspects when experiencing music with the classes at ESNS.

All of these ideas can come together by making a connection. A friend once asked me, “Try to remember... Who are the teachers you most remember in your life?” He went on to say that it is not usually one who taught you a certain math concept or how to diagram sentences, for instance. It's usually a teacher who make a personal connection with you who leaves the biggest impression. Music can be powerful in connecting children with parents and the adults in their lives. I hope I have been able to make that positive connection with your children through music and remember that you can too.

Take care, Robert

Science

We are really lucky this year to have two fantastic science teachers: Ellen Schapiro and Liz McCane.

Ellen just recently retired from her position as director of ESNS after 17 years. She taught for many years prior to leading the school. Each year,

as director, Ellen would teach metamorphosis of the Monarch butterfly, hatch chicks from eggs and demonstrate recycling by making paper with a blender and strainer, among many other lessons. She will be here next week to teach metamorphosis. And she will set us up so that we may watch butterflies emerge from their chrysalises. Liz has been teaching science once a month for a number of years. She brings hides, homes and age-appropriate picture stories to explain habitats, hibernation, camouflage and food chains. Liz will be here in the winter months while Ellen teaches in September, October and in the Spring.

team: Ariel Gardner, Julie Kolberg, Tali Light and Beth Vesper.

Extended Day

We are devoted to the concept of play for young children. We strongly believe that children are able to make sense of their world when they freely interact with other children and are given a choice of interesting materials with which to play. The Extended Day program is truly an extension of the regular ESNS program. The relaxed environment enables a child to have lunch and socialize with children who may or may not have been in his/her morning class. Extended Day is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and is taught by a great

The Staff

The ESNS staff is truly excellent. These warm, skilled, well-educated and experienced individuals enjoy working with young children. Teachers are the single most important indicator of the quality of a school. We are blessed with some of the best.

Robert Bernstein (Music) started teaching music at the nursery school in 2005. He has his BS in communications from Boston University. He has been a drummer and performer for over twenty-five years and a lover of music for even longer. In addition to his time at the nursery school, Robert is teaching Music Together classes in the St. Louis area. His son, Lucas, an alum of ESNS started 8th grade this year and his daughter, Emily, is in third grade.

Georgette Bisson (Green Room) This is Georgette's fourth year teaching at ESNS. She has been affiliated with the school for nine years, as a parent and a board member. She has three sons, all ESNS alums. Leo attends Saint Louis University High School and Elliot (5th) and Jonah (4th) attend Christ the King School in University City. Georgette has a B.A. in English from Ithaca College, a Ph.D. in 18th century British Literature and a MLIS from Louisiana State University in

Baton Rouge. She also worked as an academic reference librarian at Loyola University's award winning Monroe Library. Currently, Georgette runs the library at Christ the King School. Georgette loves reading, movies and learning new things.

Ariel Gardner (Extended Day) Ariel begins her second year as one of our creative, extended day teachers. She has three ESNS alumni: Marley, 12, Abe, 8, and recent graduate, Robin who will attend kindergarten this year in the University City School District. Ariel is studying English Literature at Washington University where she was accepted into the undergraduate honor's program and is planning to pursue her PhD. In her spare time, she teaches knitting and spinning classes at a local yarn store.

Maggie Horn (2 Day Green Room) A former board member, substitute teacher and current parent at ESNS, Maggie is ready to play in the 2 Day Green Room. She holds a B.S. in theater and French from Northwestern University and spent more than ten years performing in the vibrant Washington, DC, theater scene. She wrote grants and raised funds for different arts organizations too. Maggie has three sons: Charles and Paul, who will be second graders at Reed Elementary and Wesley who

is excited to be in the Yellow Room. Maggie enjoys baking (and we enjoy her efforts) and experimenting with new flavors when cooking.

Debbie Indeck (Administrative Assistant) Debbie is not new to the nursery school. She taught for 14 years in the Blue Room. This is her fourth year assisting in the office. She has a B.A. in Art History from University of Minnesota and her preschool experience includes working as a substitute teacher for University United Methodist Preschool and teaching four and five year old children at Hamilton Preschool in Creve Coeur. Her children live all over the world: John, an attorney in New York City, Joe, an engineer in Huntsville, Alabama and Kate, a marine biologist in Australia.

Mindy Keller (Yellow Room) Mindy joins Nuni full time in the Yellow Room this year after a year of shared teaching with Julie and years of substitute teaching here at ESNS. Mindy has a BS in Elementary Education from DePaul University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Iowa. She taught third and fourth grade in Chicago for seven years and spent one year teaching second grade at Kennard Classical Junior Academy in St Louis. Her son, Max, and daughter, Sasha, are in Clayton schools and her youngest,

Graham, is in fifth grade at New City School. Mindy loves to read, jog and walk her dog.

Julie Kolberg (3 Day Green Room and Extended Day) For her second year here at ESNS, Julie joins Georgette in teaching the 3 day green room class. Julie has advocated for youth in foster care for over 10 years, coached Girls on the Run at New City School and worked as a volunteer reading tutor for students through the YMCA. Julie is also a Certified Master Gardener and has volunteered at gardens throughout the St Louis area. She has raised two daughters. The oldest, Zoe, attends University of Richmond in Virginia and her youngest, Sarah will be a freshman at George Washington University in DC. Julie likes gardening and visiting her daughters.

Tali Light (Extended Day) Tali is the proud mother of three sons: Levi, 11, Isaac, 7, and Micah who just turned 1. She has a MA in Psychology and art therapy from Antioch University in Seattle. Most recently, she worked as an art therapist with adults struggling with Alzheimer's and dementia. She is new to ESNS, but has been working with children of all ages in therapeutic and school settings for over 20 years. She loves all creative forms of expression and in her free

time she enjoys cooking and working in her garden.

Liz McCane (Science) has been teaching science classes at ESNS through the “Nature on the Move” program for ten years. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Swarthmore College and was a volunteer naturalist with the Missouri Department of Conservation for ten years. She and her husband, Jim, have been married for 37 years, have two grown sons and two Labrador retrievers. She splits her time between Saint Louis and Driggs, Idaho. An avid gardener, Liz restored native prairie on her property in the Ozarks. She loves to read, travel, participate in sprint triathlons and stay active in her church.

Katie Ryan (Blue Room) After four years in the Green Room, Katie moves to the Blue Room to team with Linda. She has her BS in elementary education with a concentration in children’s literature from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. She has taught pre-k through 4th grade and PE in four cities (including Monterrey, Mexico.) Her son, Mac, is in 8th grade at Chaminade. Her daughters, alumni of the nursery school, are Annie, in 6th grade and Mia in second grade at Mary Queen

of Peace in Webster Groves. Katie enjoys reading and cooking.

Ellen Schapiro (Science) Ellen begins her first year of retirement as one of our science teachers. After having taught in the classroom and working as the director of ESNS for 17 years, Ellen continues to engage the students in topics that she loves: metamorphosis, embryology and environmental stewardship. Her four adult children, Daniel, Emily, Evan and Miriam, are all graduates of the ESNS program.

Linda Varadachari (Blue Room) Linda has a B.S. in child development from Missouri State University and B.S. certifications in Special Education and Elementary Education from University of Missouri, St Louis. She has taught pre-K and first grade at Greenwich Country Day School in Connecticut and kindergarten in the Bronx, NY. She was an early childhood educator at The Miriam School in Webster Groves. Her son, Kiran, is in seventh grade and daughter, Maya, is in third grade, in Ladue Schools, both alums of ESNS. This is her seventh year teaching here at the nursery school. Linda loves reading and movies.

Beth Vesper (Extended Day) This is Beth's first year as an extended day teacher at ESNS. Beth has two daughters, Lily and Eliza, who attended four years of summer camp at ESNS. Lily is now a second grader at Maplewood-Richmond Heights Elementary, and Eliza is a kindergartener at Maplewood-Richmond Heights ECC. Beth is in her second year as a school nurse with Special School District and has previous nursing experience in the Trauma ICU at Barnes. In past career lives, Beth has worked as an Information Technology Project Manager in applications development and has taught English at Mizzou, Washington University, and St. Louis Community College. Beth holds a BSN from UMSL and an MA and BA in English Literature from Mizzou. When she's not parenting, nursing, or teaching, Beth enjoys knitting, reading, and taking her retired racing greyhound on runs that are too slow for him but just right for her.

Nuni Zimmerman (Yellow Room)

Nuni started teaching in the Yellow Room in 1999. Nuni graduated from Emory University with a B.A. in English. She has been a teacher assistant for the University City School District, a photo stylist and worked in sales before coming to the nursery school. Nuni's sons all attended ESNS and now: Henry attends Columbia College in Chicago, George is a student at Cornell College in Iowa, and Oliver is in middle school at Wydown. Nuni loves to garden.

Jill Allen (Director) After 9 years in the Blue Room, Jill has moved into the Director's role. Jill's relationship with the school started as the mother of three ESNS graduates: Sophie, a freshman at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism in Phoenix, AZ, Molly, a junior at Nerinx Hall, and Lucy in 8th grade at The College School. As a parent, she served on the ESNS board and as a substitute teacher. She has experience as a past board president at TCS, years of HR and AR work during the time she helped run a local bakery/cafe and currently coaches swimmers at Clayton High School. Jill has a degree in art history from Old Dominion University.