



Classroom News

Greetings to all and best wishes for a satisfying school year! This article, like all Classroom News articles, is coming to you from the desk of Doni. Since, at the time of this writing, we have had only one school day (which went very well) I will take this time to tell you a little bit about myself. Many of you already know that I am a grandmother of five, stepmother of two and a Montessorian with over 25 years of classroom experience. So, yeah, I'm old. Some of you, I am discovering, do not know that although I am married and have been paired up with my husband, Andy, since 1990, Andy and I have been living apart since December of 2011. He needed to relocate to southern Colorado for work. He is due to retire in October of 2014 and will return home permanently at that time. Until then, he comes home from time to time for short visits and I spend all of my Winter, Spring and Summer breaks with him in Colorado.

I am also a great lover of animals. I often stop to rescue stray dogs and I spend every Friday morning volunteering at Safehaven Humane Society. I clean and prepare all the cat enclosures and then visit every single dog, cuddling and snuggling and making sure they have dry bedding and sufficient chew toys. At home I have two very sociable small-breed goats, an alpaca who is a real character, 9 hens, a cat and a cocker spaniel. I'm very focused on my dog right now. Her lymph nodes began to swell over the summer and she just had one biopsied. We await the results,

praying that she does not have lymphoma as the prognosis, even with chemo, is not very encouraging in dogs. I have to thank the staff at school for their concern for Sophie and their understanding as I rush home after school or after meetings to take her to the vet or make sure she has not scratched open the incision from her biopsy.

But enough about me! Meet our new families! The Woodside family joined us last year, but now their middle child, Ren, is old enough to join big sis, Bayla, in class. The Woodsides love music. Father, Rigel, is in a band. By day he is a mechanical engineer and mother, Jasmine, has her hands full with three girls under age 5! Jasmine played a big part in the success of our annual Love of Learning fundraiser last



Mia doing playdo.

year and will be our school chronicler this year. If she tries to take your picture at a school event, please be cooperative!


Kolby Walker and Rachel Span have placed their little Mia in our care this year. Kolby is a psychiatrist in his residency and Rachel is the owner of a business that provides foreign language translations. Kolby is a musician as well, playing and composing on the piano while Rachel enjoys reading, jogging, crochet and other crafts.

Jacoby Kenoyer very confidently joined our brood this fall. His parents are Chris, a design engineer who spends his free time reading, doing home improvements, cooking and brewing. Amber likes to read, she writes a blog and enjoys baking. I'm thinking you don't want to turn down a dinner invite at the Kenoyers!

Rodger and Shawne Johnson have brought their eldest daughter, Alice, to our school as well. Rodger and Shawne are both teachers, although Shawne is staying home to raise the kids at this time. Rodger's interests center on the outdoors – surfing, hiking and coaching sports. He also lists birds and fish as interests. I'm assuming he doesn't mean merely eating them, but asking will be a great conversation starter at the potluck! Shawne loves to be outside as well – gardening, running and hiking. She also reputedly creates some sort of art. Let's ask her about that, too!


Our last new family are the Bedfords. Nate is joining our class and although he's really tall, he is only 3. He must get that from his dad, Ed. Ed is an engineer who is interested in cars, computers and mountain biking. Nate's mom is Shannon, a pharmacist who enjoys trail running, reading and developmental psychology. She also lists kids as an interest, which is good since theirs range in age from 3-11!

I have been asked to remind all families that we all, even younger siblings, must walk and use quiet voices in the halls. If your kids have not yet developed the self-restraint necessary to walk, please hold them by the hand until they do so. It can't take more than a few years, right? Also, please refrain from propping open ANY exterior door, at the church's request. The church also reminds us to be respectful of their landscaping. Keep bark in its place, stay out of the trees and bushes, clean up after your picnics. We need to be welcome and desirable tenants here. We're fortunate to have been in the same location since the school's inception and it's really the only game in town.

Thanks for reading your newsletter. If you'd enjoy more reading material, I recently posted a new blog entry. It's all about getting ready in the mornings and it contains some yummy recipes that your kids would love to help you make for breakfast. You can find our blog by going to philomathmontessori.org and scrolling down to "blogspot." I hope you like it! 

Newsline


- **Thursday, September 20** is our first **parent meeting**. It will be from 6:00 – 7:30. We will provide free child care for all children – the only requirement is that they are potty-trained. Another parent meeting follows on **Thursday, October 18**. 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 27 at 9am** – so please be on time!

- Our **Parent Orientation II** will be **Thursday, October 4 at 6pm**. **Dr. Kathleen Lloyd** will be presenting *The Montessori Approach... And Bringing It Home*. See our website for more information and please invite family and friends.
- There is **no school on Thursday, October 11**. It's a Teacher Inservice Day. Doni and I will be working on geography pictures.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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 has been blogging again**. She wouldn't write it if she didn't want people to read it so go to our website **philomathmontessori.org** and click on the **"blogspot"** to read her latest musings! I always enjoy her writing and thoughts. 

Art Fridays

To begin the school year, the new children will be painting their bags (these are used to hold ongoing projects). The returning students will be painting on canvas to take home.

Since Native America will be the beginning area of study in the classroom, the children will be introduced to weaving on a square or rectangular loom and gods eyes. Since this is a longer project, it will become an activity they can keep in their bag and choose to work on after the main art project. All of these activities will work on skills needed for basketry, a later project.

The group will then be creating painted and textured papers to be used in collage projects. ~Jennifer Smith 



Nate sorting cards into Living and Non-living.



Jacoby doing a sorting activity.



Ren doing a bird puzzle.

Thank Yous

Summer Yard Work

- Many thanks to our garden coordinator **Lua Siegel**!
- Mowing & trimming: **Christian Petrovich**
- Watering & weeding: **The Braxton family, the Petrovich family and the Rolston-Tavano family, the Plaire/Siegel family**

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

- Hard-working volunteers: **Lua Siegel, Rory Plaire, Chris Kenoyer, Amber Kenoyer, Becca Lynch, Joy Ueng, Lara Reavis, Audrey Irwin, Brian Irwin, Sev Williams, Jasmin Woodside, Shawne Johnson, Ed Bedford, Christian Petrovich, Liesl Rolston-Tavano, Kolby Walker, Amber Grapoli, Sean Grapoli, Jenny Braxton, Aurora Jensen, Shaden Jensen, Rachel Splan, Matt Junge, Heidi Junge, and Rodger Johnson**

Classroom and Take Home Projects

- Refinish picnic tables: **Matt Junge**
- Refinish 3 classroom chairs: **Chris Kenoyer**
- Refinish classroom tabletops: **Brian Irwin**
- Mat & Frame Montessori picture: **Jenny Braxton**
- Wash & iron boot bags: **Shawne Johnson**
- Iron laces of bow tying frame: **Audrey Irwin**
- Trace & cut shapes: **Liesl Rolston-Tavano**
- Cut & prepare squared chair booklets and addition & multiplication booklets: **Lua Siegel**
- Prepare sewing cards: **Audrey Irwin & Lara Reavis**
- Sew loops on 6 washcloths: **Jenny Braxton**
- Installed large chalkboard on the playground: **Brian Irwin**
- Changed fluorescent fixture light bulbs in the classroom: **Brian Irwin**

Year-Round Jobs

- Library Parent: **Amber Kenoyer**
- Marketing Parent: **Joy Ueng**
- Art Parents: **Meagan Johanson & Liesl Rolston-Tavano**
- Classroom Gift Parent: **Lara Lee-Reavis**
- Outdoor Maintenance Parent: **Shawne Johnson**
- Volunteer Coordinator: **Lua Siegel**
- School Chronicler: **Jasmin Woodside**
- Newsletter Designer: **Amber Grapoli**
- Montessori Services Order Coordinator: **Lua Siegel**

Our Mentor Parents

- **Meagan Johanson, Clara Bozievich, Lua Siegel**

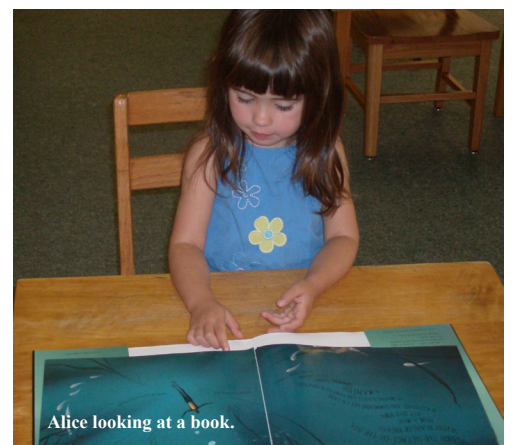
Summer Jobs

- Paint classroom: **Allan Rack, Lara Lee-Reavis, Damian Lynch**

Donations

- Rose Petals: **Joy Ueng**
- Large chalkboard for our playground: **Brian & Audrey Irwin**

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



Alice looking at a book.