



Under the Oaks...

The IPS/USA play conference was in town this past week and The Acorn took part in planning for the last year as well as serving as a tour spot for the Saturday session. Several of our teachers came in on Saturday to set up and show off our unique school. Teachers and play advocates from all over (I know I heard CA, WA, TN, and GA., as well as TX) came and reaffirmed our conviction about our philosophy of play. How lovely to hear "Ooohs and Aaahhs" from peers in our field. They jumped right in to play-rolling golf balls in paint, trying out physics with ramps and balls, checking out the wind tunnel, making art in the black light room, taking photos of the book choices on our shelves, marveling at the unique dramatic play areas, admiring the amazing organizational skills of our teachers, taking their shoes off to try out our sensory walk, cutting up herbs and grinding cinnamon in the mud kitchen, testing out art in nature, and asking great questions about how we make the magic happen. We had requests to collaborate for more university tours for education majors and a request to come back and make photographs for a text book being written on play and environment! We are always proud of our school and dream team of teachers and having the validation of these co-horts put even bigger smiles on our faces.



Interested in knowing more about IPAUSA? check out their website-
<https://ipausa.org/>
 The IPAWorld conference will be in Scotland in 2023

Nuts and Bolts:

- Next week we welcome many dads and special friends-please limit playground visiting and keep parking spots available for the different classes coming and going.
- If you come on the playground at drop off with your child, you MUST park in a parking space. Also, please stay with your car when the car line is active..
- Picture day makeup session is Thursday, Oct. 27th at 12:30.
- Gentle reminder that some teachers are also parents of Acorn kiddos and may be "on mommy time". You can always ask if the team is ready for parents to leave. THANKS!

Spotlight on Mr. Rich!

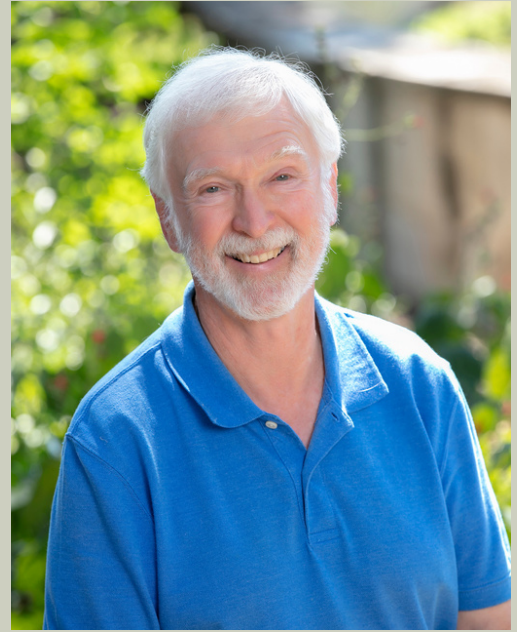
All of you know that our founder and leader, Rich Lange, is the driving force of The Acorn. He will soon be back on campus, where he will jump right into Dry Ice Demonstrations-an Acorn tradition and favorite!

Rich is a graduate of The Wharton School of Business at UPenn, and Michigan State, where he and his wife, Kitty, both earned their Master's degrees in Child Development. Rich and Kitty started The Acorn in 1980, based on all they had learned about child development. Rich joyfully shares his knowledge for play based learning in many conversations as well as formal tours. His enthusiasm is contagious for teachers, parents, university students, and children alike.

The IPA USA award committee was so impressed with his work that they recognized him as a champion for play and selected him for the IPA USA Child's Right to Play Advocacy Award.

At the Award Ceremony that took place at the DoSeum Reception on Thursday, October 6th, Wendy accepted the award on Rich's behalf. Part of the award is a Super Hero cape and those of us who have had the privilege to work with him at The Acorn can attest to this most recent moniker of a caped crusader!

Congratulations Rich! We are proud to carry on this work with you!



We are sure he is going to love this cape-
It's Acorn Green!

