



Leila Day News & Notes

May 2017

Welcome to May from Ashley

At Leila Day, May means Spring Fair!! The Spring Fair is our oldest and most beloved annual tradition. We open up our outdoor space and welcome families from throughout Greater New Haven to enjoy our beautiful outdoor space and our very special school community. The Spring Fair is an event that requires **100% PARTICIPATION FROM ALL OF US** in order to be a success. Parents, Board members, teachers, and administrators work together to produce our largest community event and fundraiser of the year.

A team has been hard at work behind the scenes soliciting donations in order to underwrite the expenses of the fair and we have been very successful- cheers to this incredible effort! Thanks to our generous sponsors, **100% of the money we bring in at the fair will go directly to the Leila Day Fund in order to support our sliding fee scale** and make Leila Day a possibility for families of diverse economic backgrounds.

Our team of fearless parent volunteers led by Deadra Hart and David Goldstein, has been planning and organizing the activities and food that make the fair so special. Thank you, Planning Committee! **Now is the time for ALL FAMILIES to get involved. Please be sure to sign up for a shift and a goodie for the bake sale. Sign up sheets have been posted in each classroom.**

****IMPORTANT SPRING FAIR UPDATES****

Save the Fair Date: **Saturday, May 20th (rain date: May 21st)**

Pitch in & Pizza Night: **Friday, May 19th, 5-7 PM** Lend a hand with Fair set-up and stay for pizza. Many hands make light work! Friday night set-up is so much fun: community, kids, and food, all outdoors- hope to see you there!

Next Spring Fair Planning Meeting: **Friday, May 12th, time TBD, Kindergarten Classroom. Children are welcome. Pizza will be provided.**

FAIR REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FAMILIES:

- **Each family** signs up for a **two-hour work shift** during the Fair.
- Each family participates in the Bake Sale by bringing in a pre-bagged, nut-free baked good.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

- Donate, recycle and reuse! Please consider donating snacks, drinks, and other needed supplies for the Snack Stand, small prizes and favors for the Pick-a-Pocket Game, small glass jars for Crafts, and items for the Tag Sale.
 - Help out Friday evening (May 19th) with the fair set up. Children welcome, pizza provided, and lots of fun!
 - Pre-order plants from the Plant Sale. Forms have been distributed via Parent Pockets.
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- **Thank You for Everything You Do!**

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and Board members who turned out for our annual **Spring Spruce Up** in April. Former Board member and committed Leila Day volunteer, **Violet Talbot** led the event and we are grateful for her gardening expertise and generosity of time and spirit. We enjoyed a wonderful evening in our outdoor space cleaning, pruning, and planting. Many hands make light work and we thank everyone who pitched in!

Thank you to North parent and painter, **Cat Balco** for designing the fabulous 2017 **Spring Fair poster!** The poster captures the spirit, energy, and joy of Leila Day- it is absolutely perfect!

Thank you to South parent, **Jackie Lanno** for taking on and seeing through the **Original Works** fundraiser. It was so much fun to see the children's artwork come in and be transformed into t-shirts, mugs, and notecards.

Thank you to **Amber Morris**, teacher and artist extraordinaire! Amber has been collecting and framing children's art from all of our classes and she has installed an amazing exhibit in the main entrance to the educational wing. Stop in for a visit and bask in the beauty of our new **gallery wall**. Cheers to creativity, expression, and to all our young artists!

- **Leila Day Summer Program**

We are delighted to offer 8 weeks of child care programming this summer. **We still have openings in both our school age and preschool groups.** Please email Sheila (sheila@leiladay.org) to register or with any questions. You can also drop by the office and chat in person if that is easier. We're excited for another joyful summer at Leila Day!

- **Leila Day Merch is Here!!**

We have restocked our Leila Day merch with t-shirts for children and adults, tote bags, carabiners, and (coming soon) car magnets. Visit the display in the educational wing to see all the colors and options and then stop into the office to purchase your LD gear! What's your symbol?!



- **Safety Reminder**

Please supervise your children in the parking lots and near the street. We have lots of young children on bikes and scooters and want to be sure that they are safe, especially when many vehicles are coming and going during arrival and dismissal times.

- **Spring into Summer Routines**

As the seasons continue to change, we adapt and adjust our routines here at Leila Day. We are heading into what is predicted to be a very heavy tick season. Be sure to check your child each evening after school and after any extended periods outdoors.

- **In Bloom**

Leila Day is once again partnering with Antioch University to host an In Bloom conference in New Haven! This day-long conference for educators focuses on nature-based play and early childhood education, and will be held at Leila Day on Saturday, June 3rd. The workshops and presenters (featuring some of Leila Day's own talent!) are phenomenal. If you have any questions or would like the Save the Date flyer let us know. We're happy to share the good work happening in the natural world each day, here at Leila Day!

- **Mabel's Labels for Summer**

Camp season is upon us! Mabel's Labels is offering bringing the very popular Sleepaway (for older sibs) and Day Camp Label Packs for 2017 now at early bird prices! Use campaigns.mabelslabels.com in order to ensure that Leila Day gets credit for your order.

- **Nature News from Charlie**

Leila Day's yards, gardens, and outdoor play spaces are coming alive with the sticky green leaves, spectacular flowers, wondrous smells, singing birds, and the air of excitement, awakening and rebirth of spring. Your children remind me of the kids in the modern day myth "The Root Children," festooning the yard with their creativity, joy, laughter, and curiosity. I want to thank all the parent and volunteers who did such a good job last Thursday with the Spring Spruce Up. Your work is much appreciated. We are doing a lot of gardening. Each class has an herb "mascot." North has parsley, East basil, Kindergarten lavender, South mint, and the Morning Program/After School Program has dill. We are growing greens and beans in the two raised beds next to the main building, and we are creating a gourd, pumpkin and flower garden in the raised bed/garden between East and Kindergarten. And we have a little bit of everything happening in the greenhouse! The children are learning about the fundamental role that plants play in sustaining life on planet earth and discovering the subtle pleasures that come from nurturing seeds, seedlings and sprouts to grown, mature, adult plants. This is also a time of year when we can all revel in our connectedness to the earth, run barefoot, play with the water and in the dirt, watch and listen to the birds and animals, breathe the fresh air and play in the dappled sunlight created by the magnificent trees that are the true guardians and elders of our backyard space. This is truly a miraculous, wonderful time of the year!

- **Lou's Recipe Report**

Lou's Strawberry Smoothie

Ingredients:

Stonyfield French Vanilla Yogurt (I use fat free)
Fresh or Frozen Strawberries
Milk
Blender or Food Processor

1. Combine equal parts of Strawberries and French Vanilla Yogurt in a blender or food processor.
2. Blend until smooth.
3. Add milk to thin it out to desired consistency

Note: If you use frozen strawberries you may want to add a little bit of sweetener.
(I add a tiny bit of sugar during the last blend.)

You can alter the recipe using any fruit of your choice; Peaches, Pineapple, Mixed Berries, etc.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **May 19th: Spring Fair Prep & Pizza, 5-7 PM**
- **May 20th: Spring Fair!! (rain date: May 21st)**
- **June 3rd: In Bloom with Antioch University**
- **June 14th: Summer Send-Off Family & Friends Picnic**
- **June 15th: Half Day and Last Day of School**
- **June 17th-23rd: June Vacation Program**
- **June 27th: Summer Program Begins**

Follow Our Adventures on Instagram

We are capturing the Leila Day experience each day and sharing our adventures on Instagram! Follow us: [**@leiladay**](#)