

La Playa Cooperative Nursery School

OUR TEACHERS...WHO ARE THEY?

Teacher Ruth

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year at La Playa!

For those of you new to La Playa, I'd like to tell you a little about myself. Right out of high school I went to Moorpark College where I earned my AA in Child Development. I began teaching preschool in 1979 and have been doing so ever since. I have worked in several types of schools, privately owned, church related and large corporation. I joined La Playa in 1993. The Co-op is by far the most satisfying experience that I have had in my career. La Playa is a great place for children and a great place to work. I completed my course for a Master of Arts degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College; I still have my thesis to write. I live in the Valley with my daughters Amber, 15 and Jasmine, 9.

It is important that all members, both new and returning, read the entire handbook, since changes have been made. Also, please look at the calendar so you can plan ahead. Remember you must attend meetings and do two clean-up days a year. We want all members to be well informed so we can concentrate on the business of learning and having fun!

Teacher Marni

I am the mother of two La Playa Alumni, Sierra, 14 and Kelsi, 11. My husband, Michael, and I have lived in Culver City for 12 years. During my tenure at La Playa as a parent, I was president on the Board, Membership Chairperson, Maintenance Chairperson, and served on the fundraising committee. I have my BA in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Psychology from Antioch University and my Early Childhood Education Certificate from Santa Monica College.

I am so excited to be returning to La Playa as your Co-Director for the 2007-2008 school year. The most thrilling thing to me is engaging with you as individuals and families. I hope to share with you my passion for children and their early education experiences as well as my interest in the family system. My combined experience at La Playa as a parent and now as Co-Director have proven to me, over and over again, what a wonderful environment we have for children and their families. I want to urge each of you to openly communicate with Ruth and myself about your experiences and concerns while at La Playa; you may always call me at home with any questions or issues. I would also like to stress the importance of reading and using this handbook. Nearly all the questions you will ever have are answered here.

My goal for this year is that each family at La Playa feels comfortable and at home so that optimum learning experiences are taking place for children and adults. Being at La Playa is as much about growing as a parent as it is about the growth of your children. Isn't it exciting that you will be the teachers in your child's first school experience?

Teacher Leslie - Yoga

Leslie Nuesca, a Los Angeles native has been doing yoga since she was a child. In January of 2004, Leslie took her first Kundalini yoga class and it resonated with her as no other yoga has. She has continued her practice of Kundalini yoga and completed the Teacher's Training Course at Golden Bridge Yoga in April 2006.

Guided by her experience as a children's photographer, seeing the changes in her 8 year old son (who began his yoga practice at the age of 4) and the desire to see other children connect with their "breath" motivated Leslie to teach.

Leslie takes the children on "wild adventures" to "far away places" through animal & nature based yoga, dance, games and music. Her classes encourage each child to expand, explore and express his/her true self and allow his/her young spirit to blossom.

Leslie has been teaching children's yoga since February 2006 at various pre-schools in Los Angeles, at her Home Studio and Private classes. She is a permanent sub for Golden Bridge Yoga and Cool Baby. Leslie's love of art and yoga inspired her to launch Creative Summer Workshops: Yoga & Art for Children at her Home Studio and she will continue that next summer. Find out more about Leslie on her webpage: <http://www.radiantyoga.us/>

Teacher Jenni - Music

Jenni Alpert, a Los Angeles native has been a musician all her life and now shares her musical talents with all ages...

"I have been a musician through soul and heart since before my toes could reach the piano sustain pedal. I believe that although we choose how we walk our paths, we don't choose our fates... somewhere it is already written. It has been printed somewhere that I "break from convention, opt for the road less traveled, and use an unconventional approach to song-writing". What I know about myself is I observe the human condition and capture feeling through song and melody. I love people in all their greatness, with all our flaws. I love growing, learning, teaching, and being."

While on tour, Jenni developed Art of Expression, a traveling music/art festival, which is dedicated to strengthen the presence of music in early childhood education. Now supported by the ASCAP Plus Awards, Art of Expression has visited Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, and Atlanta. AoX Festival proceeds bring touring musicians who wish to teach music to local pre-schools looking for music specialists to bring music into their schools.

As a self-sustaining touring artist, Jenni Alpert has performed all over the U.S. as well as internationally. You can find out more information about Jenni at her website: <http://www.jennialpert.com>