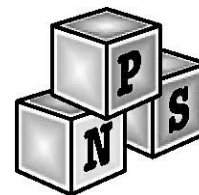


The PNS Times

Princeton Nursery School Serving Greater Princeton Community Since 1929



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A Rich History— 80 Years!

As told by PNS Board President
Diane Sandahl

It is true what they say...the more things change, the more they stay the same. Ten years ago I first became acquainted with Princeton Nursery School. It was a time of block parties and special events celebrating PNS' seven decades of service to the community. This past year PNS marked another milestone—our 80th Anniversary. As I reflect back over the past decade, the faces have changed, but one thing remains the same—our mission to provide affordable childcare and a quality preschool program to working families of modest means.

To celebrate our 80th, in October a capacity crowd joined together at Drumthwacket. It was a grand event and we were honored to have our founder, Margaret Matthews-Flinsch—now 102 years young—join us as the guest of honor.

In 1929, Ms. Flinsch recognized the need for an affordable preschool and childcare program. The program she envi-



Ms. Flinsch PNS founder (left) with Jean Riley former PNS Director (center) and Wendy Cotton current Director

sioned was specifically intended to serve the children of working parents in the John Witherspoon community. Margaret was equally determined that the population be multicultural—initially Italian and African American. With tremendous conviction and the support of her parents, friends and neighbors in the community, Ms. Flinsch founded the Princeton Nursery School (PNS).

Today we remain stewards of the dream she realized back in 1929. I am supremely proud of the hard work our Executive Director,

Wendy Cotton, and the teaching staff are doing to provide a level playing field for our students. With a state-of-the-art curriculum and partnerships with Music Together, the Arts Council of Princeton, Princeton Public Library and the YMCA, the children we serve receive the kind of well-rounded education that we believe is critical in laying the foundation for their future. With the continued support of the community, we roll up our sleeves each year and begin anew. We hope you will join us.

PNS—A Snap Shot

PNS is located at 78 Leigh Avenue. The school provides 46 children—ages 2 ½ to 5 years old with a rich educational experience. The mission remains the same; to provide quality childcare and preschool experience with a focus on serving families in need.

The school is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily year round, providing a full breakfast and lunch for its young pupils. This schedule and sliding-scale tuition allows PNS families, two-thirds of whom earn less than \$25,000 a year, to pursue education or work fulltime.



Siblings Get Great Start at PNS



As told by DeAndrea Johnson-Hall

Skylar J. Hall, 5th generation Princetonian, entered Princeton Nursery School as a two year old. Like the many children new to PNS each year, in the first few weeks Skylar was scared, but was comforted by caring staff waiting to greet her.

The staff at PNS knew how to make each child's experience positive and unforgettable. Sklar's days at PNS were full of many new and exciting ways of learning! As a parent, this was a good indication of a solid foundation being laid – this was the beginning of a life of learning for Skylar! She gained a unique confidence academi-

cally, she blossomed socially and lasting friendships were established.

In the fall of 2007, Skylar watched anxiously as her 2 year old little brother Jaden entered Princeton Nursery School for the first time. Jaden will graduate in June as a member of the class of 2010.

PNS has been a cornerstone here for many families in the Princeton community. Educationally, PNS has helped set the standard for Skylar and her brother Jaden, assisting in preparing them both for kindergarten and beyond.

Skylar is now a successful third grade student at Princeton Day School! Jaden is 5 years old and will enter kindergarten in September.



Why is there a smile on each person's face? They are happy because they are among the scores of volunteers and donors that support Princeton Nursery School each year.

You too can make a difference in the lives of our young students and their families. To learn how to donate or volunteer visit: www.princetonnurseryschool.org.

Best Teachers Are Students Too

Princeton Nursery School is among a select group of New Jersey preschools participating in the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners (NJCC & ELL) Summer Institute and Mentoring Program. The program is a state-wide training and mentoring program created to enhance early childhood education for children learning English as a second language.

The two classroom teams (teachers and assistant teachers) were among the 12 teaching teams selected to participate in the 4-year-old program. The PNS staff included teachers Amy Breece, Cynthia Thompson and teacher assistants Iris Clack, Claudia Guzman, Nicole Lopez and Darimar Montalvo.

During the 3-day institute held at Thomas Edison College in Trenton, the PNS teachers were trained by experts in second-language acquisition and cultural competency. During follow-up coaching sessions, Program mentor, Liliana Gomez visited each team of teachers four times over the next several months. She observed the

classroom environment and teacher's instructional practices, offering feedback and advice. In addition, the NJCC & ELL program provided three peer-group teleconferences for teachers to share their insights and experiences with other teachers from the program.

The program was established in 2007 to "transform the thinking and practices of early childhood teachers working with diverse children learning English as a second language." In addition, the program is designed to strengthen the teacher-assistant teacher team.

Teacher Amy Breece expressed, "The NJCC & ELL Institute helped us learn the best ways to support ELL learners and their cultures, by making stories come alive using language, props and gestures."

Cynthia Thompson reported, "I have been teaching for 30 years and yet I learned new strategies to improve my practice, to emphasize literacy development with my



PNS teachers and teacher assistants.



student's first and second language."

The program, was funded by Family Strength Associates, Inc. in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Human Services-Division of Family Development, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey, the TD Charitable Foundation, Bank of America and Thomas Edison State College.

From the Director's Desk

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word volunteer as: *a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.* It has been my privilege to work with scores of individuals who willingly offer their time, talents and resources in behalf of the work that is done at PNS.

Our volunteers come from a cross-section of the greater Princeton community. One such person is Barbara White. In addition to serving as a PNS Trustee, Barbara volunteers several hours each week as the school's bookkeeper. She is a meticulous accountant (*Is that a redundancy?*) and is passionate about providing the best for our students.

Less than a mile away is our "big sister school", Princeton University. We get scores of students throughout the year volunteering at PNS. One such student is Louisa Cronan. Now a senior, Louisa has volunteered as part of the Community House outreach program each of her four years at Princeton University.



Nini Shah (second from right) joined by members of her Girl Scout troop

She has spent many hours as a classroom assistant reading and playing with our students.

The fall semester began with twenty incoming PU freshman volunteering on several projects that involved both manual labor and technological know how. At the end of their four days at PNS this group had completed jobs that included the laying of carpet and vinyl tiles, painting, landscaping and even visiting the homes of new PNS students. Brains and brawn—What a great combination!

Niyeti (Nini) Shah, a student at Montgomery High School volunteered at PNS as part the work she was doing toward obtaining the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award. She recruited other volunteers from amongst her friends, neighbors and family in the repair of a fence in the school's backyard. This group, under the leadership of Nini created a beautiful teaching mural. The mural is now enjoyed by students, staff and our neighbors.

To each of our volunteers, "Thank you." Together we will continue to get this important job done.

New Trustees on PNS Board

Princeton Nursery School is pleased to welcome two new members Georgia Rosen and Kenneth Kaplan to its Board of Trustees. Each is ready to work in support of the PNS mission.

Georgia joined the board last fall just in time to work on the 80th Anniversary Event at Drumthwacket. Georgia is a graduate of Douglass College with degrees in English and Journalism, and of the UMDNJ Physician Assistant Program, School of Health Related Professions, with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. She has been a physician assistant for the past ten years and previously worked as an editor, reporter, and writer.



Georgia Rosen

Georgia lives in Hopewell Township with her husband, David, a Legislative Budget and Fiscal Officer for the State of New Jersey. They have two sons. On joining the PNS board, Georgia stated, "I look forward to promoting the school's mission and serving with this group of talented and dedicated trustees."

Ken Kaplan joined the board in January 2010. He has a B.A. degree from New York University and is a 1990 graduate of Rutgers University School of Law. Ken founded a law firm, Kaplan Law, LLC, in 2009 in Somerville, NJ where he represents public and private businesses in a wide variety of transactions including mergers, acquisitions, financing, licensing, consulting, marketing and strategic alliance matters.



Kenneth Kaplan (left) with PNS VP Andrew Marshall

Ken lives in Bridgewater with his wife, Maria, and their four children. He is active in his community, belonging to the New Jersey Technology Council and Somerset County Business Partnership.

Ken is an avid fitness enthusiast and athlete, competing annually in many events including the New York City Triathlon. Ken expressed, "I am honored to be on the board of trustees of a historic school with deep roots in the Princeton community and I look forward to working with the talented staff and board members that keep this fine institution thriving."

Princeton Nursery School

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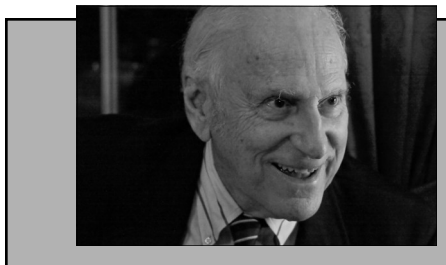
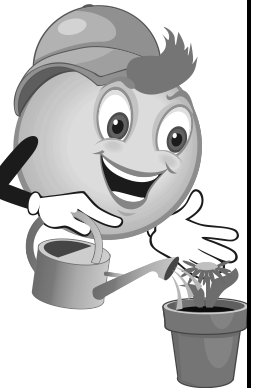
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490 Bulbs Will Welcome Spring at PNS

On October 18, 2009 members of the Nassau Presbyterian Church celebrated The Children's Sabbath during the Sunday service and later by putting their concerns for children into action. In the afternoon, they held a Mission-for-a-Day, a multi-generational event consisting of a number of service projects.

One of the projects that day was for a small group of volunteers to weed and plant nearly 500 bulbs—daffodils, tulips, and crocuses—in the front and back yards of Princeton Nursery School. The bulbs were donated by the church and volunteers included Bob and Lauren Wells, Martin Tel and his daughter, Katherine, and Marcia and Nick Van Dyck.

If all goes well, this spring should bring a beautiful display of bulbs for the entire community to enjoy. Drive by the school at 78 Leigh Avenue in April or May for a breath-taking display!



Condolences to Family of John Matthews

The PNS Board and staff extend their condolences to the Matthews family on the recent passing of John Matthews, the nephew of our Founder, Margaret Matthews-Flinsch. Mr. Matthews was an accomplished historian and writer, and an expert on the PNS early history. We will always appreciate his friendship and generosity to our school.