
Philomath Montessori School

September 2006



For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School

Welcome to our 2006 - 2007 School Year!

Welcome, everyone, to a new school year! For some of you, this is your first experience parenting a school-age child. Congratulations on this new phase of your family's life. For others, it is the continuation of a journey, but a new leg of that journey. Please allow me to introduce our new students. Ian Edwards, Phaedra Hinds-Cook, Megan McGaughy, Frank Miedema, Jason Neuman, Keller Norland, Sydney Skinner and Anna Wilson are joining us this fall. With the exception of the Wilsons, whose eldest daughter, Amelia, was enrolled last year and the Neumans, whose now-14-year-old Savannah is an alumnus, these are brand-new families, so let's do go out of our way to make them feel welcome! You remember how it was when you were new, right? One of the wonderful things about this school is that it is more than a school: It is a community.

The community was very much in evidence at our Parent Work Party on Saturday, the 19th. These new families obviously have a lot of untapped civic spirit. They (and a few returning families) hit it hard and didn't stop until it was done! The garden beds are weeded, the play

structures ready for another year of fun and the classroom and materials are squeaky clean. I especially appreciate the shiny-clean walls in the restrooms. It is several shades brighter in there and much more pleasant. I had a great time getting to know the new kids and parents and am so pleased with the tremendous amount of work that was accomplished. I especially want to thank Pauline's husband, Allan Rack, for coming out and supervising the outdoor tasks.

As I write this, we have just finished our orientation with the new little ones. They came in at fifteen minute intervals, had a few lessons, learned where the potty is and (hopefully) learned that school is painless and that Mom and Dad always come back. It went very well, which is not to say it was without tension and drama...only that we all came out the other end stronger and wiser.



One of our new students, Megan McGaughy



Meet another new student, Ian Edwards.

We have several units of cultural study planned for the year. We will begin right away by focusing on our home continent and learning about several types of Native Americans. We will learn about some tribes from the Northwest, Plains and Southwest regions, focusing on the animals that they depended on in the ancient times, the ancient ways of satisfying their basic human needs and the biomes that they called home. Other upcoming geographical studies will be India, Ireland, Egypt, Brazil and Korea. Start scouring your attics and see if you can lend us some artifacts to share with the children, please!

I end this letter of welcome by wishing you all a terrific school year. We recognize that to attend any private school represents a financial sacrifice and a commitment of your time and will. We are thrilled that Montessori is your choice and that we are your choice in Montessori schools. We do not take for granted the faith you have placed in us, but will strive to provide a well-rounded education for your child. Let us begin this school year in the spirit of partnership.

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.
- **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!)

Walking on the Line

One of our most popular group activities is **Walking on the Line**. With a range of music from classical to pop to ethnic to Jazz, the children walk, march, skip, dance, run, and move in a myriad of ways. For safety and more feedback we have them do it barefoot; so often the biggest obstacle for children are shoes that are difficult to take off and put back on. **If they can independently manage their shoes and socks, they can joyfully participate.** Before they are ready to learn to tie shoes or buckle, velcro closures on shoes work great. Loose fitting socks also seem to make a big difference. So please help us facilitate a successful experience for your child!

THANK YOU!!

Many, many thanks for all the work done over the summer and during the parent workday!

Again 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 week herself. **Leslie, the Lee-Kims** (twice!), **Wilsons, Neebe-Jensens, Miedemas, and Mortensens** watered, harvested, and weeded, our play yard. The payoff for all of us is a bountiful garden of flowers and fruits. Thank you!

Jenna enjoying the fruits of the summer.



On July 1, an energetic mix of PhMS board members, families, and friends came out to serve lunch to 800 tandm bike riders in Helmick Park. It was a great time – a beautiful park, a gorgeous day, and the bike riders were not only fun to be around, but very appreciative. We are very grateful to **Meredith Howell and Kay Bomber**, our fearless leaders and to our very hard-working team: **Jessica Neebe, Joan Extrom, Dodie Wilson, Rob Jordan, Jin Kim, Julie Mathison, Allan Rack, Phyllis Pearson, and Elaine, Phyllis' friend.**

A couple of years ago, our wonderful Asian pear tree was hit by some mysterious disease and though pruning helped it survive for a while, this summer it succumbed. One day I came in to see the tree gone – branches and trunk completely hauled away without a trace left. **Jonathan Jensen**, with a gentle suggestion from his wife, **Jessica Neebe**, had taken care of it. Thank you **Jonathan and Jessica!**

This summer while trying to connect to our computer from afar, our computer guy discovered that our motherboard had died! As the computer was now over five years old, we decided it was time to get a new one. I remembered that a couple of HP families had told me last year about **HP's Employee Product Gift Matching Program** which helps employees purchase equipment for schools. I mentioned it to **Kathy Donaldson** at a meeting one day. She then passed it on to her hubby, **Jeremy Donaldson** and he took it from there. Five families stepped up to help us out – our two current HP parents – **Jeremy Donaldson** and **Ed Bomber** and three former parents – **Mike Bialek, Alex Gholson, and Jay Shields**. Our new desktop computer should be arriving any day now! Thanks so much for coming to our aid!!

It's amazing how much was accomplished in just three hours at our **Parent Workday!** It feels great to start the year with everything repaired, all the garden beds weeded, plants and trees pruned, structures sealed up and ready for the winter rains and the classroom shelves and materials cleaned and polished. Our deep appreciation goes to **Jeremy and Kathy Donaldson, John Edwards and Karen Patrick,**

Tessa Hanover, Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook, Carol and Matt Hulstrunk, Jin Kim, Kevin Matsuba, Christi McLarern and Anya Mae, John Miedema, Sherri and Shaun Mortensen, Melissa and Trevor Norland, Monica and Jeff Skinner, Dodie and John Wilson. Special thanks to Greta Miedema and Althea Hinds-Cook who enthusiastically embraced the idea of helping us out.

In addition to all the work done on our workday, many parents took jobs home. **Kathy Donaldson and Jin Kim** are preparing drawing grids with Native American symbols and drawing paper in shapes related to NW Coast, Arctic, and SW tribal groups. **Sherri Mortensen** is preparing paper with Plains and Plateau shapes, cutting paper for various collage and painting activities, **Dodie Willson** is cutting paper for painting and preparing square chain booklets, **John Wilson** is cutting various math papers and Karen Edwards washed all the boot bags. **Jeff Skinner** is taking our lawn mower in to get it cleaned up and to replace the battery. **Tessa Hanover** came after our workday to haul away all the large branches. She is also taking on the big job of sanding and refinishing the workbench AND the three picnic tables! **John Miedema** came by a couple of days ago to install our hose reel and our water gauge and **Lane McGaughy** will be posting our new 'No Trespassing' signs. **Trevor Norland** will be mowing the lawn and trimming the edges this weekend and **Jonathan Jensen** is dropping off a new stump for hammering. Thanks, everyone!

All of our **Year-Round parent jobs** have been spoken for! **Barbara Hinds-Cook** will be our Library Parent, **Dodie Wilson**, our Marketing Parent, **Sherri Mortensen and Jin Kim**, our Art Parents, **Melissa and Trevor Norland**, our Outdoor Area Maintenance Parents, **Janel Lawrence**, our Classroom Gift Parents, **Jessica Neebe**, our Volunteer Coordinator, **Beth Jordan**, our School Chronicler, **Trina McGaughy**, our Meeting Secretary, **Karen Patrick**, our Newsletter Editor and Publisher. Thank you so much for taking on these tasks – they are the core of our support.



Phaedra's ready to try out our school slide.

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** for the first rainy day – we actually had one already! It's such a disappointment when they can't go out because they lack the proper gear. **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, 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, date and return by the end of the week. Thanks.**
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ This year we would like to move up the **starting time for meetings and parent ed** classes from 6:30 to 6:00. This allows us to get home at an earlier time. We are hoping this new shift in time will work for your families, too!

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Plan to come to our **Beginning-of-the-Year Potluck** from 5:00 - 6:30, Saturday, September 9 in our backyard. If the weather turns wet, we will dine in the classroom. See you there!

- ❖ Our **first Parent Meeting** will be on Thursday, September 21, at 6:00! 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 7:30 -- your children will be happier for it, too.
- ❖ On Thursday, October 12 from 6:00 - 7:30, we will have a parent ed class - an **Introduction to Montessori and Montessori in the Home**. At our first parent meeting we can discuss any variations on our theme.
- ❖ There is no school on Thursday, October 19. It is an **Inservice Day**.
- ❖ We are planning to put our **next newsletter** out the week of October 23. If you would like to put an article in our newsletter, please email me a copy at phms@peak.org by October 19.

Cultural Curriculum 2006 – 2007

<i>Country</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Biome/Other</i>
<i>U.S.</i>	<i>Native American Day (Sept. 28)</i>	<i>Sept 5 – Oct 12</i>	<i>Temperate Forests Deserts, Grasslands</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>Divali (Oct 21)</i>	<i>Oct 16 – Nov 16</i>	<i>Grasslands (Savannas)</i>
<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Winter Solstice (Dec 21)</i>	<i>Nov 20 – Dec 19</i>	<i>Wetlands /Land and Water Forms</i>
<i>Egypt</i>		<i>Jan 4 – Feb 15</i>	<i>Deserts/Rivers</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Carnival (Feb 17 – 21)</i>	<i>Feb 21 – Mar 22</i>	<i>Tropical Forests</i>
<i>Korea</i>	<i>Children's Day (May 5)</i>	<i>April 9 – May 10</i>	<i>Temperate Forests and Oceans</i>