
Philomath Montessori School

June 2010

For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School



Departures

It's June and we're heading into the last week of school. I do count the days. Hey, I can dash out into the garden before it gets too hot or stay in my PJs until noon. The deadlines are fewer and far between. But hinged to this liberating image are all the goodbyes that the end of another school year brings and this year there are many.

Let's see, **Caelin Alba** started school here Fall 2000, then **Meaghan** followed for four years and then **Ian** came in for the last three -- that's quite a span of years. Over that stretch **Deb and Dave** transformed our outdoor area with their gardening wizardry adding many new plants and creating a contemplative peace garden and path. They've kept our fruit trees healthy and productive with annual pruning. **Deb** also took on the big one - co-chairing our annual auction fundraiser. **Dave** has always been my backup when Allan wasn't around - putting up our banner, taking care of repairs -- any task I needed help with. I always felt comfortable asking him. **Dave** also played a big role in our CPCC adventure (an old college building renovation project that we

once chased as a possible new site) - creating and installing a low maintenance, but beautiful garden along its embankment. The **Albas** are definitely in the category of family and we will miss our daily dose.



Alan takes a break from his drawing to flash us a smile.

Then there are the **Hulstrunks** -- another family branch who has been with us for awhile and done so much. **Carol** headed up the auction twice with Christi McLaren and brought the auction to a new level with their organization, earnest pursuit of donors, and innovation - the charge card bonanza! Both **Carol and Matt** have been big supporters of the school giving their time and energy generously - whether it was recruiting new students, staying to clean up after an event, or making supplies for the classroom. They have been a soft path inspiration for actively seeking new ways to be more green in the classroom while supporting our school

community with carpooling and spontaneous afterschool playdates. We may not see them everyday, but we've already made plans to stay connected.

We will really miss the **Lawrence-Foley** clan, too. In their quiet and unassuming way, **Janel and Shawn** have contributed so much to our school. Not only did **Janel** take on two year-round jobs (art parent and gift parent) for at least the last couple of years, she also managed to put together our notecard fundraiser - concocting a way for the children to be involved in supporting their school. She and **Shawn** have always been key players in our auction fundraiser - going to multiple basket parties, soliciting, setting up, planning, serving, -- oh, let's just say, every aspect of the auction. We hope to keep them close to the school.



Eliason shows his parents how to do the movable alphabet.

The **Hinds-Cook** family is taking leave with **Eliason's** departure. **Barbara and Don** crowned their Montessori years at our potluck with their cake quilt magic! It was amazing and beautiful! Underpinning all that icing is the mass of work they've done in the past searching for library books, cleaning the classroom, doing yard work, baking treats, helping with auction tasks, and recruiting students to name a few.



Alayna matches the two sets of bells.

Also on the departure list are the **Jordans**. As art parent for the last couple of years, **Beth** has faithfully kept the classroom art shelves stocked with papers and fabric cut to invite young artists. She also chaired the food committee for our auction for a couple of years working arduously with restaurants to supply us with treats -- so organized and thorough to boot. Even with a busy schedule, **Rob** made it to many parent meetings.

Leaving us, too, is the **Moses** family - **Keith and Alissa** have both been mainstays in helping with the outdoor area. **Keith** also gave us a hand working on the CPCC building more than once, provided clay and baked pots for the children and even came in to do a pottery class - the children loved it! The **Gratz** family leaves this year also- it seems way too soon. **Kim** has been done a great job as our newsletter publisher turning it out usually within a day of receiving it! **Richard and Kim** have also done a lot of work in the yard - pruning, weeding, mowing, watering, and taking away debris. **Kim** is working on our photo album for this year and another fundraiser - a school cookbook. The first print was gorgeous - can't wait to see the final edition!! And really way too soon, the **Garcia-Hernandez** family is parting after just one year to the warmer climate

of San Louis, Missouri. From the start, **Delfina and Hernan** jumped right in to help us in the classroom and at our fundraisers getting involved in many ways.

Fortunately, though **Dhabih, Raine, and Isabella** are leaving too, their siblings will keep us tied to their family for a least a few more years. We will miss you all very much. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of your children's lives during this incredible and important phase... and a part of yours. It's been a year of many blessings and gifts -- we are very grateful for your extraordinary generosity. We hope you will stay connected to our sweet little community.

Our Amazing Staff

I'm very grateful to our hardworking, dedicated staff - **Doni, Leslie, Phyllis, Bianca and Maria** all bring a wealth of experience, talent, and skills. Add to that, they're so much fun to be around!



A quilted masterpiece! Kudos to our bakers: *Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook, Debbie Alba, Carol Hulstrunk, Audrey Irwin, Janel Lawrence, Damian Lynch, Alissa Moses, Doni Manning-Cyrus, and Safeway (I mean, uh, Hattie Mersman!).*

And then there's Phyllis...

I want to send a special thank you and farewell to **Phyllis Pearson** who is retiring this June. For the last couple of weeks **Phyllis** has been making a list of her "chores" and passed me a mere six pages! She chuckled as she said "I do a lot, don't I"?! Yep, I have to agree. My life, well, I wouldn't have a life without **Phyllis**. And as you can imagine, she's a delight to be around - I'm going to miss our little daily chats.



Group hug for Phyllis!!

Year-Round Parents

A big thank you to all our year-round volunteers: **Deb Alba** did double duty again this year as our volunteer coordinator and outdoor maintenance parent (with lots of help from **Dave**, I'm sure!); **Beth Jordan and Jane Lawrence** both took on the roles of art parents with demanding, almost weekly projects from Leslie; **Janel** again took on the role of classroom gift parent, too; **Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook** were our Library Parents for their third year in a row; **Carol Hulstrunk** was our marketing parent in our year of peril (and look what happened!), and **Kim Gratz** was

our school chronicler - I hear that another one of those fabulous photo albums is in the works! **Andre Myrhe, Nina Williams and Shawn Grapoli** shared the job of taking meeting minutes this year.



Singing to Phyllis - Isabella, Ian, Anna, and Mica.

A special thank you to **Damian Lynch**, our guitarist, for coming in to rehearse with us and keeping us together for our song for Phyllis at our potluck. And thank you **Yosi Mesbah**, for treating us to one of our favorite songs while we dined.

Many thanks to all of you who are signing up to help us this summer. There is so much to do - we are thankful that you are ready to step up to help us out!

Thank you all for the many, many hours of volunteer work.

Super Volunteers!!

We have three wondrous families to recognize for going way beyond the call of duty: Brian and Audrey Irwin, Clara Bozevich and Bill Brock, and Stony and Janelle Lohr. Each of these families gave more than 50 hours of their time to our school. We are very grateful for their extraordinary generosity.

Our Board of Directors

Our dear board has carefully steered us through another year - one with a few more challenges than the usual variety. So our deep thanks to **Joan Extrom**, our secretary, **Paul Hochfeld**, our treasurer, **Lorri Hendon**, **Judith Jayawickrama**, **Ruby Moon**, and **Sha Sifford**. An extra big helping for **Ed Durrenberger**, our board president, who has generously shared his expertise writing up new policies and procedures, letters, editing documents, and guiding our group with wit and wisdom.

A special thank you to **Jessica Neebe** who will be leaving our board -- to join our staff! She has done an outstanding job as our meeting secretary - sorting through wide-ranging discussions to record the minutes of each meeting. She has also brought her own unique and valuable perspective to our board. She will be stepping into Phyllis' job so it means we'll get to see her on a daily basis!!



Bekki Levien

I am so delighted and grateful that some of our families have stayed connected to us for a LONG

time. **Bekki's** first of three sons started back in February 1993 and she is STILL a major contributor to our school. She has never stopped helping us. She does all the graphic design for our brochure, our handbook and our website. She is, in fact, our webmaster.



Mica smiles on his way to the shelf to put away his activity.

This year we did a major overhaul on our website and brochure and we are continuing to work on both. So **Bekki** and I have emailed and continue to email each other almost weekly, sometimes daily. No matter how much I give her to do or ask of her, it's never too much. Although I think it is! My very deep thanks to **Bekki** for doing so much for so long.

Such Generosity!!

We have received many great gifts this year. For her birthday last week **Hazel Moses** brought in a beautiful vase of flowers. I was so dazzled by the flowers I didn't even notice the gorgeous handmade vase! Just recently, **Maggie Brock** gifted the class with a Sanford Jones CD - a much loved collection of children's songs and folk songs and the book *The Tree in the Ancient Forest*. **Dhabih Plaire** presented our class with replacement for one of our favorites -- *Jamaica's Find* and a guidebook, *Oregon Wild Flowers*. **Alan Hulstrunk** is giving the Putumayo

CD *Israel* - just in time for our focus on that country next fall!



Maggie Brock enjoying the potluck.

Our scholarship fund grew by over \$800 thanks to the monthly generosity of many of our families: the **Amoths**, the **Bozievich-Brocks**, the **Hulstrunks**, the **Foley-Lawrences**, the **Grapolis**, the **Muir-Mersmans**, the **Plaire-Siegels**, and the **Anzinger-Petrovich** family.



Cedric washes an underlay

Our very deep gratitude to the **Foley -Lawrence family**, the **Jordans**, and the **Albas** for their very generous departing contributions. The **Bialek family** again gave a very large donation - they've been giving every year since their daughter graduated from our school - 10 years ago! Such amazing generosity -- we are very honored and grateful.



Rahmat puts together a cube bird puzzle.



Our Departing Friends

Raine Lohr, Hazel Moses, Anna Gratz, Eliason Hinds-Cook, Ian Alba, Alan Hulstrunk, Dhabih Plaire, and Madison Foley (back row) Isabella Amoth and Izel Garcia-Hernandez (front row)



Thank you very much. It was a superb year - you are the reason why. We wish you all a summer filled with many bright moments.