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# Philomath Montessori School

## September 2005



***For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School***

### ***Welcome to the 2005-2006 School Year!***

A warm welcome to everyone – to our new families and to our returning families. We have seven new children entering this year. Cassidy will be joined by her brother, **Jack**, and Joanna by her younger sister, **Allyson**. New to our school this year are **Amelia, Elliot, Jonathan, Reilly, and Sara**. It's been such a delight to work with them this week. Our hats off to all our new parents – they handled separation at the door like pros!

Our first couple of weeks have been very productive thanks to all of you. Sixteen families came to our parent workday last Saturday to refill gravel around our play equipment, refinish the play structure, clean and freshen up our indoor and outdoor areas, make repairs, prepare activities, and take care of a myriad of other projects. Two of the families who took Saturday off had worked this summer on refinishing all the tables. Thank you so much.

Since the 15<sup>th</sup>, Doni and I have been energetically preparing, planning, and organizing for the coming year. With three first graders in our class, we are planning to explore new activities and areas and are certain that their presence, interests, and pursuits will surely

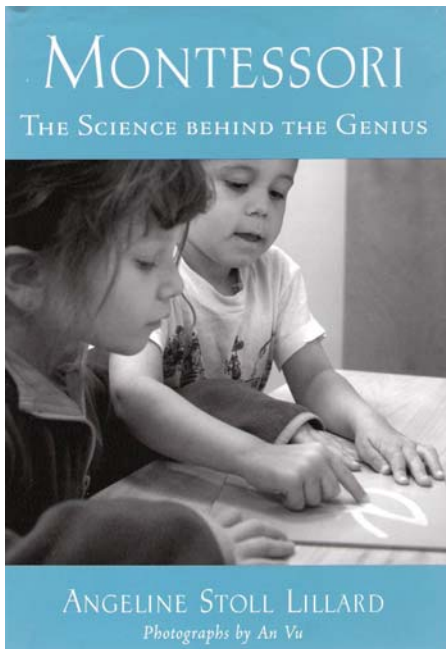
elevate the level of work in the classroom. We have many new materials to introduce this year from cubing to planets. We plan to expand on our biome curriculum and focus on the countries of Canada, Morocco, Peru, China, and Ukraine, and the continent of Antarctica.

We're excited about the coming year and looking forward to getting to know our new families and strengthening ties with our returnees.



**Allyson and Jonathan get started in 05-06!**





The Montessori Institute NW is sponsoring a lecture and book signing with **Angeline Stoll Lillard, author of Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius**, on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 6:30. The event will take place at the OHSU auditorium. Tickets are \$10.00 individually.

From the jacket cover:

*"Inspired educational thinkers such as Dewey or Vygotsky only sketched out ways that we might teach children. Over more than 50 years, Maria Montessori successfully created a radically new teaching system – a system that endures and inspires to this day. Angeline Lillard shows how many of Montessori's practices anticipated some of the latest and best findings in developmental psychology while still others call out for future empirical analysis. Lillard's comprehensive and fascinating assessment gives Montessori the place that she deserves in contemporary debate about how we should best teach children."*

– Paul L. Harris, Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

**We highly recommend attending this lecture! Please let us know by September 22 if you'd like to join us.**

## Parent Article

This article has become a tradition in our first newsletter of the year. I think it is worth repeating and I hope you'll take the time to review it even if you've read it before.

Here are some ideas garnered from an article by Priscilla Winning, a guide from the Franciscan Montessori Earth School in Portland, that might help make the transition from home to school go more smoothly for your child

- Establish a **consistent routine** with your child each morning. Regular routines give children a sense of security. By creating a calm and stable morning atmosphere in your home, you'll be greatly affecting your child's mood in a positive way. If your child regularly watches television in the morning, slowly wean him/her. **Television is not an appropriate activity before school**, nor a way to prepare the mind for learning.
- Set an appropriate bed time so that your child can get **plenty of sleep**. This will allow your child to feel rested and ready for a full day at school.
- **Let them know what will be happening that day**. If they are in a carpool it's important to let them know who is dropping them off and picking them up. Many children become upset if there are unexpected changes in their routine.



Elliot's taking some big steps.

- **Prepare in the evening for the following day.** Children usually are pleased (and sometimes demand!) to be involved in choosing their clothing to be worn to school, preparing their lunch, planning breakfast, etc. Making these decisions and preparations the night before can help you and your child avoid the stress and pressure of rushing.
- Be prepared to **make a short and cheerful departure** with your child at the classroom door. It will make your child's entry into the classroom more comfortable and positive. (Everyone's been doing a great job!)

## THANK YOU!!

Many, many thanks for all the work done over the summer and during the parent workday! This summer, **Melissa Schreiber** headed up the garden maintenance reminding families when it was their turn to take care of our backyard as well as doing a couple weeks herself. The **Jayawickramas, the Kim-Lee family, the Hulstrunks, the Neebe-Jensen family, the Panose-McClarens, and the Mortensens** watered, harvested, weeded, and sometimes mowed and trimmed our play yard. Thank you! **Dawnelle and Al** came in and mowed the lawn, trimmed around borders, and pruned back plants in August just before the parent workday to give us a head start. **Melissa and Tessa** came in to sand and refinish all our classroom tables. They look great! **Dawnelle** did the same with some the chairs which was a very demanding job!

Our school took on a big project this summer at our projected new site – the historic College of Philomath building. **Scott Ramsey** headed up the siding removal project with his entire family (**Kristen, Pat, and Za**) coming in to help out all weekend. On Saturday, four other parents, **Jonathan Jensen, Keith Moses, Hun Lee and Jessica Neebe** joined them -- an incredible crew that also included two of our board members – **Meredith Howell and Sha Sifford**. They worked long hours tearing off the

aluminum siding and the particle board beneath it revealing the original wood siding – it looks so much better now! Allan and I were both so impressed at how everyone worked in the hot sun with such enthusiasm and good humor. At the end of the day over 2,500 pounds of siding was hauled away as well as four truck loads of particle board! **Jin Kim** came with Leo and treated the workers to some homemade cinnamon bread. Thank you, everyone!

**Check out Upcoming Events about the Day of Caring and our new site!**



**The old College of Philomath building in its original glory. Our projected new site!**

So much was accomplished at our annual **Parent Workday!** The classroom was completely cleaned from the windows to the bead frame, three truck loads of gravel were brought in and spread beneath our play structures to deepen the cushion below, the play structure itself was sanded and refinished, the tires on the tire tree flipped for a safer mount, the shed was cleaned and organized to store our lawn mower, the garden beds weeded and cut back, the carpets shampooed, the greenhouse washed and plants trimmed back, and the posts for the monkey bars reinforced. Our deep appreciation goes to the **Albas, the Bennetts, the Bonds, the Donaldsons, the Davises, the Foley-Lawrence family, the Hulstrunks, the Jayawickramas, the Jensen-Neebe family, the Jordans, the Hun-Lee family, the Matsubas, the Mortensens, the Ramseys, and the Wilsons**. Thank you!

In addition to all the work done on our workday, many parents took jobs home. **Dodie** prepared burlap for sewing, **Marla and Michelle** prepared sewing cards, **Carol** prepared muslin for sewing, **Beth** cut paper for metal insets and booklets and prepared our addition and subtraction strip board papers, **Judith** cut our clock papers, **Janel** cut squared paper for math, list paper for writing and a variety of booklet covers, **Sherri** sewed us a dozen beautiful dust cloths and cut sewing cards, **Shawn Foley** washed and ironed our new boot bags, **John** cut new underlays for Practical Life activities, and **Michelle** trimmed laminate from our new bird and mammals cards, and **Jin** cut paper for a painting activity.



**Jenna doing one of those popular sewing cards!**

**Shaun** will be sanding and refinishing our workbench and **Melissa and Kathy** promised to finish up the weeding in our garden beds. Jessica Neebe, Tessa, and Melissa sent in lots of wonderful dried rose petals for our sweeping activity. Thank you all for everything!

During the Parent Workday and the first week of school, several parents signed up to help us year-round. **Judith** will be our Library Parent, **Jessica Neebe** will be our Marketing Parent and our Volunteer Coordinator, **Sherri and Jin** will be our Art Parents, **Melissa** will be our Outdoor Area Maintenance Parent, and **Dawnelle Davis** will be our Classroom Gift Parent. Our year-round parents are the backbone of our volunteer base. Thank you for your help and support.

Many thanks to all of you who have been crediting our school with your purchases when you shop at the **First Alternative Coop!** Even with a late start and new **scrip program**, we still brought in \$226!

## Requests for Help!

So we still have some very important year-round jobs that we need help with – **School Chronicler, Meeting Secretary, and Newsletter Editor and Publisher.** You'll find descriptions of the jobs on the signup sheet, but if you have any questions, please call or email me!

## Newsline

- 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!



**Sara's ready to play!**

- 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.**
- **New families**, please turn in all your paperwork as soon as possible. If you are missing a form, please let us know.
- 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.



Clare takes off!

## Upcoming Events

- Plan to come to our **Beginning-of-the-Year Potluck** from 5:00 - 6:30, Saturday, September 10 in our backyard. If the weather turns wet, we will dine in the classroom. See you there!
- We are planning to participate in another **Day of Caring** at our projected new site – the College of Philomath next Friday, September 16. Scott Ramsay will be heading up this project as he did the siding removal. There will be 2 shifts from 9 – 12 and 1:00 – 4:00 I will put a signup next week for anyone interested in helping us. Hope to see you there!
- Our first **Parent Meeting** will be on Thursday, September 22, at 6:30! Free childcare will be provided. Please come by 6:15 to get children settled in. We plan to start the meeting at 6:30 -- we have a lot of ground to cover and we like to end the meeting by 8:00 -- your children will be happier for it.

## Cultural Curriculum 2005-2006

Canada	Native American Day (September 23)	August 29 – September 29
Morocco	Eid-ul-Fitr (November 2)	October 3 – November 4
Peru	Christmas (December 25)	November 28 - December 21
China	Chinese New Years (January 29)	January 4 – February 2
Ukraine	Easter (April 16)	February 27 – April 13
Antarctica	World Environment Day (June 6)	May 1 – June 5

