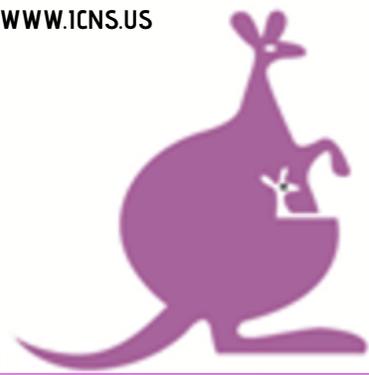


THE PURPLE KANGAROO

AN IRVINE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL PUBLICATION

WWW.ICNS.US



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2019-2020 | ISSUE 1

MS. DONNA'S CORNER

MY OBSERVATIONS 33 YEARS LATER...

When I started at ICNS in 1986 my children were 11, 8, and 1 years old. I am not exaggerating when I say my time of parenting was very different from parents today. It was a simpler time-less pressure from society with much less easily accessible information about raising the "perfect" child. The pressure from elementary school was not as intense as it is today.

Of course, I wanted my children to do well in school, however I was much more interested in them being good friends and growing up to be productive members of society than the grades they received. My philosophy of grades was that they earned the grade they received. I see parents today being much more hands on and obsessing over their children's schoolwork and grades. Although I offered advice and support, I didn't insert myself into their projects and schoolwork. I wanted them to be intrinsically motivated and work hard for what they wanted and achieved.

In 1986, parents let their children walk to school by themselves and walk/ride their bikes to a friend's. We trusted our children because we trusted our community to watch out for all the children. Playing freely in their neighborhoods, my kids did get into trouble. However, they learned to solve their problems, or I made sure they suffered the consequences for their actions.

The parents in 1986 ICNS had a very similar outlook to parenting as I had. We arranged play dates and moms became friends as their children played together (This I see, has not changed!) The children showed more respect for the adults in their lives than I see now. Our children had fewer sports and extracurricular activities than I see children attending today. The rule of thumb was 1 extra activity per week!

My generation of parents had more down time to spend with their children (fewer organized activities and full time working moms perhaps?) which meant the time to just talk and play, and through shared conversations with our children, they learned to listen, think, and express themselves more easily than I feel today's children do. I spent my time with my children playing - games, walks, dancing, going

to parks, etc. Children today are under more pressure to perform- especially in academic areas- and to give the right or the only acceptable answer when talking to adults. This pressure to always be right has caused children and parents a large degree of anxiety and stress, as well as stifling curiosity and creativity.

The absence of cell phones and screen time during my parenting years is probably the greatest change I've seen in children. I feel all the observations and comparisons I've made are directly related to these two modern devices. We now have media overload through instant access to information, and although we are phone connected to more people, we are more alone than ever with them. Instead of a human connection, we have a media and screen presence. Cell phones are convenient, and a quick text message is so much faster than arranging to meet and have a conversation. But I feel we are losing so much human, sharing, and conversing time. And I've seen way too often, parents putting a phone in a child's hand to keep them busy while they do their "adult" thing.

The final differences I want to mention are indulgent children and parents who can't say "no". These go together and are not a flattering result for the child. Delaying gratification gives a child time to think for himself and is part of self-regulation. Hearing "no" allows a child to re-group, think creatively, and deal with emotions. It's ok to be disappointed and helps build a strength of character needed to be successful in all aspects of adult life.

The one thing that hasn't changed since 1986 are the parents who continue to bring their children to ICNS. Parents who are willing and dedicated to the time and effort involved in attending our preschool. Parents who see a community of diverse but like-minded adults as a benefit to the development of their child. Parents who have enriched my life and whose children continue to surprise, delight, and challenge me daily. I am so glad that this hasn't changed since 1986!

Donna Schwartze
Director



FUN FACTS ABOUT MS. DONNA

- I was born and raised in Connecticut, and graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BA and Masters Degree in Elementary Education. GO HUSKIES!
- I married Mike in 1973 and raised 3 fabulous children: Andy (married to Jess), Dini (works for the City of Irvine at Northwood Park) and Dave (married to Katy). My first grandchild (Dave & Katy's first child) will be arriving in January!
- I've had a variety of jobs over the years, including working at an apple orchard, in a kitchen and as a waitress at a psychiatric hospital, an elementary school teacher, at a factory sewing canvas sail covers, as a nurses' aid in a geriatric facility, paste up artist for newspaper print ads, in a fabric store, teaching sewing, knitting and other needle work, and as an Instructor for Irvine Valley College
- I started at ICNS in 1986!



MEET OUR TEACHERS



Tanya Sutkowi

Welcome to our new and returning families. My family joined ICNS in 1993. My husband Dave and I have two adult daughters. Our family has grown in recent years. Nicolette got married to Mike and Jacquelyn and Mick made us grandparents to Beckham. When my daughter went to kindergarten, I was offered the position of Kangaroo Club Assistant. This program is still offered today. **Kangaroo Club** is an extended day class that meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Your child brings a lunch to eat with the teachers and we have a planned activity. Children from both the 2-day and 3-day class are welcome to attend. You can sign up for ten classes at a discounted rate to be used throughout the year or pay for individual Wednesdays. I hope to see you there! This year you will also find me in the **2-day class** with Ms. Donna and teaching the **Parent and Me class** on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. I am available to sub in the 3-day class and most cleaning days. I received my Early Childhood Education Certificate many years ago, but continue to take classes to enhance the children's experiences here at ICNS. I love our family environment and our ability to combine play with learning. You have chosen a wonderful school. Enjoy your time here interacting with the children, the teachers and the other co-op parents! It's going to be a great year!



Bushra Rashid

I joined ICNS as a parent about 20 years ago. I loved the co-op environment from day one. I had never thought of becoming a teacher until I worked with little children as a parent helper. I realized that this was a profession in which I could make a difference in young children's lives, and that it was one of the most rewarding careers out there. After completing my ECE certificate in 2009 I started working at ICNS as a "Parent & Me" teacher. I really enjoyed working with parents and teaching the toddlers. I am very fortunate to have an opportunity to assist Ms. Donna with the **3-day class**. I believe that parents are a child's first and most important teachers. I engage parents in classroom activities, and provide opportunities for kids to explore, ask questions and use their imagination. I am really excited to be working with the children at ICNS, and to get to know the families.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Nicole Best , Co-President

How long have you been with ICNS? This will be my 7th year at ICNS!

Name and ages of your children - Nathaniel 9, Oliver 7 and Chloe 4

What do you love about ICNS? I love the lessons ICNS provides to the children as well as the parents. The school teaches us all about "taking care of ourselves, taking care of others and taking care for our things". I think this is the foundation of creating the Community (which we love) that makes ICNS so unique and special.

Favorite memory of ICNS - Oh gosh! I've had to think about this question quite a bit because I've made so many wonderful memories with so many incredible families. I'm going to say that my absolute favorite memory is the day I took a walk with my two sons

around the lake after story-time at the Heritage Park Library. We saw the kids playing outside at ICNS. At that very moment we went around and took a tour and a week later we were waiting in line to enroll at ICNS open enrollment. It was truly the best spur of the moment decision my little family could have made because ICNS has become such a huge part of our adventure. We have been blessed with amazing friendships, a beautiful community and made lasting memories that we all cherish!



Evelyn Le , Co-President

How long have you been with ICNS? This is my 6th year

Name and ages of your children - Kylie-Lynn (9), Breyton (7) & Desmond (4)

What do you love about ICNS? ICNS has become such a joyful place for me. Whenever I walk through those glass doors, I cannot help but feel my spirit lifting. This is where I have watched and participated in my children learning by making mistakes, messes and yep even muffins. The memories that have been created here are priceless, and definitely hands down, my favorite time in my children's early learning. I have made lifelong friends and am so grateful to have found a school that shares the same core values, a place that values individuality and fosters acceptance.

Something your child has done to make you laugh - One school day, Chloe Best and Desmond decided to get married.

Actually, Chloe bribed him with a donut. During the wedding ceremony Chloe got upset, because Desmond would not get off his phone.

Ashley Sarmiento, 1st Vice President

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our 4th year with ICNS.

Name and ages of your children - I have 3 children. Nolan will be 6 in November, Ori will be 4 in November and Violet will be 2 in December.

Favorite memory of ICNS - I love the feeling of support and love from ICNS. ICNS allows children to be children while lovingly guiding their growth as little people.

What do you hope your kid gets out of ICNS? I can already see it with my oldest who graduated from ICNS, but I would like to raise children who can effectively communicate with others, solve problems, and make good choices. ICNS provides the children with practice of these skills, and parents with resources and education to support the individual needs of their children.



Sarah Duke, 2nd Vice President

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our second year at ICNS.

Name and ages of your children - Stella age 4 and Audrey age 3

Favorite event or memory at ICNS - Our favorite events are the potlucks

What do you hope your kid gets out of ICNS? I hope that Stella has meaningful friendships and feels like part of a community.

Margaret Gamboa Valle, Secretary

How long have you been with ICNS? This is my third year with ICNS.

Name and ages of your children - Our son, Diego is 5 years old and daughter, Maya is 3 years old.

Favorite event or memory at ICNS - My favorite ICNS memory is celebrating Mrs. Donna's 70th birthday in our ICNS backyard. Seeing so many children and parents sitting together in a circle, singing songs and sharing words of gratitude for our wonderful teacher warmed my heart. What I love about ICNS is the sense of community and support the teachers, parents and children offer each other. When I walk through the doors each morning, I truly feel the love and care put into our lovely preschool.





Wende Hernandez, Treasurer

How long have you been with ICNS? This is my 3rd year with ICNS and 3rd year on the board.

Name and ages of your children - Reid is 3 and in the 2 day class. Graham is 6 and in first grade at Stonegate.

Favorite event or memory at ICNS - I love the Earth Day Carnival when the kids and parents get to all be at the school to create and learn together. So much excitement for trash is just the cutest and you really get to see the kids creativity.

What do you love about ICNS? Most of all I love the community of parents that want to be involved in their children's development. I also love the way our children are able to learn and grow socially and

emotionally through their play here at ICNS. They are able to develop without really understanding they are learning by doing what they love, to PLAY.

Something your child has done to make you laugh? Reid is always making me laugh with his wide vocabulary, crazy dances and fierce love of life.

Something your child has done to make you happy/proud? He has been super with his transition to preschool. **What do you hope your kid gets out of ICNS?** I hope he learns to love himself and others, to be caring and have a positive attitude about life and learning.

Carey Zamora, OCCPPNS

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our second year at ICNS. Too bad we don't have more kids, we'd love to be apart of this school longer!

Name and ages of your children - Lucia just turned 4 and she's in the 3-day class.

What do you love about ICNS? We love that our daughter LOVES school. She asks us everyday if it's a school day and she often re-enacts school at home. ICNS has given our whole family a place to connect with others and learn together.

Something your child has done to make you happy/proud? We are proud that Lucia is learning to swim. She works hard in swim class and her skills are finally coming together.





Christina Hwang, Ways & Means

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our 2nd year.

Name and ages of your children - Elliot (3, almost 4) and Isabel (2)

Favorite event or memory at ICNS? Participating in the classroom and seeing how the other parents and teachers take charge of a classroom of 2-3 year olds and seeing the reaction of surprise, wonder, and awe on the children's faces. Magic happens in the classroom.

What do you love about ICNS? I love the participation from everyone and how we build a community together. I am learning everyday alongside my child.

Something your child has done to make you laugh?

I was practicing making snow cones and Elliot started busting out a snow cone dance in anticipation of eating of them.

Something your child has done to make you happy/proud? He has this phrase where he says "big boy never gives up".

What do you hope your kid gets out of ICNS? I want my son to be nurtured in a loving, encouraging environment where he feels comfortable being himself and loved.

Brooke Tawana, Ways & Means

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our third year and second child at ICNS.

Name and ages of your children - Quinn (7) and Reese (4)

What do you love about ICNS? The focus on emotional and social development, the way our children are treated with love and respect by everyone at the school and the community with ICNS families.

Something your child has done to make you happy/proud? Reese is so kind and thoughtful, and it always makes me proud to see these qualities in action. When we were on vacation in Hawaii, her big sister wrote postcards to a few friends. Reese immediately wanted to do the same for her ICNS friends. She spent the first evening of our trip dictating messages for us to write to each of her Classmates. We couldn't mail them all, but your child may come home with a note from Reese in their buckets in the future!



Tiana Teixeira, Membership

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our second year at ICNS and we love it!

Name and ages of your children - Madelyn Susbilla, 4 years old

What do you love about ICNS? We love everything about the school. All of the teachers are great with Madelyn and she LOVES coming to school with her friends. Most of all we love all of the great families we have met in the past year. It is awesome to have our ICNS family especially being from out of town and not having any relatives close by.

Something your child has done to make you happy/proud? She has really gained a lot of confidence in her social skills. Madelyn is not afraid to say hi to people in public and she often will try and make new friends when we are at the park. I see a major difference in her social skills from when we first started at ICNS and it makes me happy to see her personality grow in such a positive environment.



Salome Carrigan, Newsletter

How long have you been with ICNS? This is our 6th year!

Name and ages of your children - Desmond (9), Dominique (6) and Elyse (4), all ICNS alumni.

What do you love about ICNS?

It is the only school where you feel really connected to the community and have the ability to form lasting relationships with other families. It also feels nice to be able to contribute to your child's school. The teachers really make an effort to connect with the children.

Something your child has done to make you happy/proud? We love how Elyse is always so giving and considerate of others, especially her brother and sister. She is slowly coming out of her shell and we are looking forward to seeing her progress!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



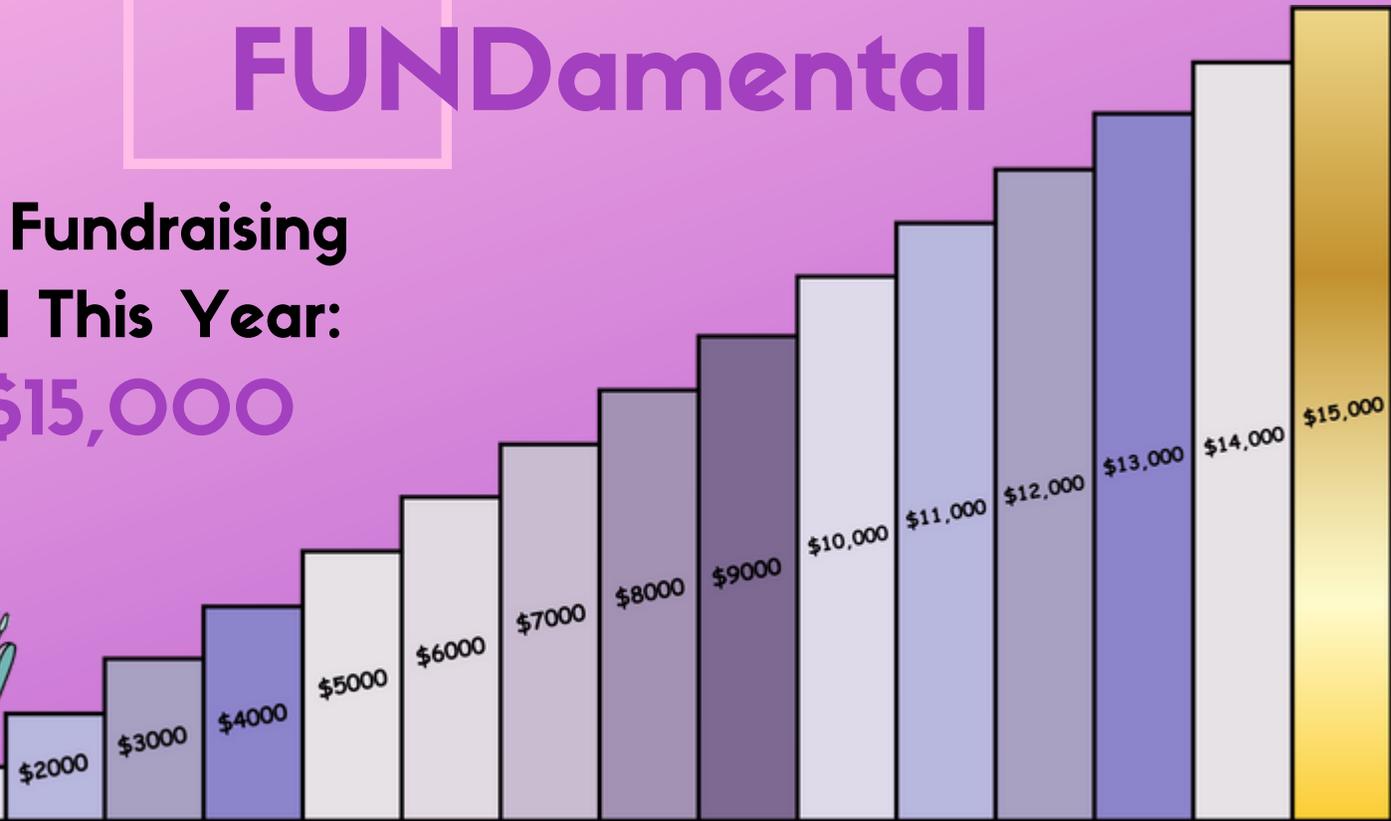
Fundraising is FUNdamental

**Our Fundraising
Goal This Year:**

\$15,000



\$1000
**\$1528
TO DATE!**



PUMPKIN PATCH WRISTBANDS

Oct 24th - 3:30 - 8:30

Order wristbands for Pumpkin City - Laguna Hills, for unlimited carnival rides and petting zoo.

\$20 each [ICNS gets \$6]

SEE'S CANDY

SALES

Nov 17 - Dec 5

A fundraiser to sell delicious See's candy to family and friends. They also make great holiday gifts! ICNS will receive a percentage of each item sold. Top seller gets a generous gift basket!

FAMILY PHOTOS (FALL)

Upcoming

Family Pictures will be taken at a local spot, proceeds go to ICNS. Capture this special time with your family with a portrait you'll treasure forever, taken by a professional photographer in our ICNS community.

PAINT AND SIP

Upcoming

Come find your inner-Picasso over some drinks with friends.

PARENT NIGHT OUT

Upcoming

Time to get some Christmas shopping done or dine/drink with other parents at a close-by restaurant.

ALUMNI EVENT

Upcoming

Join us for a family filled evening with ICNS alumni.



Back to School Picnic



FALL EVENTS

NO SCHOOL

Oct 14 - Columbus Day

GENERAL MEETING

Oct 17

PUMPKIN CITY FUNDRAISER

Oct 24

DADS' PANGAKE BREAKFAST

Oct 26

HALLOWEEN COSTUME
PARADE

Oct 30 - 3 day

Oct 31 - 2 day

THE BIG WALK - LAMPPOST

Nov 7 - 2 day

Nov 8 - 3 day

NO SCHOOL

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day

PARENT-TEACHER CONF.

Nov 12 - 2 day

Nov 13 - 3 day

GENERAL MEETING

Nov 21

STONE SOUP DAY

Nov 21 - 2 day

Nov 22 - 3 day

NO SCHOOL

Nov 25-29 - Thanksgiving Week

ICNS HOLIDAY PARTY

Dec 7 10-12pm

ICNS HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Dec 13 - 3 day only

COOKIE DAY - MS. DONNA'S
HOUSE

Dec 18 - 3 day

Dec 19 - 2 day

NO SCHOOL

Dec 20-Jan 6 - Winter Break

OUR
SPONSORS



WATERWORKS AQUATICS



Fast Action Basketball

KANGAROO CLUB

**2 Wednesdays
per Month**

**Children eat
lunch and
participate in
an activity**

\$20 per session

