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# Philomath Montessori School

## September

## 2009



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

### Classroom News

Welcome to a new school year! Pauline and I have been back in the classroom since August 10, making ready for all of our children and families. Phyllis and Leslie have been working off and on throughout the summer months and Pauline has been beating the bushes for two remaining children to fill our enrollment roster. I have been cleaning the storage closet and telling myself "if you sort these vocabulary cards, they will come."

We hope that all of our families enjoyed an idyllic summer break and that there will be happy summer activities yet in store for all of us even though our school year has begun. After all, there is still one weekend per week as far as I know! Monday through Thursday, however, we will all be experiencing all the joys and challenges of school. I am so grateful for the wonderful students that are returning this year. They will be terrific models for the newest students to emulate. The new students will enjoy having their very own classroom to live in. The order of the activities on the shelves, the routine, structure and consistent limits will be calming and comforting. The autonomy to work independently either indoors or out will be very satisfying to their souls. There will be some upset, perhaps, some anxiousness as there inevitably is when

starting something new, but that will quickly transition into eagerness and confidence.

Allow me to welcome our new students and their families. We have a terrific roster of players joining the Philomath Montessori team. Please greet them warmly when you see them, won't you?



- **Isabella Amoth (above)**, who will join big sis Olivia in our classroom. Her parents are Gretchen Goode and Aaron Amoth.
- Clare Boysen, accompanied by parents Kerry and Doug.
- Maggie Brock with her folks Bill Brock and Clara Bozievich.
- Alan Hulstrunk, who spent his first school year with us, then tried homeschooling, (great for his Montessori graduate sister, Jenna, but not quite right for his

style) is back once again with parents Carol and Matt.

- **Alayna Jordan (below)**, whose older brother Jonathan attended our school, joins us with her mom, Beth, and dad, Rob in tow.



- Raine Lohr graces us with her presence and brings the added bonus of her parents, Janelle and Stony.
- Maggie Mersmann, younger sister to Joey, who left us last year, is the progeny of Hattie Muir and JC Mersmann.

Now that is a good-looking line-up of young people and I have seen plenty come down the pike. It's going to be an awesome year. I look forward to working with each child and helping each parent find their own way of becoming absolutely indispensable to our little school. If we, the staff, can be of any help to you, do not hesitate to call upon us. It is our pleasure to serve. Welcome to Philomath Montessori School!

## Parenting Article

*This article by Priscilla Winning, a guide from the Franciscan Montessori Earth School in Portland, has been a tradition for our first newsletter of the year for at least 20 years. We hope that you*

*will take the time to read it or review it. It will 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.



**James is tackling the cylinder blocks with lots of concentration.**

- **Prepare in the evening for the following day**. Children are usually pleased (and

id 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.



Kallen looks on with interest as Hayden puts his puzzle back together.

## Thank you!!

We are always impressed with how much work gets done at our Saturday Work Party and you certainly didn't let us down this year! **The Albas, the Albins, the Amoth-Goode family, the Cunninghams, the Boysens, the Brock-Bozievich family, the Foley-Lawrence family, the Gratz family, the Hulstrunks, the Lohrs, the Mincinskis, the Plaire-Siegel family, and the Wilsons** came out and in three hours transformed our backyard and classroom. They cleaned, organized, refinished, repaired, replaced, raked, weeded, pruned, and signed up for even more work!! You guys are fabulous! Doni and I surveyed the classroom today with deep satisfaction and

we are ready for the coming year! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

For our classroom, **Dodie Wilson** will be preparing mask shapes and tracing and cutting out whale and bear shapes, **Kerry Boysen** will be cutting out the small shapes for the masks, **Kati Albin** will be tracing and cutting out large shell shapes, circles and ellipses. She will also be cutting paper for our clock work. **Carol Hulstrunk** will be tracing and cutting out raven shapes as well as sewing pin cushions and new brass cloths, **Janel Lawrence** will be tracing and cutting out large seal shapes, **Gretchen Goode** will be cutting addition and subtraction strip board papers, and preparing addition chart booklets. She will also be cutting paper for writing single words and **Aaron Amoth** cutting out cursive sandpaper letters for new green boards (a big job!), **Lua Siegel** will be cutting number roll paper, metal inset paper, and marking muslin squares for sewing, **Michele Mincinski** will be preparing paper for cutting paper chains, **Hattie Muir** will be trimming geography material, preparing our paper job cutting activity, preparing paper for more paper chain cutting, and preparing our  $\frac{1}{2}$  picture drawing activity and **Janelle Lohr** will be cutting out felt for our appliqué sewing. Thank you so much!



Ian makes contact with a rose in our garden.

Over the summer, several families took the time this summer to come out to weed and water our garden. Many thanks to **Lua Siegel** for being our garden coordinator - calling each family to remind them of their week and fill in when needed. **Lua** took a couple of weeks, as did **Janel Lawrence, Heather Gerding, Sherri Mortensen, the Albas, and the Amoth-Goode family**. Thank you all. Because of you our garden is now bearing fruit and will continue through the Fall.



**Maggie Brock digs into the playdough.**

In July **Bill Brock** took the stairs going to our sink in the classroom and put a new face on the steps - it looks gorgeous. Doni remarked that it really classed up the place. AND he signed up to build new platforms for both of our restrooms. Thank you, Bill!

After the work party on Saturday, Allan discovered a hornets' nest right beside the sprinkler. We were very surprised that no one was stung that day with all the activity going on. A very big thank you to **Dave Alba** for coming out a couple of times to take care of the hornets' nest and also mowing the lawn and trimming the borders.

Parents have already signed up to take on year-round jobs: **Barbara Hinds-Cook** will be our Library Parent, **Carol Hulstrunk** will be our Marketing Parent, **Debbie Alba** will be our Volunteer Coordinator, **Janel Lawrence** and **Beth Jordan** will be our Art Parents, and **Janel** will also continue to be our Classroom Gift Parent, **Hattie Muir** and **Kati Albin** will be sharing the School Chronicler job and **Melissa Cunningham** will be our Meeting Secretary. **Beth Jordan** also signed up to coordinate our Montessori Services catalog fundraiser. Thank you all!

Many thanks for all the help over the summer and at the beginning of the year - it's an intense time for us and we really appreciate all the work. It's

hard to give up time on a summer weekend and we are so grateful that you did!!

## Newsline - September 2009

- We are very happy to announce that the health department sanitarian has given us the okay to **resume cooking and baking activities in the classroom!** So you can now send in items for snack that can be cut with a real knife. In fact, we encourage you to send in blocks of cheese, apples, and spreads for crackers and bread. We are requesting that you **NOT** send in snacks that require spoons and/or bowls or some kind of container - yogurt, cottage cheese, applesauce, cereal, etc.
- There will **no school** on Monday, September 7. It's Labor Day.



**Doni, Madison and Dhabih put words together using the movable alphabet.**

- Please come to our **Beginning-of-Year potluck**. It will be Saturday, September 12, from 5:00 - 6:30 in our schoolyard. Please help us be green - please bring your own dinnerware, utensils, and cups/glasses. A blanket and/or low lawn chairs to sit on is also nice to bring along. There is a signup on the wall in the hallway.



**Maggie Rose is doing one of the beginning-of-the-year favorites - opening and closing.**

- Thursday, September 24 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.
- We will have a **Parent Orientation II** (Intro to Montessori and Montessori in the Home) on Thursday, October 9 from 6:00 - 7:30. We will provide free child care.

- Thursday, October 15 is a Teacher Inservice day so there will be **no school**.
- 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 form, immunization records, medical school form and your registration form. **Please update information, sign again and date.**  
**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.
- **Our Birthday Celebration handout, Medication Permission form, and our 2009-2010 Calendar** are available as PDF files at the *bottom of the home page* of our web site:  
[www.philomathmontessori.org](http://www.philomathmontessori.org)

### Cultural Curriculum 2009 – 2010

August 24 – October 8	U.S. – Alaska (Alutiiq)	Native American Day (September 25)
October 10 – November 19	Korea	Alphabet Day (Oct. 9)
November 30 January 29	Germany	St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) and Christmas
February 1 – March 18	Nigeria	Argungu Fishing Festival (Feb. 10)
April 5 – May 18	Australia	Earth Day (April 22)