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# Philomath Montessori School

## October 2009



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

### School News

This year we are going to attempt to do a monthly newsletter so that you can have more timely news, updates, and reminders. These newsletters will include the usual items, but those that just follow a parent meeting will not have a Classroom News since Doni will be covering that subject at the meeting. If you would like to contribute an article to our newsletter, please send it to [phmsch@gmail.com](mailto:phmsch@gmail.com) and we will be delighted to include it.



**Alleck Norland**

Somehow **Alleck Norland**, Trevor's brother, was missing from the list of new children in our first newsletter! Our sincere apologies, Alleck!! Alleck's parents are the wonderful Mel and Trevor Norland. Welcome, Alleck!

At our parent meeting we forgot to mention and I'm sure you've noticed - we've eliminated our morning and afternoon handshake. This is such a long tradition in Montessori schools that Doni and I were very reluctant to make that change. But we are taking the threat of the H1N1 flu seriously and want to consider everything that we can do to avoid it. It turns out that there is a silver lining -- the children now really make eye contact with us and greet us with a radiant smile.



**Eliason, Kaidyn, and Kallen work together.**

No more swift hand grab with their head turned in your direction. We've also introduced the idea of how personable it is to say the person's name when you are greeting him/her. It's funny how

often a change you dread turns out to be -- not so bad! And this change is not set in stone. We want to see if this and other precautions we have made will make a difference.

At our first parent meeting, I told everyone that this year Phyllis will be assuming that when you don't take your \$10 discount you are donating it to the scholarship fund. We are doing this because it takes Phyllis time to call/email each family when their check is \$10 more than is due. This extra step increases our overhead. Since we announced this at the parent meeting after September tuition was paid and done, we will be happy to give any family credit that did not intend to donate their discount to the scholarship fund. Just call or email Phyllis and she will give you credit. Thank you for understanding.

## Our Prez



We would like to introduce you to the wonderful folks on our board. They generously give in many ways and make the difficult decisions that keep our school afloat and running smoothly. We thought we should begin with our fearless leader - **Ed Durrenberger**.

**Day and Month of Birth:** March 28th

**Briefly describe your background and interests/hobbies:** I am married and have two daughters. My oldest daughter Sidney is going to college at the University of Oregon. My other daughter Barry went to Philomath Montessori and is currently a senior at Philomath High School.

My wife Susan and I both work outside the home. I work at the Oregon Public Utility Commission in Sale, as a Power Cost Analyst for electric and gas rates. Susan works with computers at CH2M Hill in Corvallis. I am a trained Mechanical Engineer and have spent a number of years working in that field at the paper mill in Toledo, but my current work is more along the lines of financial analysis than engineering. My current main interest outside of work is in metal work; I am a passionate blacksmith making mostly ornamental ironwork the old fashion way with a forge and hammer. I am also interested in old cars. I have rebuilt a couple from the ground up and love the puzzle work that takes place figuring out where all the parts go.

**How long have you lived in this community?**  
Since 1975

**Educational experiences:** I am a trained Mechanical Engineer; I also have experience reviewing profit and loss statement and business operating reports.

**Current type of work:** I currently work as a utility rate regulator dealing with electric and natural gas utility power costs and rates.



**Raine cuts papers amid all the other activity.**

## Thank You's October '09

Thanks to a cadre of parent volunteers our shelves are filled with lovely, appealing activities. **Sherri Mortensen** cut paper for our ten and teen boards and wax paper squares, **Alissa, Madison's nanny**, cut templates for our polar and grizzly bears and the humpback and orca whales, and **Mel Norland and Beth Jordan** cut out paper into various shapes for drawing and painting activities.

A very big thank you to **Bill Brock** for building two new beautiful platforms for our bathrooms and **Brad Catton**, who also took on a big project -- refinishing the picnic tables. **Nate Gerding** came in to do several handyman projects - he mounted our papertowel dispenser in the boys bathroom, our new bulletin board in the hallway, No Trespassing signs on our gates and a new monitor in the girl's bathroom. **Dodie Wilson** took care of one of our dispensers in the girls room and **Gretchen Goode** removed the old tires from our play yard.

Many thanks to **Diane Amoth, Olivia and Isabella's grandmother**, for bringing in a large box full of artifacts from the Alutiiq culture. Having the real objects there is so much more compelling than mere pictures. Thank you, Diane!



*Olivia works with the Addition Strip Board.*

## Newsline - October '09

- ❖ The church has requested that the **children refrain from climbing and pulling on their trees**. We have talked to the children about this, but we will need you to help the children remember that the trees are only for admiring. Thank you!!
- ❖ As we enter the fall/winter season, please remember that our school follows the Philomath School District on **severe weather conditions**. If they call off school, so do we. If there is a one-hour delay, it does not affect the opening of our school. If there is a two-hour delay, we will open at 9:45. Please tune into your favorite local radio station, check the school district web page ([http://www.philomath.k12.or.us/school\\_closure.php](http://www.philomath.k12.or.us/school_closure.php)) or call the school - there will be a message announcing our school closure/delay. If there is a delay, be sure to check Philomath School website again or call the school before leaving home - **sometimes a delay turns into a closure**.



**Joanna reads the labels and then matches them to the pictures.**



**Clare builds the Pink Tower.**

- ❖ It's also time to think about **changing the extra clothes** from summer wear to winter warmth. If they have an accident, changing into short-sleeve shirts and shorts may be a little disagreeable.

- ❖ There will **no school** on Thursday, October 15 - it is the one teacher inservice day that we take each year.
- ❖ Please remember to get your orders and checks into Beth Jordan by October 16 for the **Montessori Services catalog fundraiser!**
- ❖ **Observations** will begin on October 19 and **Parent-Teacher Conferences** will follow in early November. New families, please remember that you may only observe from the classroom door - your turn will come in Spring! A signup for both observations and conferences will be up on the hallway walls soon.
- ❖ Hise Studios will be coming in Thursday, October 22 at 9:00 sharp to take our **class picture**. This is one morning you really don't want to be late!