

LNS BELONGING



Before it Goes - Places to Experience in the Sculpture Park

Community Day October 21

DeWitt Godfrey - "Lincoln", 2012

"Godfrey imbues his sculptures with movement and a sense of buoyancy by embracing spontaneity and chance. Aware of his material's unpredictability, Godfrey welcomes unplanned shifts in the metal, which continually reshape the sculpture.." - thetrustees.org



Teachers and Families Together:

LNS offers each of us an opportunity to grow more as ourselves through our work with children, as family partners or teachers, and through the committee, board, or faculty work integral to our cooperative school. There's a saying, "The more you put in, the more you get out!" So we show up, paying attention to what has heart and meaning; speaking our truth without judgment and being open to the outcome of this school year. We create a path to belonging together, through listening and engagement.

I learned through the Parent Cooperative Preschools International Newsletter that October is National Co-Op Month. Who knew? The theme this year is "Owning Our Identity." What does that mean at LNS? Opening ourselves to working together as teachers and families to engage deeply with the children's school experience and our community. By doing this, we receive the gift of belonging and an expanded sense of identity.



Children:

"Listening, then, as a metaphor for having the openness and sensitivity to listen and be listened to - listening not just with our ears, but with all our senses (sight, touch, smell, taste, orientation)." - Carlina Rinaldi, President @ The Foundation Reggio Children Centro Loris Malaguzzi, Reggio Emilia

What do we imagine belonging feels like to our preschoolers? Each child is presented with the task of creating belonging all throughout life. They come into the world as who they are and then enter new experiences with others, broadening their sense of self as they grow. Acknowledgement of who they are in each moment provides them a place of safety from which they can take risks.

Subsequently, connection is created when children are seen and heard; when they become co-protagonists in their own life stories. This, in turn, leads to that sense of belonging. At school, children enter the gate as individuals and cross thresholds to become part of the group. Not only are they creating new belonging for themselves, but for others as well. They rely on the adults in their world to be a bridge in this work. We do this by listening with all our senses.



Family Partnerships:

It's October and family partners are joining the studio communities. Welcome! Entering your child's studio for the morning is a remarkable experience. Routines have been established to create a flow to the day but there are often surprises! It might be how your child reacts to your presence in their classroom, an unexpected interaction, a child's poetic observation or experiencing the sculpture park through a child's lens. These are gifts that you will talk about over and over, building deeper connections.

Nancy will give a talk on Understanding the Studios, Tuesday Nov. 7, at 8:45 am in the Carriage House Studio and at 7:30 pm in Studio Purple. All new family partners are asked to attend. This is an opportunity to learn more about how we organize the education and care of children at LNS and establish our belonging.

Heard on Campus

At the start of a child's first school experience:

"I never used this many people before."

