
Philomath Montessori School

September 2011

For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School



Welcome!

Welcome, Everyone! For some of you, it's a new school and still others, a whole new experience.

This summer we jumped into our new endeavors - Extended Care and Friday Art Class and we are excited about both! For the first time in our 27+ years, we will be offering full-time care from 7:45 to 5:30, five days a week. Friday mornings will feature an art class taught by **Jennifer Smith**. Jennifer is a well-known and cherished artist and teacher who brings a wealth of experience and talent to the classroom. She is well-versed in the Montessori approach having assisted in both primary and elementary Montessori classrooms for over 18 years and running the Corvallis Montessori Summer Arts program for 13 years. Add to that her experience as an art teacher in other settings: the Corvallis Art Center, OSU Summer Arts Program, Unity Waldorf in Colorado, M.U. Craft Center at OSU, and on -- we are VERY lucky to have her with us. Right now our Friday Art Class is small, but I know that it will grow once your children discover Jennifer.



Jennifer Smith, our new art class teacher.

Our new Extended Care Program also means bringing in another new staff member and we are proud and pleased to introduce **Marjie Corbin**. Marjie is also

an artist and art teacher, but her experience has been more with elementary-aged children and adolescents. She is an Evergreen State College graduate which already says a lot in the area of innovation and creativity. We were taken by her calm and caring demeanor as well as her eagerness to work with this younger age group.

Someone who has been a familiar presence in our school for some time is now a regular staff member - **Jessica Neebe**. We first knew Jessica as one of our PhMS parents and then as one of our board members and last year she became our favorite classroom substitute. So we are thrilled that we will be seeing her every day! When Carol, our accountant, discovered that Phyllis (our former bookkeeper) was going to retire, she told me that Jessica would be perfect - she has worked with Jessica, too! Jessica will also be Jennifer's classroom assistant on Friday mornings for our art class. Jennifer and Jessica know each other from their Corvallis Montessori days and



now they will be paired together at our school delighted by what that prospect brings.

Jessica Neebe wears more than one hat at PhMS.

A warm welcome to all of you and to our new staff!

Classroom News

I am writing this directly after our first school day so I do actually have news! The first day went really well. All the parents separated from their children quickly and with no dramatics. Even the kids who we anticipated would have difficulty entering the classroom proved us wrong. The few kids who were placed on my lap at the door slid right down and immediately moved further into the environment to put their things away, greet teachers or choose one of the activities they had been shown during their classroom visit. Every child did at least some work. Every child sat properly at group. Every child listened to our story. Every child watched our *Grace and Courtesy Lessons* on how to observe work without interrupting, what to do with a used tissue and how to raise one's hand. Work time was, as usual, an all-hands-on-deck situation, but that is expected at this time of year.

Have you all become acquainted with Miss Kitty? She is an adorable and friendly smoke-gray cat who we found on the playground when we came back from summer break. I have been feeding her and I just made a bed for her under the shed. I am twitterpated with love for her already! If you would like to contribute a bag of

cat food for her, that would be appreciated. The best thing that could happen would be for a family to adopt her and really care for her in a forever home as she deserves. If you would like to arrange a meet and greet, please let me know. I am also looking for a family who lives nearby who could replenish her feed bowl on Saturdays.



Unflappable Jake McGaughy

One thing I forgot to say to all the folks who attended our New Parent Orientation is that drop-off and pick-up time is not a good time for families to communicate with us about anything other than the immediate needs of their child. If you talk to us about a volunteer task, paperwork, financial matters or the like, we will appear to listen politely, but it will be in one ear and out the other. We really have our hands and minds full at that time of day. It would be better to send an e-mail or leave a voice mail. Also, let's bring those extra clothes in immediately. We had a potty accident on the very first day and more will occur. The children keep their clothes in individual bins in the Sunflower Room. For those of you who do not know what goes where, it is as follows: Extra clothes and water bottles in the classroom, coats and boots on the pegs in the hallway, lunchboxes on the floor below each child's coat hook. If you hand over the clothes and water bottles at the door, we will show your child where to put them. Another habit that both parents and staff need to cultivate is signing children out when they leave at the end of the

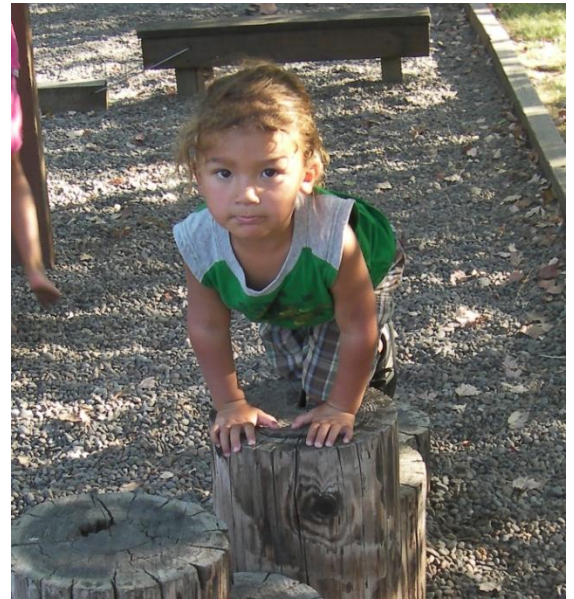
day. There will be a clipboard in a wall pocket just inside the classroom. At 12:00 and 3:00 dismissal, the assistant will sign the students out. For all children leaving at any other time, the parent must sign them out with their initials and the time of day. Don't worry, we will remind you as we all get used to this new procedure.



Zoe Hughes is swinging her away across.

At this time, I would like to welcome our new children and their families. There is the adorable **Hugo Ueng** (pronounced "ung") and his parents **Joy and Tim**. The confident **Duncan Reavis** is flanked by his parents **Lara and David**. The effervescent **Bayla Woodside** brings her parents Jasmine and Rigel to the table and the serene **Anika Johanson** is accompanied by Meagan and Ryan. Little **Jai Braxton** is our first 2nd generation Philomath Montessori student! His mother, **Jenny**, graduated from PhMS herself. Jai's dad is **Anthony**. You can't miss young **Lucas Junge**. He has gorgeous, curly red hair and his parents are **Heidi and Matt**. We are also welcoming back two alumni families who have brought us their youngest children. **Trina and Lanny McGaughy** first brought us their daughter, **Megan**, who is a graduate and now, the unflappable **Jake** joins our ranks! **Heather and Nate Gerding** have returned to the fold some years after their **Ava** graduated and now we get to see that **Ace**, their only son, is just as sweet!

We welcome the very experienced **Jude Williams** to our class. Jude spent last year at CMS in their toddler environment and now joins his older brother, **Ezra**, here at PhMS.



Jai Braxton pauses for a pic on his way up.

We feel so fortunate to welcome all of these wonderful families into our community. They will probably never meet a warmer, more giving bunch of folks than they will meet here among our returning families. We are so proud to be part of our little "village." I wish that all families could have such support. We know this school year will be a fresh start in many ways, including being the first year that we have offered after-school care. We welcome and cherish all of you and your kids and look forward to working together in the months and years to come.

Some important reminders!

PLEASE:

- ✓ Send in that **extra set of clothes!** Don't forget **rubber boots and rain gear**, too. PLEASE names on everything!
- ✓ Walk hand-in-hand with your child until he/she can **walk quietly down the hallway** on their own.
- ✓ Help us combat an outbreak of illness in the classroom with **hand washing before and after school.**

- ✓ Remember that we need to keep the **doors locked before 8:30 and after 3pm**. So if you drop off your children before or after those hours, you will be using our back door to the classroom.

Newsline

- ✓ Thursday, September 22 is our **first parent meeting**. It will be from 6:00 - 7:30. We will provide free child care for children 2 ½ and older.
- ✓ **Thistledown Studios** will be coming to take individual photos of the children on Wednesday, September 28 and **Hise Studios** will be here on Wednesday, October 5 for our class photo.



Sweet Zach Grapoli

- ✓ Our **Parent Orientation II** will be Thursday, October 6 at 6pm. **Dr. Kathleen Lloyd** will be presenting *The Montessori Approach... And Bringing It Home*. See our website for more information and please invite family and friends.
- ✓ If your child is a **returning student**, your child's current forms are in your box for you to review and update. It is very important for us to have current information on the emergency form, immunization records, medical school form

and your registration form. **Please update information, sign again (Child Care Division requires it) and date. Thanks.**

- ✓ During the year, we may see **fliers 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.
- ✓ If you haven't yet, please go to our website and click on the **Facebook** icon to become one of our friends and then for heaven's sake **"Like"** us!! **Janelle Iverson**, our wonderful social media guru, is trying to connect us to the world! The local world, anyway.
- ✓ **Doni has been blogging again**. She wouldn't write it if she didn't want people to read it so go to our website philomathmontessori.org and click on the "blogspot" to read her latest musings!

Thank You - Summer 2011

Summer Yard Work

- ✓ Watered the garden several times this summer : ***Nina Erlich-Williams and Sev Williams***
- ✓ Also helped out with watering: ***Liesl Ralston and Mel Norland***
- ✓ Kept our backyard mowed and trimmed all summer: ***Christian Petrovich***
- ✓ Came in three times this summer to weed, trim and renew our garden beds. They also thinned our apples to prevent branches from breaking and to improve our apple crop this fall: ***Lorri Hendon's Bahai' Walkabout group***

Farmers Market Craft Booth over the summer :

- ✓ **Volunteer Hosts: *Kerry Boysen, Gretchen Goode, Amber Grapoli, Carol Hulstrunk, Jenna and Alan Hulstrunk, Audrey Irwin, Damian Lynch, Mel Norland,***

Anya Mae Panose, Allan Rack, Liesl Ralston-Tavano, and Nina Erlich-Williams.



Maggie Brock and Alleck Norland play together at the potluck.

PARENT WORK DAY!! So much accomplished in one day - inside and out!!

- ✓ Hard-working Volunteers: *Clara Bozievich, Bill Brock, Jenny and Anthony Braxton, Brian Irwin, Meagan and Ryan Johansen, Mary Beth Altman Hughes, Rob Hughes, Stony Lohr, Trina McGaughy, Hattie Muir, Jessica Neebe, Allan Rack, Lara Lee-Reavis, Liesl Ralston-Tavano, Joy and Tim Ueng, Nina Erlich-Williams, Sev Williams, and Jasmin and Rigel Woodside.*

Classroom Projects

- ✓ Refinish picnic tables: *Lara Lee-Reavis*
- ✓ Iron boot bags and laces of bow tying frame: *Meagan Johanson*
- ✓ Cut out continents: *Liesl Ralston-Tavno*
- ✓ Make templates for otter, salmon, and meadowlark: *Bill Brock*
- ✓ Cut out templates and art paper for otter, salmon, and meadowlark: *Hattie Muir*
- ✓ Prepare 8 journals: *Jenny Braxton*
- ✓ Montessori Services Holiday Order Coordinator: *Jasmin Woodside*

Year-Round Jobs

- ✓ Library Parent: *Lara Lee-Reavis*
- ✓ Marketing Parent: *Joy Ueng*
- ✓ Art Parents: *Meagan Johanson and Liesl Rolston*
- ✓ Classroom Gift parent: *Mel Norland*
- ✓ Outdoor Maintenance Parent: *Lanny McGaughy*
- ✓ Volunteer Coordinator: *Lua Siegel*
- ✓ Meeting Secretary: *Trina McGaughy*

Our Mentor Parents

- ✓ *Kerry Boysen, Mel Norland, and Lua Siegel*

PR Work

- ✓ Press Releases for new staff and credenza raffle: *Nina Erlich-Williams*

Donations:

- ✓ Art work: *Alba family*

Photo Notecard Fundraiser:

- ✓ Photographers: *Clare Boysen and Anna Gratz*
- ✓ Coordinator and creator: *Janel Lawrence*
- ✓ Venues: *The Golden Crane and Gathering Together Farms*
- ✓

Silent Auction Fundraiser and Raffle:

- ✓ Credenza craftsman and artisan: *Bill Brock*
- ✓ Co-chairs: *Clara Bozievich and Janelle Lohr*

Our sincere and humble thanks for the many things you do for us and give to us!! We are so fortunate.



Ezra Williams and Arden hang out.