
Philomath Montessori School

June 2009



For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School

Adios! Hasta Luego!

With sadness and glee, the end of the school year closes in on us again. While I'm ready to stretch out into the lazy days of summer, it's always hard to say goodbye to our wonderful families and especially those we'll not see in the hallway next year except for the occasional, cherished visit. At the top of our list is the **Donaldson family** who has been with us since 2002 when **Cassidy** sallied into our school and now **Jack** will be stormin' the doors at the end of the week taking with him his lovable hugs and winning smile. Each year **Jeremy and Kathy** volunteered in almost every way possible from preparing classroom activities to inviting fellow HP families to pitch in to help us acquire a new piece of needed equipment to **Kathy's** awesome analysis and presentation of a survey for a College of Philomath Community Corporation (CPCC) project as well as volunteering on the board of the Philomath Area Senior Community Association (PASCA) which included publishing a monthly newsletter. And one of the most beloved gifts for us is the song that **Jeremy** composed every year using the names of all the children in the class. Then he would include it on a CD with some of our favorite songs of the year and new ditties that he and Doni would belt out - always fun and a great fund raiser. We will greatly miss their warmth, their generosity and,

most of all, their indomitable, crazy sense of humor! **Lois and Roger**, we will miss you guys, too!

Sweet **Ian Edwards** will be leaving this year, too. We are so grateful for all that **Karen and John** have done for the school. **Karen** has patiently worked with me on the newsletter for the past three years always graciously accepting my excuses for never meeting the deadlines that I set and then saves me by turning it around overnight! She has put a lot of energy into the auction food committee every year and has come to our rescue whenever she saw a need. Thank you so much, **Karen and John**.



**Our departing comrades:
Keller, Joey, Frank, Ian, Phaedra, Jack,
Reilly, Simone, Megan, and Taylor.**

Frank Miedema will be joining his sisters at Lincoln next year. His dad, **John**, has been our go-to guy whenever we needed some mechanical, carpentry, fix-it job done. Oh, are we going to miss him! Their entire family has come out on the

weekend and transformed our backyard in to an oasis - mowing, trimming, and weeding, weeding, weeding. And though we didn't get to see **Tracy** as often, she always found a way to help out.

We're going to miss our daily Chinese tidbits that **Simone** brought to the door each morning with a smile which she easily morphed into the next country we'd be talking about. We would like to thank **Hong and Jon Moulton** for the many things they have done and given to our school from cleaning the classroom to bringing in science equipment. I credit **John** for inspiring to me to attempt to play the guitar again - over the holidays he cleaned, restrung and tuned it.



Taylor and Megan share a laugh at the potluck.

We also need to say goodbye to **Taylor** - we need to bow down in thanks to **Shaun and Sherri** for keeping her with us for 5 years! It's been awesome and so is she. We love being around her and when I need it -- she grounds me. **Reilly** will also be moving on to second grade next year and she will leave a big void, too. She is enthusiasm plus some more. And then there's **Keller**, our classroom zoologist, **Joey**, his close and focused cohort, **Phaedra**, the class magnet and **Megan**, who springs into each day, - thankfully, we have their siblings to keep us tied to their families a little longer. We feel so fortunate to have crossed paths with all of you and honored to have been a part of your lives. Thank you for your trust and your dedication to making our school a better place to be.



Trina, Joanna, and Cassidy at the McGaughy Horse Party!

A big thank you to our incredible staff - **Doni** - reliable, talented, and funny, **Leslie** - always calm, sweet, and nurturing, **Phyllis** - so competent, reliable, and fun to be with, and **Maria** - the hard-working women behind the scenes everyday. Thank you for taking care of us all year-round.



Simone, Phaedra, Joey, Frank, and Keller line up at the potluck.

And speaking of all year-round, another big thank you to the parents who have taken care of our year-round jobs. **Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook** have both lugged many bags of books to our door and back mindful of our cultural calendar schedule so we had stacks of books ready to go when we started each unit. **Janel Lawrence** and

Alissa Moses were our Art Parents - a very demanding and time-consuming job that keeps new and interesting projects on our shelves all year round. **Richard Gratz** as our Outdoor Parent kept our yard mowed, trimmed, weeded, pruned, and blooming with color! **Karen Patrick** patiently edited and formatted our newsletter never failing to impress me at how quickly she could turn and make it look so great! **Trina McGaughy** was our volunteer coordinator recruiting volunteers whenever we needed them and tracking their hours with a more sophisticated, informative spreadsheet, **Janel Lawrence** did double-duty taking on the year-round job of Gift Parent also, **Melissa Cunningham** took care of our meeting minutes, and **Hattie Muir** took on project of chronicling our year in pictures midyear. We are very grateful for your year-round commitment to these important roles.

In these last couple of weeks we received help from several parents: **John Miedema** and **Dave Alba** erected our banners, **Richard Gratz** mowed our lawn, and **Lanny McGaughy** trimmed the borders. **Caelin Alba** also pitched in on Saturday by taking some awesome photos at our potluck and **Keller Norland** brought in dried flowers for our sweeping activity. Thank you very much!



A peek at our wonderful potluck

Thank You to Our Super Volunteers!

We wish to give special recognition to these families for giving their time far beyond what we ask of our families. These extraordinary families have given in the 50-plus hour range: **Dodie and John Wilson, Michele and Colleen Mincinski, and Janel Lawrence and Shawn Foley**. Our very deep appreciation for all your contributions!!

Such Generous Gifts

We have been the recipient of many generous donations as well. **Kaidyn Mincinski** gifted us with the book *The Children's Art Book* and **Reilly Mincinski** *Discovering Great Artists* -- I've been borrowing this book all year so it will be so lovely to grab it right from our library! **Ian Edwards** gave us *Wonderful Houses Around the World*, **Phaedra Hinds-Cook** *My Amazon River Day*, and **Keller Norland** will be giving us *Out of the Ocean*.

The following families donated their discounts to our scholarships totally almost \$500: **Foley-Lawrence, Patrick-Edwards, Mincinski, Wilson, Muir-Mersman, Gratz, Gerding, and Moses**. One very generous family has anonymously pledged to donate \$5,000 to our scholarship fund over the coming year. Some of our alumni families who have responded to our ask letter for scholarship funds came through with funds totally \$850 so far - **the Bialeks, the Meigs, the Malones, and the Brewer-Evelands**. The **Meidema family** donated a portion of their tuition deposit before leaving. Many and deep thanks for your incredible generosity!! These funds have made it possible to offer scholarships far beyond what we are normally able to give to try and meet the unprecedented need for this coming year.

Our Board of Directors

A very special thank you to all our board members who look after the welfare of the school: **Ed Durrenberger**, our President, **Joan Extrom**, our Secretary, **Paul Hochfeld**, our Treasurer, **Jessica Neebe**, who records our minutes, **Lorri Hendon**, **Judith Jayawickrama**, **Ruby Moon**, and **Sha Sifford**. All wonderful, hard-working, generous, and concerned parents who have continued to give their time and talents to our school.



Hazel and Emily at the potluck.

Hasina, Leslie, Kathy, and Cassidy enjoying a moment at the End-of-Year Potluck

Hasina



I wanted to put a plug in for Hasina Cohen - Leslie's daughter and one of our former students. She has been doing child care for us this year as well as substituting for our staff. She is offering child care service over the summer and throughout the year. You can contact her at 753-8244. As you know, she is wonderful!!

To all of our families, thank you for all that you have done, given, and shared. We are so grateful for your very generous support.

Thank you for another wonderful year!!