
Philomath Montessori School

August 2007



For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School

Classroom News

As it is only the first newsletter of the school year, there is little to report. However, I can tell you about our wonderful day of orientation for the newest students. All five kids entered the classroom easily, separating from their parents with no crowbar required. Everyone enjoyed the lessons they were shown, learned they could not take things they hadn't been shown, walked through the bathroom procedure and practiced taking their leave at the end of the visit. It never ceases to amaze me how children will walk indoors the entire time they are at school, then run out the door to their parents. I guess that just shows us how loved and treasured the parents are. I do hope our fantastic group of returnees will set a good example by walking indoors at all times.

It always feels so fresh and clean at the beginning of the school year. Pauline purged our office of many books that were unwanted. Leslie and I organized our shed to within an inch of its life. The Parent Work Day was hugely successful inside and out. Everything looks tidy, dust-free and new. Even our garden soil is new! These simple pleasures help take the sting out of returning to the world of employment.

I would like to thank the new families for welcoming us into their homes for home visits. These also were very successful and probably the

reason that children were so comfortable for their classroom visits. I only became lost once and I got to see a herd of deer in the Hulstrunk's neighborhood.



Simone sewing.

On a personal note, I had a fabulous summer. We spent the week of July 4th at our lakeside cabin at Lakeside, OR, decorating our barge with patriotic bunting, red oil lamps and flags for the fireworks display. Our cocker spaniel, Sophie (also known as the love of my life) and I took a 7 week obedience class that I highly recommend. We learned so much and enjoyed the challenge. Sophie graduated with flying colors and then went on to ace the test for her AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate. I taught myself how to use my new sewing machine and completed two sewing projects; a doorway curtain for our cabin and 4 Christmas slipcovers for my living room throw pillows. I am so proud of my crooked seams! We ended the summer with a week at my mother and stepfather's place on Decatur Island

in the San Juans. We had perfect weather, lovely day trips in their boat and we got to bring our Sophie along, too. I really cannot remember a better summer break. I hope all of you enjoyed yourselves as much. It is a joy to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. I am looking forward to working with each and every family. Let's have a great school year!

WELCOME!

Welcome everyone to a new school year! A special warm welcome to our new families and our five new children. Three of them are familiar with Montessori already. Alan will be entering this year after watching his sister, Jenna, make that bold move every morning alone. Now she'll have a partner. Joey Mersman, an almost 4-year old, went to a Montessori school in California last year and Simone Moulton's sister Zoe attended Corvallis Montessori School. Ava Gerding and Dhabih (pronounced Zah-bee) Plaire are new to our school and to Montessori. Welcome!



Ava washing dishes.

Thank You's Sept. '07

Thanks to a group of parents headed by **Christi McLaren**, our gardens were maintained and watered over the summer and their work has literally come to fruition. We have Asian pears, apples, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries – the children are loving it! Our thanks to: **Kathy Donaldson John and Dodie Wilson, Melissa Schrieber (2 times!), Michelle Mincinski (2**

times, too!), and Karen Patrick for their summertime help. A special thank you to **Trina and Lanny McGaughy**, who, in June, July, and August, came in to mow our lawn and trim all the borders – a big job!

If you read your email over the summer, you know that our Calzone Booth at DaVinci Days was a big success. We raised \$588! A big thank you to **Jeff and Monica Skinner** for heading up this fundraiser. Thursday evening **Monica Skinner, Kathy Donaldson, Jonathan Jensen, and Trina McGaughy** prepped the Calzone ingredients and dough. Then on Saturday, the rest of the crew finished up the product, sold them, and (I heard later) put on a show to draw customers in!! A big thank you to our hardworking prep crew and our outrageous booth crew: **Shawn Foley, Janel Lawrence, Jessica Neebe, Allan Rack, Mel Norland, Karen Patrick, Jeff Skinner, John Wilson, Kathy and Jeremy Donaldson, Lanny McGaughy, and Dodie Wilson.** Grazie!!

We had a great parent work party a couple of weeks ago. Our shelves, tables, chairs, and materials were cleaned, a leaky faucet fixed, holes patched, paint touched up, and our restroom monitor moved. Our gardens were weeded, trimmed, freed of gravel, and new soil added. Low hanging branches were pruned and hauled away. The shelf in our greenhouse was lowered, the beds inside defined by boards, its walls washed and all the exterior boards given a new coat. The gravel was spread to cover the bare and low spots, the fence rails reinforced with blocks, a monkey bar replaced and painted, and the gate latch fixed. Whew!! Many, many thanks to the 11 families who came out to help us prepare our classroom and school yard for another year: **Ed and Kay Bomber, Kathy and Jeremy Donaldson, John Edwards and Karen Patrick, Matt and Carol Hulstrunk, Beth and Rob Jordan, Lanny and Trina McGaughy, Hattie Meresman, John and Tracy Miedema, Sherri and Shawn Mortensen, Trevor Norland and Keller's grandparents, and John and Dodie Wilson.** A special thank you to **Lanny McGaughy** for picking up soil for our gardens and **Sherri and**

Shaun Mortensen for donating some of their strawberry plants.



Shaden hugging the tire tree.

Several parents took jobs home, too. **Kathy Donaldson** took 6 paper cutting jobs home for various math, writing, and metal inset activities and ironed our boot bags. **Cassidy Donaldson** (Jack's sister) took home our sewing projects (loops and embroidering 4 cloths for color coding). **Hattie Muir** is preparing paper for two painting activities and also preparing art folders, **Sherri Mortensen** cut paper for drawing and painting, **Carol Hulstrunk** cut paper for two collage activities, **Karen Patrick** prepared and is preparing more advanced-level sewing cards and cutting out appliqué pieces, **Hong Mouton** is preparing squares for button sewing, **Barbara Hinds-Cook** prepared beginning-level sewing cards and **Dodie Wilson** is preparing collage pieces. **Shaun Mortensen and Ed Bomber** sanded the picnic tables and **John Miedema** is staining them at home. Thank you all very much for all the help!

John Miedema will also be adding another shelf to our greenhouse so that we will be able to start plants next spring and he is also helping us with some plumbing problems. Thank you, John!

Karen Patrick graciously agreed to help me with some paperwork for the College of Philomath Community Corporation – the organization that is spearheading the effort to renovate the old college building where we hope to one day be tenants! My grateful thanks, Karen.

Our Year-Round Jobs are almost all taken! **Barbara Hinds-Cook** will be our Library Parent, **Carol Hulstrunk** will be our Marketing Parent, **Sherri Mortensen and Julie Mathison** will be our Art Parents, **Janel Lawrence** will be our Classroom Gift Parent, **Jessica Neebe** will be our Volunteer Coordinator, **Mel Norland** will be our School Chronicler, **Trina McGaughy** will be our Meeting Secretary, and **Karen Patrick** will be our Newsletter Editor. We are very grateful for your commitment to take on these jobs for the school year.

Now here's the huge commitment: **John and Dodie Wilson** are going to head up our Silent/Live Auction this year!! Many other parents have pledged lots of support for them. Thank you, **John and Dodie** and thank you **all** very much!!

We are ready for another year!!



Dhabih working with play-dough.

Newsline – September 2007

- ❖ Our **class list** was put into family boxes last week. Please look it over for mistakes and typos. We will print out a revision if needed by the end of the month.
- ❖ Please remember to send in a **complete extra set of clothes** and PLEASE put your child's name on **EACH** piece of clothing -- even initials will do. Remember **rubber boots, headgear, and raincoat** the first rainy day. We need to have **names on these items** as

well. Canvas bags are in the hallway ready for rubber boots. Please also send your child with a **water bottle everyday** to conserve paper cups and cut down on the use of bottled water. A name is a must for water bottles, too!

❖ If your child is a returning student, your child's current forms are or will soon be in your box for you to review and update. It is very important for us to have current information on the emergency card, immunization records and your registration form. **Please update information, sign again and date. Thanks.**

❖ We would like to **promote the virtue of punctuality** - arriving and leaving on time. We feel it is an important habit to nurture in our children. They know when they are arriving late and they especially know when you are picking them up late. Our morning gatherings have much more of a community feeling if everyone is present and can hear the news and changes that may be happening that day. We completely understand being late sometimes (this is something I STILL struggle with), but we'd like to focus on improving on this area.

❖ **Will someone else be dropping off or picking up your child?**

❖

Please:

- Inform him/her of our arrival and departure procedures.
- Be sure he/she brings his/her picture ID for verification (for picking up).
- Let us know ahead of time by a note, call, or email.
- Let your child know ahead of time, also.

❖ During the year, we will be posting **flyers and brochures** on the bulletin board from various individuals and groups offering services that may be appropriate for your families. However, **it should not be taken as a recommendation** as we cannot investigate every source for quality.

Upcoming Events

Our **Beginning-of-the-Year potluck** will be on Saturday, September 15 from 5:00 - 6:30 in our school yard. Please bring a blanket to sit on, your own plates, utensils, and cups. See you there!

Thursday, September 20 is our **first parent meeting**. It will be from 6:00 - 7:30. We will provide free child care.

We will have a parent workshop on Thursday, October 11 from 6:00 - 7:30. The topics will be an **Introduction to Montessori and Montessori in the Home**. We will provide free child care.

On Thursday, October 18, there will be **no school**. It is an inservice day.

2007-2008 Cultural Curriculum

<i>Country</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Biome/ Other</i>
<i>U.S</i>	<i>Aloha Festival</i>	<i>Sept. 5 - Oct. 4</i>	<i>Islands, archipelagoes, volcanoes, tropical forest, oceans</i>
<i>Venezuela</i>	<i>Dia del la Raza (Oct. 12)</i>	<i>Oct 12 - Nov. 20</i>	<i>Savannas, tropical forests</i>
<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Kwanzaa (Dec. 21)</i>	<i>Nov. 26 - Jan. 17</i>	<i>Savannas, mountains,</i>
<i>Japan</i>	<i>Hina Matsuri (Mar. 3)</i>	<i>Jan. 22 - Mar. 6</i>	<i>Archipelago, more volcano work, tectonic plates, mountains, oceans</i>
<i>Poland</i>	<i>Easter (Mar. 23)</i>	<i>Mar. 10 - April 17</i>	<i>Temperate Forest</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Earth Day/World Environment Day</i>	<i>April 22- June 5</i>	<i>Straits, endangered plants and animals, oceans</i>