



Purple Kangaroo

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*Irvine Community
Nursery School
<http://www.icns.us>*

Learning and Losing Language

August 2018



This summer I visited my parents. My Dad is 94, my Mom is 92. They still live in the house I grew up in. Not much has changed at the house or in the town of Portland, Connecticut. The most noticeable change is with my mom- she has been diagnosed with dementia and it shows itself in her loss of expressive language. She might know what she wants to say, but she's lost the words. Every so often she can express a clear, understandable sentence or phrase, but most of the time it is a language that is without meaning to her listeners. It is very challenging and heartbreaking, and it reminds me of young children learning language.

All humans want to be heard and acknowledged. We all have a message to tell, needs to be met, ideas to share; we want to be heard. As children are learning to speak, and learning the rules of grammar, syntax, and building vocabulary, they make lots of mistakes (which we adults often find cute), gesticulate to get their point across, and become frustrated when the listeners just don't get their message. When the words are not there or the feelings cannot be defined, meltdowns, hitting, and whining can result. This is never pleasant or acceptable and usually results in adults swooping in to stop the behavior.

But what about the unheard message? I believe that

the adults in children's lives must do what they can to hear children's messages. We must respect each child's need to be heard. By observing children's behaviors and their interactions with other children and adults, we gain a window into their personalities, their motivations, and their needs. In preschool we give the children the phrase: "I have a message for you" to help them focus on what they need to communicate to others.

When a child comes to me at school and says, pointing to another child, "He took my shovel", I will respond with, "I can help you give him a message". Then together we go to the other child and say, "Your friend has a message for you. He says you took his shovel". I don't know exactly what happened: maybe the other child did or did not take the shovel, but the offended party thinks so, and a dialogue is needed to sort out this dilemma. At first, it is very difficult to give and receive messages. The children are uncomfortable with each other or their language skills are not developed enough to sort out their complex thoughts and emotions. In any event, it is our responsibility to help each child get their messages out in as clear and socially acceptable way as possible. This takes a calm, patient, and non-judgmental attitude.

I must admit, that sometimes, no matter how I listen,

MS. DONNA'S WORDS

or say "show me", or watch their little face and hands, or ask another adult or child to interpret for me, I just don't get the message, I keep smiling, nodding, "uh-huhing" to let the child know I'm hearing and seeing him and acknowledging that he has a very important message for me.

I did the same thing with my mom. I looked her in the eyes, watched her hands and heard her vocal expressions and did my best to follow the thought, story, or need she was trying to convey, all the time thinking she's sharing a message with me and I will honor her effort. I responded when I could, laughed when she did, and sometimes cried. As my mom is losing her language, I marvel at the growth and development of the children's language in the preschool.

Working together, let's make sure all our messages are heard.

Ms. Donna



About Ms. Donna



I was born, raised and educated (University of Connecticut, BS Education, Ma. Ed) in Connecticut. In 1972, looking for adventure and being young, my roommate and I drove across the country in her VW bug. When we got to California we had to stop!

I met my husband, Mike, shortly after my arrival, so I stayed and we married in 1973. We have 3 (plus 2 daughter in laws)fabulous children: Andy (& Jess), Dini, and Dave & (Katie). Sadly no grandchildren, but I haven't given up hope!

We moved to Irvine in 1979. In 1986, after my oldest kids went through and I had served on the Board of Directors, I was hired to be the director/teacher at ICNS. And here I am today: still waking up every morning excited about going to school and seeing what adventures we will have.

MEET OUR TEACHERS



Ms. Tanya

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 this past year. Nicolette got married to Mike in December, then Jacquelyn and Mick made us grandparents on July 4th.

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!



Ms. Bushra

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.

KANGAROO CLUB

**Kids stay and have
lunch with Ms. Tanya!!**

**ON EVERY 1ST AND 3RD
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

12-2 PM

**\$20 / CLASS
LIMIT TO 10 CHILDREN**



GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD

President



Hello! I'm Melissa and I'm so excited to be the President of the Board this year! I am a stay-at home Mom who has held an assortment of board positions over the last 6 years we've been at ICNS. My daughter Josie is in the 3-day class and I have an elder daughter who just started first grade-who is also a graduate of ICNS. Please don't hesitate to ask me questions; I am more than happy to help if I can. I look forward to working with all of you to create a fabulous and wonderful year!

1st Vice President

Hello!

I'm Evelyn Le and I will be 1st VP for this upcoming year. Desmond my third baby was practically born at ICNS. He will be following in his siblings' footsteps and having the time of his life at ICNS 2 day! We are so excited to start another year and see our old friends as well as make new ones.

ICNS is such a joyful place for me, whenever I walk through those glass doors, I cannot help but feel my spirit lift. This is where I have watched and participated in my children's learning and growing. The memories made at ICNS are priceless and more than once I have wished to myself that I had the power to stop time; to be able to pause in the moment and just enjoy the delight on my little one's face. And I promise you, your little ICNS'er will have lots of things to delight in while at ICNS.

Whenever I am not chasing around my 3 kids or playing chauffeur, I can be found reading, photographing or eating ice cream.



2nd Vice President



Hi everyone! I'm Nicole Best, VP of Chairships and I'm so grateful to be a part of this amazing community. My third child, Chloe Best, is attending ICNS in the 2 Day Class having followed in the footsteps of her two brothers, Nathaniel (8) and Oliver (6) both attending Portola Springs Elementary. I'm married to my wonderful husband, Keshava Best and enjoy spending time with my beautiful family, traveling and running. I'm looking forward to our last 2 years working with our ICNS family.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD



Treasurer

Hi! I'm Amy Alquaddoomi. I'm so excited to be serving on the board as Treasurer this year. My husband and I are originally from Los Angeles and have lived in Irvine for the past 6 years. My daughter, Seraphine, attended the parent and me class 3 years ago. She is now 6 years old and in 1st grade. My son, Felix, is attending 3 day after a wonderful year in 2 day with Miss Tanya. I have been a stay-at-home mom from the moment my daughter was born. Before having children, I was a math teacher. So, in my spare time, I tutor children and adults in mathematics. It's definitely a passion of mine! I look forward to new friendships and a wonderful year at ICNS!

Secretary

Hi! My name is Ashley Sarmiento and I'll be serving as secretary on the ICNS board for the second year. My son Ori is very excited to join the 2-day class this year. My oldest child, Nolan, started TK this year after spending two years at ICNS. Our family is rounded out by a sweet 9 month old baby girl, Violet. I was born and raised in Southern California, and I love the sciences (especially geology), sewing, hiking, trying to make friends with crows, and my haphazard garden. I love the community spirit of ICNS and I'm always amazed by how talented and generous ICNS families are.



Membership

I am blessed to be married to the most amazing husband and father on the planet. Ed and I collaborated on four marvelous children (Luke 10; Katie 8; Chloe 6; and Fiona 4)! Fiona is in 3 day. Our goal is to raise happy and healthy children who, when interviewed later in life, talk about their idyllic childhood rich in romance and tradition!

We love ICNS and our time spent here. There isn't another school community like it. You and your children will grow and flourish here. As membership I have met the new families and I'm excited to see how all your unique backgrounds will meld together to create your unique class.

ICNS is always interested in new thoughts and ideas. It is what makes us such a success. Don't be afraid to get involved! Above all else, enjoy this time!

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD

Ways and Means



I was born in the Philippines and grew up in Irvine. In 1987, on our way to Santa Ana, my father was driving on Main Street, got lost and we ended up in Irvine. Back then, Irvine, with all of its orange groves, reminded my parents of the farm they grew up in in the Philippines. They loved it and decided to make Irvine our home.

In 2007, I met my husband David on a grad school trip in Thailand. After traveling a bit, we decided to settle down and make our home in Irvine to be close to family. We have two young children, Diego (3 - day) and Maya (Parent and Me).

My hope, as the Ways and Means Co-Chair, is to create opportunities for our families to come together while raising funds to support the amazing programs ICNS offers our children. As this is my first fundraising position, I am open to your ideas, so please don't hesitate to reach out. Cheers to a great year!

Ways and Means

Hi, I'm Serena Chang, I will be sharing the Ways & Means position with Margaret. We are looking forward to sharing fun and interesting fundraising ideas throughout the school year to help ICNS operate at its best.

My daughter Abby started at ICNS with Parent and Me and is now in the three day class. I love the sense of community at ICNS and how we are all so actively involved in our children's development. I am most grateful for the opportunity to learn not only from Ms. Donna, Ms. Bushra and Ms. Tanya, but also fellow parents. Especially when we've had to deal with challenging behaviors, it has been so encouraging to hear from others who've gone through the same thing.

As for me, I am a stay at home mom. I worked in banking for a few years before my husband and I relocated to Asia (Beijing and Taipei) for a few years. That experience was invaluable, but nothing compares to the comforts of home.

We are excited for the new school year and looking forward to Abby learning lots of new things and forming new friendships!



"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."

--Albert Einstein

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD

OCCPPNS



Hi! My name is Katy Johnson- I'm your OCCPPNS (Orange County Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools) rep this year serving on ICNS's Board. This is my second year representing ICNS in the same role.

This is my fourth year at ICNS as I have a child, Julian, who is now in 1st grade and Celeste who is currently in 3-day. Our little family of four loves to go to the mountains (especially Colorado!), play outside, eat pizza together and have dance parties (I just recently learned how to "floss", so watch out!) Aside from dominating at dance parties (kidding), I'm a full-time working mama who works at the Irvine Fine Arts Center and I'm also a Silver leader for Young Living Essential Oils. I'm looking forward to a super fun final year at ICNS with all of you wonderful families!

Newsletter

Hello, my name is Hui-Chen Chiang (Jane) and I am the chair of newsletter. I have 2 kids; Rex is in 2nd grade at Meadow Park Elementary School, and Mila is in 3-day class as her 2nd year here at ICNS.

My family are from Taiwan. My husband and I had stayed in New York for 5 years before we moved to California when Rex was 4 and Mila was 1 year old in 2015. I would say Irvine is the best place to settle down, not just for its beautiful weather and well-designed living environment, but all the nice and friendly people we have met here! We are so blessed to join ICNS for the 2nd year and this will be our last year at ICNS (unless we accidentally have a 3rd child).

As for Purple Kangaroo newsletter, we will have 4 issues throughout the year, and you are welcomed to submit subjects/articles/pictures, or questions on parenting/children development that you would like to ask Ms. Donna, Ms. Tanya and Ms. Bushra. We can have a Q and A column, too. Any topic that you are interested in might as well resonates with others.

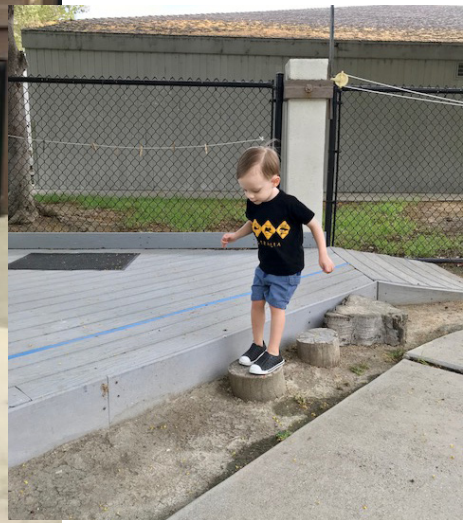
Newsletter needs your letters (submissions)!!



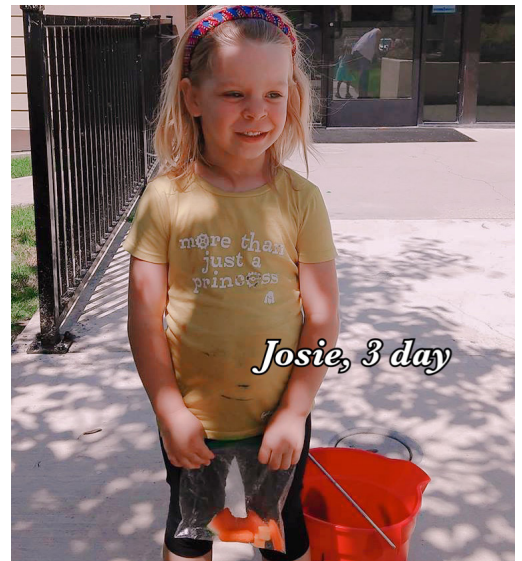
"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

-- Helen Keller

LITTLE KANGAROOS' FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



LITTLE KANGAROOS' FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Event	Date	Time	Details & Location
<i>Ms. Tanya's Birthday</i> 	9/26 (Wednesday)	4 - 9 PM	<i>Ruby's</i> @Woodbridge Village Center 4602 Barranca Pkwy, Irvine, CA 92604 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fundraiser to celebrate Ms. Tanya's birthday! Twenty percent (20%) of dinner sales will go back to ICNS.
<i>Pumpkin City Fundraiser</i> 	10/25 (Thursday)	3:30 - 8:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wristbands are \$20 (ICNS receives \$6 for each wristband sold) and allows children to ride carnival rides as many times as they like that evening. • Pumpkin City is located at the Laguna Hills Mall in the parking lot area near JC Penney at 24203 Avenida de la Carlota, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • (Potential restaurant fundraisers same evening) - TBD
<i>Holiday Party</i> 	12/1 (Saturday)	10 AM - 2 PM (TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our second largest fundraiser. • We will host a brunch where families share their favorite holiday dishes. • We hold a raffle and silent auction to benefit ICNS. Family and friends are welcome.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

ICNS Fundraising Opportunities 2018-2019

Trike-A-Thon – (March 22, 2019 at Echo Run Park in Woodbridge - Mandatory)

- Our largest fundraiser.
- Each family will raise/donate \$125 or more for ICNS to support their child in a tricycle/bike/scooter ride.
- Additional funds will be earned through breakfast/lunch sales and a raffle.



Ms. Bushra's Birthday Celebration (February 2019, Date and location TBD)

A fundraiser dinner to celebrate Ms. Bushra!

Ms. Donna's Birthday Celebration (March 2019, Date and location TBD)

A fundraiser dinner to celebrate Ms. Donna!

Class Pictures – (During school in Spring 2019)

- Students will have photos taken during school.
- All proceeds from photos will go to ICNS! Details to follow.

See's Candy Sales

- A great way to get a start on your holiday shopping while helping raise funds for ICNS!



Jamba Juice BOGO cards

- Purchasing a \$10 card will entitle you to 6 buy one get one free Jamba Juice smoothies.
- ICNS will receive \$5 per card sold.

Ralph's Community Rewards



- Ralph's will donate a percentage of your purchases to ICNS.
- Register your Ralph's card at www.ralphs.com. If you have already registered, you will need to register again for this year.

Amazon Smile



- Register at smile.amazon.com and click on Your Account, then choose a charity, you will need to type in Irvine Community Nursery School in the search bar.
- ICNS will receive 0.5% of your purchases.

iGive.com

- Register at www.iGive.com and a percentage of your purchases online will go to ICNS.

United Way (Special Designations)

- Some of you or your families may already be giving to United Way through your employer. You may simply special designate to ICNS at the recipient.

Company Matching Programs

- Check with your employer as many offer this option and will match the amount you donate to ICNS.

Thank you so much for your participation in making ICNS a wonderful experience for our children. If you have any suggestions or fundraising ideas, please email me, **Margaret Valle** at margaret.gamboa@gmail.com or **Serena Chang** at serena_yc@yahoo.com.



October 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Parent & Me (Every Tuesday or Thursday-10 week session)	3 Kangaroo Club	4 Board Meeting	5	6
7	8 Staff development Day (NO SCHOOL)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Kangaroo Club	18 General Meeting	19	20 Cleaning Day
21	22	23	24	25 Pumpkin City Fundraiser	26	27
28	29	30 Halloween Costume Parade (2 DAY)	31 Halloween Costume Parade (3 DAY)			

November 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Board Meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7 Kangaroo Club	8	9	10
11	12 Veteran's Day (NO SCHOOL)	13 Parent Teacher Conference	14 Parent Teacher Conference	15 • Stone Soup (2 DAY) • General Meeting	16 Stone Soup (3 DAY)	17 Cleaning Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Thanksgiving Hoilliday (NO SCHOOL)					
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						13

December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Holiday Party @ Turle Rock Community Center
2	3	4	5 Kangaroo Club	6 Board Meeting	7 Holiday Shopping Boutique (3 DAY)	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Cleaning Day
16	17	18	19 Cookie Day @ Ms. Donna's House(3 DAY)	20 • Cookie Day @ Ms. Donna's House (2 DAY)	21 1st Day of Winter Recess (NO SCHOOL)	22
23 _{/30}	24 _{/31}	25	26	27	28	29
Winter Recess (No school until 1/8)						14

GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN

THESE EASY HALLOWEEN TREATS RECIPES
WOULD BE MOMMIES' SAVER!!



SPOOKY BANANA MUMMIES

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 4 BANANAS
- ◆ 1 LB. WHITE CHOCOLATE
- ◆ 4 OZ. WHITE CHOCOLATE
- ◆ 16 MINI M&M'S
- ◆ 4 OZ. MILK CHOCOLATE CHIPS
- ◆ 8 LOLLIPOP STICKS



DIRECTIONS

1. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Skewer each banana half with a lollipop stick and freeze until firm, at least 2 hours.
2. In a large microwave-safe measuring cup, melt 1 pound white chocolate in the microwave according to package directions. One at a time, dip the bananas into the chocolate to coat, shaking off any excess. Return to the baking sheet and immediately place two M&M candies near the top for eyes.
3. Melt the remaining white chocolate in the microwave according to package directions and fill a small piping bag fitted with a small, round nozzle tip. Pipe zigzags over the banana to form bandages.

Source: www.womansday.com

GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN

THESE EASY HALLOWEEN TREATS RECIPES
WOULD BE MOMMIES' SAVER!!



SILLY APPLE BITES



INGREDIENTS

- 2 GREEN APPLES, EACH QUARTERED
- SUNFLOWER BUTTER
- 32 SUNFLOWER SEEDS
- 2-3 STRAWBERRIES, SLICED
- 1-2 HOMEMADE GOOGLY EYES

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut the middles out of each quarter of the apple to create a mouth. Don't worry about perfection, you are filling this gap with sunbutter anyway so if you cut too deep, you can always just cover it up and no one will know.
2. Coat the inside of the cut gap with a filling of sunflower butter.
3. Place 4 sunflower seeds on the top of the "mouth" for the teeth.
4. Place 1 sliced strawberry inside the mouth for the tongue.
5. "GLUE" each eye above the mouth with a dab of sunbutter to stick.
6. Serve with a smile.

Source: www.forkandbeans.com

GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN

THESE EASY HALLOWEEN TREATS RECIPES
WOULD BE MOMMIES' SAVER!!



STRAWBERRY GHOSTS

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 1 (16 OZ) PACKAGE VANILLA
- ◆ CANDIQUIK COATING
- ◆ 24 FRESH STRAWBERRIES
- ◆ MINI CHOCOLATE CHIPS



DIRECTIONS

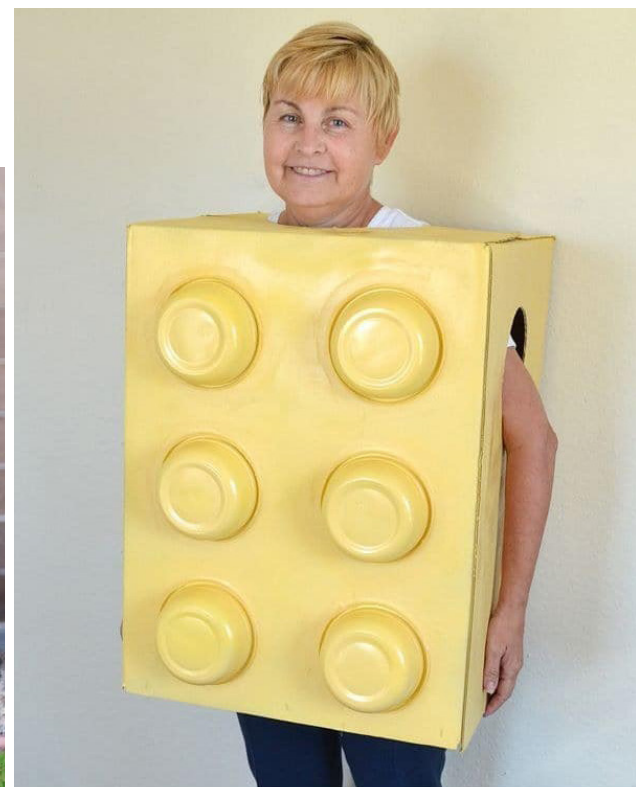
1. Melt Candiquik in tray according to directions on package.
2. Place a large piece of wax or parchment paper on a flat surface.
3. Dip strawberries in melted Candiquik Coating, remove and allow the excess coating to pour off onto the wax paper to form the "tail" of the ghost; slide the strawberry back and set on wax paper to dry.
4. Before coating has set, place two mini chocolate chips on as the eyes.
5. For the mouth, cut off the tip of a mini chocolate chip and place on the strawberry with the bottom side facing up.

Source: blog.candiquik.com

GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN

LAST-MINUTE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

NOT LAZY, JUST EFFORTLESS



HOMEMADE LEGO COSTUME



Source: <https://www.buzzfeed.com>