



Zaynab working with opening and closing

Philomath Montessori School

September 2014



James pouring beans

Meet Our New Friends!

By Doni Manning-Cyrus

It is always such a pleasure to welcome a new child and a new family into our school. Last year, we had a lot of new kids, but because they were largely the younger siblings of already enrolled students, we brought in very few new families. This year, we have added both siblings and brand new families to our happy little group. Let's meet them, shall we?

Gabriel (Gabe) Giftai comes to us from Burnt Woods every day where his mom, Elke Wiethorn, dad, Nicholas Giftai and granny, Julie Wiethorn have gone "back to the land" and are farming for their living. I guess it is fortunate, then, that both parents list "plants" as an interest! This is Gabe's first school experience and he really seems to be enjoying his time in the classroom.

Ashton Hahn is an old pro at separating from his parents as they both go to work every day at WET Labs Inc. Dad, Trace, is a mechanical engineer and mom, Angela is a sales manager. This family enjoys riding four wheelers and dirt bikes and I can tell you that Ashton speaks fondly of his "gasser," which, I gather, is some sort of gas-powered conveyance. Trace was described as a "jack of all trades" which, some of you dads know, puts him right in our sights for various "honey-do" tasks! The Hahns have toddler Karissa at home as well.

Eric Lu's family is from China and they speak Mandarin at home. Eric, although he speaks virtually no English, came right in for his classroom

visitation, full of trust and cooperation. Eric's dad goes by the name of "E" and is on the faculty at OSU. Mom, Lin, will deliver a baby girl in September! She enjoys cooking and reading and E likes to swim and play tennis.

Many of you know Zaynab Plaire already. Her two older brothers have graduated from PhMS and it seems her familiarity with us is easing her transition into her brothers' old classroom. Her parents, Rory Plaire and Lua Siegel have contributed generously of their time and resources to our school over the years. Dad, Rory, is a software engineer and Lua is mom to 5 kids ranging in age from 3-19 as well as an educator herself. This family is very active in the Baha'i community.

James Runciman and his family bring a wealth of Montessori experience with them. James attended the Toddler House at Corvallis Montessori from the age of 16 months and Beth Runciman, one of James' moms, was a Montessori elementary guide for 6 years and is now a math teacher at Sweet Home High School. Mom, Rachel, is the stay-at-home mother, caring for their infant son, Aran. Rachel enjoys gardening and writing, but when does she have the time?

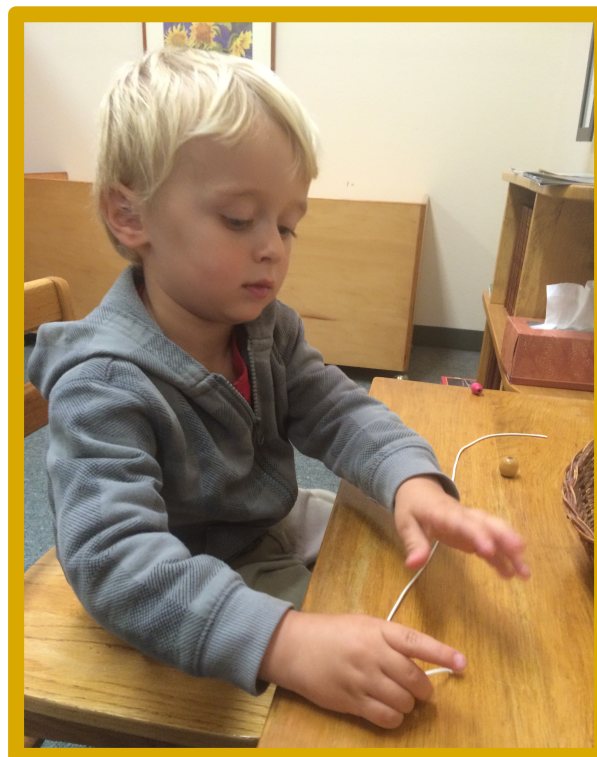
Juniper Ward and her family will also be welcoming a second child imminently! Juniper's mom, Amy, likes to bake, cook, craft and stay at home with the children. Brendan is a software engineer who enjoys woodworking and playing the guitar. Juniper seems to like puzzles and just about anything we present to her at school!

Auni Woodside, like her good friend, Zaynab, is very familiar with us here at PhMS. Her oldest sister graduated last year and her middle sis,

Ren, is our oldest female student at just over 4.5. Auni's mom, Jasmin, is a community activist who is passionate about being prepared for "The Big One" so she has shown a lot of leadership in getting PhMS earthquake-ready! Dad, Rigel, is a mechanical engineer and both he and Jasmin play music in their own bands around town.

Lastly, we welcome Lilian Wu and her parents, Maya Emschwiller and Zhaohui Wu, who thankfully, enjoys being called "Wu." This family has been travelling abroad and Lillian will not enter the classroom until mid-September. Maya has held various and sundry positions in the past including nurse practitioner and now plays the role of homemaker. Wu is on the business faculty of OSU and he enjoys hiking and yard work. Lillian knows a handful of our children here at school from previous connections.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of these children and their families to Philomath Montessori School. Nearly all were able to attend our Parent Work Party and work they did! I was afraid someone would pass out from the heat or go into premature labor out there! But nothing dire took place (other than some insect stings which had to hurt!) and I really appreciate the great effort that everyone made. What a wonderful way to manifest your commitment to your child's early education! Thank you and welcome aboard!



Gabriel concentrating on bead stringing

A New School Year!

Just a few of reminders to make it safe, sweet and wonderful...

- **Extra Clothes** – please send in an extra set of clothes (tags labeled with your child's initials). Also rain gear and rubber boots for that upcoming Oregon weather.
- **Emergency packs** – please be sure to send your child in with a gallon-size Ziploc bag full of nutritious, non-perishable food by the end of the first week of school.
- **Please be on time** – we open the doors at 8:50 and will begin circle time at 9:10. You don't want your child to miss those wonderful stories, lessons and games that we do first thing in the morning! It's also a great message to your child that being on time is important.
- **Hallway decorum** – please remember to walk in the building and use quiet voices.
- **Birthdays** – please call us a week or two ahead of your child's birthday celebration so we can put it on the calendar and plan for it. We welcome ½ birthday celebrations, but please - only true May and June birthdays in May and June. Every year we seem to have an onslaught of birthday celebrations during those two months.
- **After-school play** – please remember that using the safety rules that we use at school keeps everyone safe and happy. Children all feel safer when parents set boundaries and consistently adhere to them.

Newsline

- ❖ Thursday, September 18 is our **first parent meeting**. It will be from 6:00 – 7:30. We will provide free childcare for all children – the only requirement is that they are potty-trained. **Another parent meeting** follows on Thursday, October 17. Please put these dates on your calendar!
- ❖ **Thistledown Studios** will be coming to take class picture and individual photos of the children on Thursday, September 26 at 9am – so please be on time!
- ❖ Our **Parent Orientation/Workshop** will be Thursday, October 2 at 6pm. **Doni and Jessica** will be presenting Montessori in the Home. Please invite family and friends!
- ❖ There is a tentative plan to attend a conference from Friday, October 10 to Sunday, October 12. We then would take Monday, October 13 as our annual **Teacher Inservice Day**.
- ❖ Also no school on Tuesday, November 11 – **Veteran's Day**.
- ❖ Be sure to save the date for our big annual fundraiser! The Love of Learning Auction will be Saturday, February 7. The time this year is 4pm to 7pm – early, short and sweet!



Eric stringing beads



Auni working with opening and closing

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 Lohr**, our wonderful social media guru, is trying to connect us to the world! The local world, anyway.
- ❖ **Doni really promises to start blogging again.** So please go to our website philomathmontessori.org and click on the "blogspot" to read her latest musings! I always enjoy her writing and thoughts and look forward to finding out what she has to share with us this year. Thanks, Doni!
- ❖ 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.

Why No Screen Time?

by Doni Manning-Cyrus

Everyone who enrolls at Philomath Montessori is asked how much time their child spends per week viewing screens. Everyone who enrolls also gets a brief, but heartfelt plea to drastically limit or omit screens from their young child's life. This must seem naive, sweetly old-fashioned and downright unrealistic to some folks. Screens are everywhere. They've been designed so we can take them with us wherever we go and they promise intellectual stimulation for the young child. "Leapfrog pads encourage school readiness!" "Disney's 'Brave' has a positive role model for girls as the lead character!" "PBS has no corrupting commercial messages!" Well, some of the above claims may be true. What is also true is that screen time hampers healthy brain development in the child under the age of six. Here's how:

Screens, whether they are showing a thoughtfully chosen children's movie or an engaging educational game, rely on light and movement to create their magic. This very light and movement affects one area of the brain in particular – the cerebellum. The cerebellum is known as "The Little Brain." It is a very old part of the brain, evolution-wise, and one of the first to develop in early humanoids. It is also known as "The Reptilian Brain" as it is similar to the entire brain of snakes and such. It is located in the lower back area of the cranium, just above the brain stem.

As a child's brain develops, the areas of the brain are accessed and linked up through a process called myelination. Between every neuron of the immature brain, there is a gap called a synapse. Incoming data, perceived through the senses, travels through the brain and it must jump these synapses to travel from one neuron to the next. Each time that data or similar data is perceived, it travels the same path in the brain. Each time that path is blazed by incoming data and those same synapses are jumped, a slight coating is laid down over that synapse. If it happens often enough, it completely covers this gap creating a myelin sheath. The myelin sheath creates a very sure, quick path through the brain so that perceptions can become integrated in the brain much faster than using a path that has not yet been myelinated.

If you were traveling somewhere, you would want to take the well-constructed path with no big gaps to fall through, wouldn't you? Well, your child's perceptions are no different. They do take that well-myelinated mental path through the brain and they tend to stop moving forward if the path becomes too incomplete, too rough, too...."gappy." So, if a young child spends a lot of time watching shows or movies or playing games on a screen, no matter the quality of these entertainments, the primitive, reptilian cerebellum is the area of the brain that gets the swift, sure superhighway laid down. And the subsequent information that your child is exposed to during his/her childhood tends to go there and stay there. It matters not that the higher-functioning areas of the brain such as the cerebrum house the areas pertaining to creative thought, problem solving, intellect, judgment, attention, abstraction and personality. This sophisticated cerebellum is deprived of the incoming sensorial perceptions, which would stimulate and connect it! Because everything is hanging out in the comfortably broken-in cerebrum! So, you see, time spent with screens truly disables the most human and evolved areas of your child's brain.

Additionally, just about anything your child could be doing with his/her hands that engages the brain in concentration is really how they should be spending this valuable developmental period. AND any movie, show or game you may be dying to share with your kid is going to be appreciated on a much deeper level after the age of 6. The humor, the pathos, the meaning is better savored by a more sophisticated mental palate. I hope this article will encourage you to take a critical look at what you are offering your child, knowing that this precious period of young childhood will not come again.



Juniper working with the snap frame

Art Friday

September 2014

To begin the school year, the class will be painting fabric bags in which they will keep ongoing projects for Fridays during the year. These projects will involve some kind of yarn weaving and stitchery. The class also will be creating art journals in which they will have weekly assignments. Since we will be doing collage throughout the year, painted papers will be made with watercolors, tempera, and acrylics at the beginning of the year as well. So during the first month, most of the art projects will not be going home.



Ashton outside on the bridge

Thank You!

Summer Yard Work

- Weeding & harvesting: **The Rolston-Tavano, Braxton, & the Johanson Families**
- Mowing & trimming the yard: **Ryan Johanson**

Parent Work Day!! So much accomplished in one day – inside and out!!

- Hard-working volunteers: **Kim & Brad Catton, Katy Mabeck, Jonathan Jensen, Allan Rack, Rachel Brinker, Amber & Chris Kenoyer, Liesl Rolston-Tavano, Joy Ueng, Jasmin Woodside, Julie Wiethorn, Meagan & Ryan Johanson, Amy & Brendan Ward, Elke Wiethorn & Nicholas Giftai, Lin Li & Guanyi Lu, Angela & Trace Hahn**

Classroom and Take Home Projects

- Wash & iron boot bags: **Jasmin Woodside**
- Iron laces of bow tie frame: **Jasmin Woodside**
- Prepare beginning of the year classroom art & sewing materials: **Julie Wiethorn, Elke Wiethorn, Rachel Brinker, Kim Catton, Lin Li**

Outdoor Classroom

- Battling the yellow jacket nest: **Ryan Johanson**
- Keeping our sprinkler system maintained and in good working order: **Christian Petrovich**
- New covered structure and bench: **Jonathan Jensen**

Year Round Jobs

- Library Parent: **Rachel Brinker**
- Marketing Parent: **AVAILABLE**
- Art Parents: **Meagan Johanson & Kim Catton**
- Classroom Gift parent: **AVAILABLE**
- Volunteer Coordinator: **Amber Kenoyer**
- Newsletter Designer: **AVAILABLE**
- Montessori Services Coordinator: **Amber Kenoyer**
- School Chronicler: **AVAILABLE**
- Meeting Secretary: **Jasmin Woodside**

Our Mentor Parents

- **Shawnde Bausch, Katy Mabeck & Sarah MacClary**

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