



Our graduates - Jude, Anika, Rahmat, Eddie, Ace, Bayla, and Jake.

2014: Our graduates!



Au Revoir!

I can't believe it - the end of the year came so quickly - again. It's that bittersweet time when we have to say goodbye to our graduates and even to some of our families. Smiling **Jake** will be heading over to Philomath Elementary next year. (Maybe the other kids will have a chance to score a goal now!) He really knew how to handle a soccer ball, but better yet, he always had a good story to tell us each morning that seemed to give us all a lift. We will miss not only Jake, but also **Trina and Lanny McGaughy**. They go way back with us - back to fall of 2006 when they enrolled their daughter, Megan. From the beginning they were vigorous volunteers. Trina was meeting secretary and then volunteer coordinator and Lanny always did lots of repair and outdoor jobs for us. They both stepped up to do many classroom projects and cleaning and always participated in the auction. But since Jake joined us in 2011, they really threw

themselves into the fray taking on the big ventures like co-chairing and heading up the auction and creating that stunning sideboard with Bill Brock for the raffle. Lanny really came to our rescue at the beginning of the year, driving all the way to Eugene to pick up

our new shed (and later our picnic table). Loading and unloading the shed was complicated by low hanging branches and a VERY narrow opening in the fence. Thank goodness Lanny knew something about backing up trailers! And at the drop of hat, he would also be there to change light bulbs and forge new eyelets for our shed locks.

Unfortunately, **Ace** will be departing, too. He inspired other kids to love the hundred board more than anyone we've ever witnessed. Because of him, that 100 board was out almost every day, all day, not only putting the tiles on, but writing the board over and over again. This enthusiasm bled into many other math activities and then into language activities and art. We are very grateful to **Heather and Nate Gerding** for the many things they have done for our school. They've been with us for a long time, too. Back when Ava was a student, Heather and Nate helped us with a project that never came to fruition (our dream school building), but they willingly and generously gave their time and energy - Heather with her property management skills and Nate with his construction expertise. This time around they've continued to help with the auction checkout (Yikes! Who will do that now?!), many handyman jobs and cleaning the classroom - no small feat. Last summer when Home Depot volunteers fell through, Nate with a couple of other Gerding employees put up our brand new fence - days of work! And let's not forget Ace's



Ace and Connor with guess what? The 100 board!

grandpa, **John**, who lights up the hallway every morning with his cheer and smiles.

Yes, **Jude** is leaving, too. Jude would always come to us with a smile to tell us his latest “riddle” or to ask “maybe you’d like to give me a lesson?” He would sometimes resort to toddler speech, but at the same time was often so capable of adult-like remarks. Recently I was wearing a blouse that I noticed at the end of the day was completely curled up in the back (only he and I were in the room by then). I said “Oh, no! I’ve been walking around like this all day?” He readily assured me “Oh, probably no one even noticed.” We will, of course, miss his parents, **Nina Erlich-Williams and Sev Williams**, who never hesitated to put their polished PR skills to work for us. When I was daunted one year by having to fill 12 spots, they reassured me (so like Jude!) that it could be done and then dug in with an impressive list of recruitment ideas. Well before fall, we had our students. They also took on our Dine-out nights that not only really boosted our fundraising, but were more like mid-year parties. Add to that all their spirited volunteerism around our auction, our garden and our work parties.

And then there’s **Nate**, who would race around the room showing us what lessons he wanted next and then after getting one, would spend a couple of days doing it again and again – a sight that brightens every Montessori teacher’s heart. Many thanks to **Shannon and Ed Bedford** for their energetic contributions during our parent work parties and auction fundraisers. Shannon knew how to put an entrancing display together to fire up the live auction and we were always grateful for Ed’s prowess with the carpentry tools.

Also on the departure list is **Eddie** — our mathematician with passion, our origami swami and our lesson demon. I recently reviewed the clip board with lesson requests – more than half were from Eddie! Then there’s **Rahmat**, whose charisma had

the rest of the class following him wherever he went – a real kid magnet that boy. And finally, **Anika and Bayla** – their fervent, sometimes stormy relationship that began when they both started school has mellowed and deepened like a fine wine. They seem to be mastering well that complicated dance of friendship. We will dearly miss you all. Thankfully, their siblings — **Sam, Ren, Auni, Kaden and Zaynab** will keep the **Bausch, Woodside, Johanson and Plaire-Siegel** families with us a little longer. Thank you all for you have done for us, but most of all for entrusting your children to us. We feel deeply honored to have been a part of your lives. We hope you will not drift away, but stay connected to this community who holds you dear.

I want to thank our wonderful staff for another great year. **Doni**, whose talents are many (was that an awesome, moving graduation/farewell ritual or what?!), **Leslie**, whose calm centeredness anchors us all, **Jessica**, who in many ways keeps our school running smoothly, me on track and everyone inspired, **Jennifer**, who keeps stealing our fire with her amazing art projects, **Naomi and Maria** for providing us with high-quality child care for our meetings and events all year, and last, but not least, **Maria and Bianca**, who come in to freshen and clean our classroom never missing a day.

A deep bow to the dedicated members of our board. These folks work wisely and earnestly to ensure that we will be around for the long haul and in the best of health: **Ed Durrenberger, President, Joan Extrom, Secretary, Paul Hochfeld, Treasurer, Lorri Hendon, Janel Lawrence, Ruby Moon, Sha Sifford, and Dodie Wilson. And a special thank you to Jessica Neebe** who still attends our meetings to take minutes faithfully and with such competence.

Kudos to our year-round volunteers who took care of us from beginning to end: **Shawnde Bausch and Lua Siegel** were our Library Parents, **Joy Ueng**, our Marketing Parent, **Meagan**



Jude reading riddles!



Max and Nate pause for a photo shoot.



Bayla teaching herself to write upper case cursive letters.

Johanson and Kim Catton, our Art Parents, **Amber Kenoyer** , our Gift Parent, our School Chronicler and Montessori Services Coordinator, **Lua Siegel** was also our Volunteer Coordinator, **Amber Grapoli**, our Newsletter Designer, **Jasmin Woosides**, our Meeting Secretary, **Janelle Lohr**, our Social Media Parent (our first and only!), **Paul Bausch**, our new Webmaster and our two mentor parents: **Janelle Lohr and Amber Kenoyer**. Thank you all very much!

Special thank yous to **Bekki Levien**, an alumni parent who for many years has continued to take care of our brochures and parent handbooks. She finally let go our website now that we have a current parent ready and willing! And to **Christian Petrovich**, Cedric's dad, who took time from his frantic spring schedule to come by and repair our irrigation system.

I feel I never adequately thanked **Rory Plaire** for all that he did for us last year and this year. He not only gifted us with a desktop and a laptop computer, but also installed the latest operating system on each. He also spent a lot of time working on our security and setting us up on OneDrive so that no matter what computer we are working from we are working on the current version and are automatically updating our documents – not only saving us time, but our sanity as well. He also donated an external harddrive that backs up the old versions of our documents, too. Something that I thought I'd never need until I did. I was so grateful to Rory that day and forever!

And thank you, **Chris**, for that gorgeous bridge! It is never lonely. The kids are either crossing it, jumping to it or sitting on it. They LOVE it!!

Again this year we are blessed with a slew of super volunteers – **volunteers who put in more than 50 hours a year!** When I saw the list, it was no surprise. These remarkable, big-hearted parents have done it again – left me grappling for words to express how grateful we ALL are for what you have done. Please join me in giving these parents a very, very special thank you: **Trina and Lanny McGaughy, Amber and Christ Kenoyer, Joy and Tim Ueng, Amber and Sean Grapoli, and Jasmin and Rigel Woodsides**. They have gone way beyond and further than we could possibly expect.

A deep thank you to everyone! We know you always give as much as you possibly can and we are so grateful. Please enjoy these lovely summer days. Don't let it slip away too quickly. Savor the sunshine, each other and lots of ripe berries. My love to you all! 🍓



If you are thinking of clearing out a garage or room of stuff and think that maybe Jennifer could come up with a cool art project incorporating some of these supplies, please email Jennifer this summer at jensmith01@comcast.net and she will get back to you about either picking it up or passing it along somewhere else if she can't use it.



Felted Bars of soap.