

THE

# PURPLE KANGAROO

AN IRVINE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL PUBLICATION





**A WORD FROM  
YOUR PRESIDENT**



**A**s the 2015-2016 school year comes to an end, I reflect on how ICNS is more than a preschool, more than a playground, more than a classroom. It is a Family. We have witnessed our kids sing together, learn together, laugh together, and cry together. For the 3-day families, like mine, ICNS has well prepared our children for their next great endeavor and although we wish them farewell-- they'll always be a part of the ICNS Family.

The 2-day families are more than ready to inherit the mantle and along with Ms. Donna, Ms. Bushra, and Ms. Tanya will have a well-deserved summer break and then return to continue this great tradition because... “the more we get together, the happier we’ll be!”

Thanks for a wonderful year!

**K**ristin Amimoto

**“THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER,  
THE HAPPIER WE’LL BE!”**





The end of the year has arrived as we knew it would when we started in September, but where did the year go? For the last newsletter, our creative editor has given me the easy task of talking about myself! Not too much thinking-just recalling fond memories. I will answer Evelyn's prompts as she presented them to me.

1. How long have I been at ICNS and what brought me here? (I'm combining these as they kind of go together)

I started as Director/teacher of ICNS in September of 1986, however, I was a parent in the school from September 1979-June 1983 with my 2 older children. When we first moved to Irvine, my oldest son was 4 which lead me to search for a preschool, and I was very particular about what I wanted for my child. I hadn't heard about co-op preschools, but after meeting the teacher and parents I knew this was the place for us. Having been an elementary and preschool teacher I knew what the



*My favorite thing Ms. Donna says is "You're so beautiful".*

*Kacy Liao - 2 day*

*Ms. Donna's superhero name would be "The Old Walking Woman".*

*Coleman Tully - 3 day*

*Ms. Donna is so smart because she ate lots of vegetables.*

*Misha Yoon - 3 day*

# DONNA SCHWARTZ



right environment was for kids and I also found being in the classroom fun and comfortable. I substituted for the Director/teacher often, and helped hire the teacher who was my predecessor. When she retired, the women on the Board of Directors asked me to apply for the job, and as they say-the rest is history-a lot of history!

2. My family My family is the love and center of my life. My husband, Mike, and I have been married for 43 years and we have 3 children plus

2 daughter in laws and one grand doggy! Mike is a plumbing contractor, story teller, and a genuinely kind person. In 43 years I've heard most of his stories, and I still find him entertaining as well as challenging!

At 41, 38, and 31, my children are wonderful, loving, individuals and as different as any three siblings can be and yet so supportive and protective of one another. My sons married women who compliment and challenge them and bring more love and fun to the

family-but no grandchildren-yet! It took me many years to accept that my children were not me and not following the path I had planned for them, but they are all meaningfully engaged and contributing positively to the world in which we live and I couldn't be prouder of each of them.

3. Weird quirks? I'm not sure I have any weird quirks, and if I did, I'm not sure of the wisdom of sharing them with the parents who entrust their

# HOW DID MS. DONNA GET SO SMART?

## REAGAN MARSHALL (2 DAY): CAUSE I LOVE HER!!

My favorite thing Ms. Donna does is play with me. I love to play with her.  
Breylon Le - 2 day

Ms. Donna always wears white because she is white.  
Jadyn Rutty - 3 day

Ms. Donna has been teaching for a long time. Let me count 1, 2, ..., 10. 10 years!  
Rebecca Chen - 2 day

Ms. Donna has been teaching for like a million years, a million years, I think means forever!  
Ivy Watson - 3 day

Ms. Donna is really good at singing.  
Dylan Blanco - 3 day

Ms. Donna is always telling the class when her guitar string breaks.  
Sean Rennels - 2 day

Ms. Donna always wear white because she only has that shirt and no more different shirt.  
Anton - 3 day

children to me! I'm sure some of you have noticed something weird about me, so please let me know!

4. My favorite thing about working at ICNS? Hands down, the best things about ICNS are the children and their families. I have been so enriched by the families I have met in 30 years, learning so much about the world and cultures and delicious food! The reason I prefer preschool over elementary teaching is the opportunity for more interaction with parents, and this connection is even more available in the co-op. I love creating an environment for the children that they find exciting and fun; challenging them to think; and guiding them towards problem solving and kindness. And the children and parents

challenge me every day, making every day different, fun, and exciting. I wake up every morning and think: I get to go to preschool today-I wonder what will happen? Although I believe my favorite thing about ICNS is that you all make me feel so respected and appreciated, and for this gift I am very grateful.

5. Super power? Oh my-which power to choose? Do I want to fly-that would be so cool, or would I like to read minds-maybe too much information to have? I would love the power to remember everything that happens or to be smarter, or the power of good health. I just thought of it: Super strength-physical and emotional strength to withstand any adversity and have the courage to stand up for what

one believes in and fight injustices-super woman! I want to be a tall super woman wearing a flowing bright blue cape having a body that can pull off a royal blue spandex suit! What a vision, what a super power, what a woman!!

Thanks for letting me talk about myself and for another year at ICNS. It's been a blast! I wish for you all a happy, safe summer.

Ms Donna



# BUSHRA RASHID

I have three beautiful kids and a very loving husband. I got married in Pakistan in 1992 and immediately moved to America since my husband was working on his Masters Degree in Computer Sciences. Life was definitely very different in America; the culture was different, the language was different and most of all everyone seemed to have very busy lives. This was a totally different lifestyle for me.

Coming from a big family in Pakistan and now living alone in a new place was a big change. Back home, when the entire family went to a restaurant we had to wait an hour to be seated. Here, it just took five minutes. At home, the word 'privacy' wasn't in anyone's dictionary; but here, I had been living in Connecticut for almost two years and I hardly knew my neighbors. Another big change was translating the British English I was taught in Pakistan into American English. The "lift" was called an "elevator." I thought a trolley was something you put your groceries in, not a train you ride when you sight-

see. And I quickly learned it was an "eraser" instead of a rubber---Oh that's a whole other story, I still get embarrassed just by thinking about it! Anyway, as I had a lot to learn about this new place, I decided to go to college. I enrolled in school and took speech, history, and other interesting classes.

In 1997, we moved to California. By that time, I had a daughter. I was looking for a preschool for her when I stumbled upon ICNS. I immediately fell in love with the school. I was new in Irvine and didn't know anybody. Through ICNS, I met so many beautiful families and friendly people, some of whom I am still friends with. Now that my daughter was starting school I wanted to do something for myself. I had always had an interest in interior design. I remember looking at the rooms in my friends' homes and thinking things like "I wonder how would the room look if they place the sofa against the long wall" or "why did they choose those knobs, they should have gone with gold accents as opposed to silver." Sometimes I accidentally said these comments out loud---Oops! Because of this interest, I decided to go to school to learn interior design and I joined the Interior Design Institute in Newport Beach and completed my certificate

## MS. DONNA IS REALLY GOOD AT HELPING PEOPLE

JADYN RUTTY-3 DAY



course. After a couple of years I realized that I liked interior design but I did not want it to be my career. That is when I went to Irvine Valley College and took all the required courses to finish my certificate in early childhood education.

By this time, I had two more kids and I knew exactly which preschool I wanted them to go to. I also became a working parent at ICNS since the school was looking for an assistant teacher for their “Parent and Me” class. I took the offer because I loved the school and it was a great opportunity. Now, this year is my 8th year at ICNS! My favorite thing about working at ICNS is playing pretend with the kids and getting to know their families.

In my free time I love trying new recipes and listening to music. I am always ready to face challenges and I work really well with other people. I am also a huge neat freak and I hate it when my house gets cluttered--I cannot sit still until everything is back in its place and order is restored. If I could have one superpower I would want to time travel. It will be so interesting to see historical event unfold before my eyes.

Now that the school year has ended, I am sad to say goodbye to ICNS families. Good luck to those who are starting kindergarten this Fall . I Look forward to seeing others in 3- day class in September.

Have a fun and restful summer.

Ms. Bushra



# TANYA SUTKOWI

My favorite thing Ms. Tanya does is when she asks me NOT to put my baby away.  
Reagan Marshall- 2 day

Ms. Tanya's superhero name would be "Rebecca".  
Rebecca Chen - 2 day

Ms. Tanya makes me feel better.  
Kristin Kang - 2 day

Ms. Tanya always says, "Hi Kacy, I love you."  
Kacy Liao - 2 day

Ms. Tanya makes me feel happy, not sad.  
Sean Rennels - 2 day

My favorite thing Ms. Tanya does is catch me bug.  
Breylon Le - 2 day

I have been married to my handsome husband, Dave, for thirty-two years. We have two beautiful daughters. Jacquelyn is thirty-one and Nicolette is twenty-seven. I'm fortunate to have both girls here in Orange County. We often spend our free days together. Disneyland is one of our favorite places to go, but we also love concerts, theater productions and the pool.

I have two jobs that I love. I have been at ICNS for twenty-three years and Disneyland for almost ten years. My youngest had Ms. Donna as her preschool teacher, she graduated and I stayed. Ms. Donna and I travelled to France to visit her when she

studied abroad during college. (You never know where your preschool friendships may take you.) I have performed many roles at ICNS, starting with Kangaroo Club Assistant, Assistant Teacher, Pre-K Teacher Assistant, Pre-K Teacher and Parent and Me Co-Teacher. This year I am assisting Ms. Donna in the 2-day class, teaching the Parent and Me class and having fun every other Wednesday at Kangaroo Club. If you don't know about Kangaroo Club, just ask me.

My favorite part of my job at ICNS is the children. I love that they are allowed to play and learn at their own pace.

Ms. Bushra makes me feel happy.  
Elizabeth Stoldt - 3 day

Ms. Bushra has been teaching for 500 million years.  
Anton Huynh - 3 day

Ms. Bushra is really good at talking stories.  
John Kwon - 3 day

Ms. Bushra makes me feel sooo happy and loved too and makes me rosie.  
Jadyn Rutty - 3 day

Ms. Bushra 's superhero name would be "The Friendly Woman".  
Coleman Tully - 3 day

My favorite thing Ms. Bushra does is give me hugs.  
Misha Yoon



I enjoy getting to know the families each year. I am happy to call many alumni parents my friends.

What brought me to ICNS: When I moved to Irvine from Michigan, we had a “Welcome Wagon” lady come by our house. She was an alumni mom and said I could ONLY choose ICNS for my daughter’s preschool. I was on the wait list for a year. I’d say it was worth the wait.

Quirks: I always keep a bag packed, ready for weekend get-aways. I love to travel and stay in hotels! I collect dolls and Precious Moments.

Superpower I would like to have: Lightning speed would be nice. I often need to be in multiple places at the same time.

Ms. Tanya

## The Yellow Table

Recipes that feed your soul and your sweet tooth

### *Triple Berry Mascarpone Trifle*

*Recipe Courtesy of Rubina’s Cake Shoppe*

*Here’s what you will need to make this beautiful layered dessert:*

Triple Berry Mascarpone Trifle  
Makes 4 individual trifles or 1 large trifle.  
Ingredients:

- 1 cup cold heavy cream
- 1 cup mascarpone cheese (room temperature)
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1 lb sliced fresh strawberries
- 1 pint fresh blue berries
- 1 pint fresh raspberries

Instructions:

1. Mix together the mascarpone cheese and maple syrup until smooth using a stand mixer with the whisk attachment or an electric beater.
2. Add the heavy cream and whisk until stiff peaks form.
3. Spread the strawberries on the bottom of the trifle dish.
4. Spread a layer of mascarpone whipped cream.
5. Spread a layer of fresh blue berries.
6. Spread a layer of mascarpone whipped cream.
7. Decorate the top with fresh raspberries.
8. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
9. Enjoy!

