

Incline Village Nursery School Newsletter

April 2015



Director's News

Spring has finally arrived and we are already down to the last few months of school. I can't believe the year has gone so quickly already. We have some exciting events planned in May, and I'm sure they will be posted in the next newsletter, but I just wanted to remind you all that our Mother's Day Tea Parties will be held on May 8th, and our annual Art Show will be held the evening of May 15th. Save the dates for both of those important events please!

If you are moving on to Kindergarten in the fall *please* make sure to register your child at a local school NOW. Do not wait until the end of the summer to register at Incline Elementary as it greatly hinders their opportunities to keep needed teachers on staff.

Finally, with great sadness we must announce that Lana will not be returning to IVNS for the 2015-16 school year. We wanted to make sure we informed our families before we start the interview process for a new assistant teacher. We are excited for Lana to move on to a new chapter in her life, but she will be missed greatly and she will be very difficult to replace. If you know of any people with a background in early childhood education that may be looking for a job, please send them our way.

Happy Spring!

Nicole

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DO YOU WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE PROGRAM AND DECISIONS FOR IVNS?

JOIN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VICE PRESIDENT FOR
THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.
MEETINGS ARE ONCE PER MONTH.
PARTICIPATION IS FUN, EASY, AND REQUIRES NO EXPERIENCE.



SEE NICOLE FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR ANY OF OUR
CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

**OUR NEXT BOARD MEETING IS: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH
AT 3:45PM – FEEL FREE TO COME TO THE MEETING!**



Early Registration Discount

We will be offering an early registration discount to all families who register by May 1st, 2015. ***Families who submit their registration form and pay the fee on or before May 1st will receive a discounted rate of \$75 per child.*** Any forms or payments submitted after May 1st will have to pay the full registration fee of \$100 per child. Spring registration helps our small non-profit school to plan our budget for the upcoming year by knowing how many families are already dedicated to attending our program. We appreciate the effort that it takes to plan ahead, and we hope that this discount helps you out as well!

IVNS will be running the same days and times next year, and we will continue the Tuesday class as well.

Tuition rates will remain the same - no increase!

AM Class: \$300 per month PM Class: \$345 per month

Tuesday class: \$140 per month

April Birthdays

Neila.....April 4th

Symphony...April 9th

Misty.....April 10th

JuliaApril 12th



Art Show Volunteers Needed

In preparation for the Art Show I would like to invite any of our parents to come help us create a group project that we could display at the show. Do you have a great idea for something you saw on Pinterest? Or do you just want to come join us to get messy for some splatter painting? Maybe you don't have time to come visit the classroom but would like to donate some higher quality art supplies, like canvases or acrylic paint. Maybe you can help build some table top display stands for us, or help to make some snacks for the evening! There are many different ways for you to get involved and we would happily accept any sort of participation I'm looking forward to creating some beautiful new artwork together. Let us know if you're interested!

Arriving at School on Time & Picking-Up on Time

IVNS holds an open and flexible policy about the arrival times of our families because it usually doesn't affect us much, and we understand the hustle to get out the door on time -especially with multiple children!

However, it's time that we address the late arrivals happening in both AM and PM classes. There is no one family that this is directed at because almost all of our families arrive at different times on different days.

Many children have a difficult time arriving at school in the middle of circle time as it immediately draws the attention of the entire group to the arriving student. They are put in the spotlight with all eyes on them and most importantly they don't get a proper good-bye and transition from being with a parent/caregiver to joining a class environment. Some of our students can transition into circle time easily, but most of them cannot.

All we're asking is that you try to arrive prior to circle time starting!

And again.....please pick-up on time!

And again..... unless you are using the handicapped parking spot, IVNS parents are NOT ALLOWED TO PARK IN THE LOWER LOT NEAR OUR PLAYGROUND!

Choosing a School: Moving On After Preschool

Choosing where your child will go to school can be a big decision and stressful if there are a variety of options available to you. Every family has different priorities when choosing a school. You may want a strong science curriculum for your budding inventor. Perhaps a top music program or French language immersion is what you're after. Or, maybe the most important feature to you is simply a school with an enthusiastic faculty and strong leadership.

The following steps will help guide you closer to choosing the right school for your child.

Step 1: Spell out your interests and your child's particular needs

- What are your child's educational needs? Are they purely academic? Do you prefer a curriculum that is structured, child initiated, or a combination of the two?
- What do you want the school to achieve for you and your child? A certain level of academic preparation? Discipline and respect? Greater appreciation for natural resources and environment? Appreciation of the arts? Certain social status and acceptance? After-school activities?
- Are the ideology and values of the schools compatible with yours?
- What size school are you looking for? Some children may do better in a smaller school while others may benefit from a larger school with more options and more children to interact with. How important is class size to you?

Step 2: Determine your family logistics

- What are you able to afford? Keep in mind that even public education entails costs beyond taxes, such as lunches, after-school programs, field trips, and supplemental costs for band or sports. Some parents believe that the early years of education are equally or more important than college and choose to invest accordingly.
- What type of school transportation do you need?
- What child care support do you need? Does the school offer extended day programs or flexible early entry?

Step 3: Select or eliminate certain school types

- **District Public Schools** - In certain school districts, there are choices beyond an assigned neighborhood school. You may have curriculum choices outside of the traditional neighborhood school curriculum: arts, language immersion, Montessori, open, fundamental (back to basics), or others.
- **Public Charter Schools** - Charter schools are available in some areas of the country. They are public schools chartered by the state or district and run by a variety of organizations: nonprofit or for-profit, founded by parents, religious groups, entrepreneurs, or corporations. These schools may be tailored to a particular population (e.g., employees, ethnic groups), educational approaches, or content.
- **Private Schools** - Private schools range from long-time established schools to brand new schools established by religious groups, for-profit organizations, or entrepreneurs. When most people think of private schools, they typically think of country day schools, academies, and independent schools. Most private schools are run by nonprofit boards, some are founded and run by individual owners, and a few are run by educational corporations. Their approaches range from very progressive (learning based and child centered) to very conservative (instruction based and teacher centered). The name of the school may be part marketing and part intent. "Academy" connotes serious academics. "Country Day" is often associated with a broad liberal arts approach, probably progressive (individualized and experiential), and perhaps a place for higher status families.
- **Parochial Schools** - The majority of parochial schools are Catholic schools and run by a diocese, but there are also Lutheran and other Christian parochial school systems in some areas. Parochial schools typically emphasize the basics, respect for authority and traditional values - some focus more on religious instruction than others. Tuition is usually less than most private schools and there is often a discount for parishioners.
- **Christian Schools** - These schools are the fastest growing segment of private schools and are usually run by a church, an organization, a group of parents, or an entrepreneur. Christian schools are typically more conservative and tuition tends to be lower than other private schools.
- **Montessori Schools** - Montessori schools are private schools that provide an individualized Montessori curriculum that emphasizes hands-on learning. Unfortunately, the term has become a "brand" and some schools use the name without having a real Montessori approach (check for Montessori teacher certifications). Tuition cost is usually comparable to lower-priced private schools.

Choosing the Right School (continued)

Step 4: Develop a school search strategy

- Begin the search as early as possible. Organize your search with files and mark deadlines and appointments on a calendar.
- List all the schools that meet your profile. If you don't think you can afford the tuition at a certain school, request financial aid information and scholarship forms before excluding it from your list.
- Research the schools in your area. Call or email the schools for catalogs, videos, and applications.
- Locate and talk to parents whose children attend the different schools.
- Select approximately three to five schools to explore further.
- Visit your top choices.

Step 5: Visit and assess schools

When you visit schools, be sure to ask questions, observe the environment, and talk to teachers.

- Does the school have a particular educational philosophy or mission?
- How does the school encourage and monitor students' progress toward meeting grade-level standards?
- What are some of the school's greatest accomplishments?
- What are some highlights of the reading, math, science, and social studies curriculum?
- What criteria are used to determine student placement in classes?
- Does the school individualize curriculum?
- How does the school support students who have academic, social, or emotional difficulties?
- How does the school support special gifts or particular interests?
- How is technology used to support teaching and learning at this school?
- What extracurricular opportunities are available for students?
- What is the school's approach to student discipline and safety?
- What strategies are used to teach students who are not fluent in English?
- What professional development opportunities do teachers have?
- How does the school approach parent involvement?
- Is there an active Parent Teacher Association?
- Ask all schools about the qualifications and turnover of leadership and faculty and how they evaluate themselves and are evaluated by others.
- What is the school's history, organizational structure, and financial stability?
- Are test scores available?

Also, look for the following when you visit schools:

- Do the classrooms look cheerful? Is student work displayed, and does it seem appropriate for the grade level?
- Do teachers seem enthusiastic and knowledgeable, asking questions that stimulate students and keep them engaged?
- Does the principal seem confident and interested in interacting with students, teachers, and parents?
- How do students behave as they move from class to class or play outside?
- How well are the facilities maintained? Are bathrooms clean and well supplied, and do the grounds look safe and inviting?

Step 6: Know the application process

- Check with the schools and districts where you're applying to make sure you know their application deadlines.
- If you are ready to make the big decision, apply, enroll, and complete the applications on time.
- Once you've applied, stay on top of the process and check with the school or district to find out when you can expect an answer.
- Arrange return visits as necessary to schools that have accepted your application.

Return the acceptance form with a deposit check.

It's important not to obsess over which school to choose. For many of us without a lot of choices, school is like an arranged marriage that works if we put our energy and minds into it.





April & May Stars of the Week

Week of 4/13: Annabelle (AM Class) and Leo (PM Class)

Week of 4/20: Symphony (PM Class)

Week of 4/27: Luke (PM Class)

Week of 5/4: Evan (PM Class)

We would love it if parents came in during their child's star week to read a special story or two. You can schedule this during the last 10 minutes of class on any day that works in your schedule. Just let Nicole or Misty know what day you would like to come read!

April 2015 Classroom Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Letter: U Theme: Dinosaurs			1	2	3 Good Friday	4 Passover Neila's Birthday
5 Easter	6	7	8	9 Symphony's Birthday	10 Misty's Birthday	11
CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK						
12 Julia's Birthday Letter: V Theme: Eric Carle & his artwork	13 Yoga with Ms. Naomi 10:00- AM Class & 2:00 - PM Class	14	15 Cross Fit Kids With Coach Myles 1:30 Board Mtg. at 3:45	16	17	18
19 Letter: W Theme: Earth/Recycling	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26 Letter: X Theme: Baby Animals	27	28	29 Cross Fit Kids With Coach Myles 1:30	30		