

# Philomath Montessori School

## February 2010



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

### Class News



**Hazel plants flowers in the school garden**

The day is dawning bright and clear as I write this. Around this time every year one wonders if we will enjoy an early spring (as our daffodils are proposing) or if winter will hang on for another month or so (as the rain clouds advocate). We here in the classroom will adapt to what comes, but it would be nice to have the playground dry up somewhat. We have been staying off the grass for several weeks trying to prevent the sod from being completely uprooted by our running feet. We

play exclusively on the graveled areas and under the roof of our covered deck when the ground is as saturated as it is.



**Dhabih, Eilason, and Hayden learn about art**

We have been enjoying a lot of organized games such as "What Time is it, Mister Fox?" and "The Farmer in the Dell." It is so wonderful when the children take over these games, rallying their friends and initiating the fun all by themselves, which we have seen happening lately. It is also great fun to see what we're learning in the classroom spill out into the children's role playing. Since beginning our unit on Nigeria, the cheetah population on the playground has exploded!

I have certainly learned more about Nigeria than ever before. Considering, though, that I knew nothing about Nigeria, that is a rather modest claim. I was familiar with the

grassland and rainforest animals of the area, but that is all. I did not know that Nigeria is the fifth most populous country in the world, the most populous in Africa and that it boasts the largest population of people of black African descent of any country. I did not know that the Yoruba language has been exported to many countries through the slave trade and is still the primary language spoken in the Santeria rituals of many Caribbean nations. Nigeria's fledgling democracy is plagued with corruption, but seems to be growing in integrity over the years. Traditional Nigerians eat with their bare hand, but more and more often with a fork, however, it is considered rude to use the left hand while dining. Polygamy is commonplace.



**Dhabih works to crack nuts**

I found a wonderful website that offers instruction in the Yoruba language. It warns us that the language is quite difficult to master, but also launches right in with some basic vocabulary. That is how, out of all the hundreds of languages spoken in Nigeria, Hausa, Igbo, Fulani and Yoruba being the most-spoken, we settled on Yoruba to teach the kids. We have been practicing a lot of phrases and have learned a call-and-response song called Funga Allafia that is also in Yoruba. The children really love it. They have

also been enjoying the art activities that Leslie has created such as mask-making and a gold collage that puts us in mind of the great mineral wealth that Nigeria possesses.



**Hayden paints with orange**

On another note, it has lately come to our attention that some of our second-year male students have been complaining about their social life here at school. It seems that a few individuals have been making unkind comments and really hurting people's feelings. This has been occurring out of the earshot of our staff and we were unaware of it until some parents informed us of the situation. Since then, we have enlisted the help of our students, asking them to report to us if someone is "saying mean things." We believe that whoever is slighting these children is in need of help, too, and requires guidance.



**Olivia works to sew buttons**



We are also giving some specific lessons in Grace and Courtesy, such as how to dispute someone's low opinion of another. For example, if someone tells me my blouse is hideous, I can say "I'm afraid I cannot agree with you" or as the French say, "Au contraire!" If someone hurts my feelings, I can learn to soothe myself with positive self-talk. I am the only one who can control my self-image. If you are experiencing similar feedback from your child, do please let us know. Give us a call, hand us a note or send an e-mail and we will get back to you. We notice positive results when parents and teachers work together as a team.

I would like to end with a big thank you to everyone who participated in our Auction, including our children. They prepared items for sale, made decorations and sang their little hearts out. I thought they were adorable!



Singing in our best voices at the auction

## Newsline

- ❖ There is **no school** on Monday, March 15. It is our Professional Development Day. Doni and I will be attending the North American Montessori Teachers Association conference: *Montessori*

*Internationalism and Peace: Unifying History, Geography, and Nature.*

- Our **Parent-As-Student night** has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 18 from 6:00 - 7:30. At this event, parents will be invited to explore the classroom shelves, play with the materials, and request lessons. We're looking forward to it!
- **Spring Break** begins Monday, March 22. School resumes on Monday, April 5. Enjoy!
- We are having another **Open House** on Saturday, April 10 from 10am to 1pm. Please spread the word and invite any interested families that you know!
- We have our **last parent meeting** of the year on Thursday, April 15 from 6:00 - 7:00.
- Because our rescheduled parent night and our teacher conference in Portland are both in March, we will be having our **Parent-Teacher conferences** in April. Our evening conferences will be on Tuesday, April 20 and Wednesday, April 28 and our afternoon conferences will be on Thursday, April 22 and Monday, April 26. If for any reason, you feel you need an earlier one, please let us know.



A nice stretch during group time

## For the Love of Learning



**Michele Mincinski and Melissa Cunningham** (M<sup>2</sup>) put a fresh new look to our fundraiser and it read like a real success story!! There was a new venue, a new band, a new auctioneer, a slideshow, a program pamphlet, sponsors and a new grand total at the end of the night!! Best of all, they had an amazing troupe of parent volunteers who put it all together - beautifully.

It began with the most challenging - solicitation. **Michele and Melissa** had very some strong support here from **John and Dodie Wilson, Carol and Matt Hulstrunk, Stony and Janelle Lohr, Janel Lawrence, Gretchen Goode, Mel Norland, Heather Gerding, Doni Manning-Cyrus, Hattie Muir, Kerry Boysen, Beth Jordan, Debbie Alba, and Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook**. Thank you for making the calls and visits and then persistently chasing down the donations. The array of appealing items that you brought in was the backbone of our fundraiser.

Sponsors were a whole new addition to our fundraiser and a group of parents gathered one night and hammered out the details. **Janelle Lohr** took on the project of putting together an auction pamphlet featuring our sponsors (Very nice job, Janelle!) and **Ric Vega** put on a slick slideshow that provided yet another venue for our sponsors. **Kati Albin, Kerry Boysen, Melissa Cunningham,**

**Heather Gerding, Carol Hulstrunk, Michele Mincinski, Mel Norland and Janelle Lohr** went out to woo our sponsors.

Then we had to get the word out. **Michele** again created some beautiful invitations and posters and again there was a practically front page article in the *GT Entertainer* by our own **Daniel Cunningham** and **Melissa Cunningham** was able to get us up on the Philomath sign board on Applegate. Helping spread the posters around town were:



**Maggie Rose, Madison, and Raine** ready to sing

The basket parties put on by **Hattie Muir and Mel Norland** must have been awesome, because the baskets were fabulous -- no wonder the bidding was so much higher this year! A big thank you to the deft and creative partiers: **Dodie Wilson, Janel Lawrence, Gretchen Goode, Kim Gratz, Melissa Cunningham, Michele Mincinski, Janelle Lohr, Debbie Alba, Kerry Boysen, and Carol Hulsturnk**.

**JC Mersman**, again with the indispensable of help of **Hattie Muir**, his very significant other, laid out a feast for our eyes and our palates. Many thanks to the crew who served it up at the auction: **Hattie, Kim Gratz, Alissa Moses, Mel Norland and Lisa from GTF**. and then the bakers who made sure we thoroughly sated with sweets - **Katie Albin, Beth Jordan, Alissa Moses, Dave and**

**Debbie Alba, Kim Gratz and Gretchen Goode** and of course, **Hattie Muir**, the leader of the pack. **Kerry Boysen and Melissa Cunningham** generously donated the mixes. A big thank you also to **Gathering Together Farms (GTF)** for their use of their facilities!

The Childrens' Program was another big piece of our fundraiser and **Melissa Cunningham** did such an impressive job of keeping everyone safe and entertained. **Heather Gerding and John Wilson** assisted her with setup and organization before and during the event. The child care volunteers were her **own babysitters** (who also provided care during setup and even wrote out bid sheets!) and volunteers from **Philomath High School and Philomath Middle School: Sydney Justus, Charlie Mata (especially helpful), Jenni Neville, Brittney Hamilton, Stacey Alex, Skye Houk, Annie Coleman, Kelsey Wait, Brianna Foster, Jenifer Stuart, and Whitney Peterson** plus **24 women from the Panhellenic Council at OSU**. **Curt Nelson** did his magical thing, **Kathleen Lloyd** entranced the children with her stories, **Leslie Cohen** put together the art activities to engage them the rest of the evening and **Melissa with the help of the Pizza Pipeline** delighted their appetites. It takes an incredible amount of energy, planning, and organization to pull this part of the fundraiser together. Many thanks to everyone and especially, **Melissa!**



**Michelle and Hattie getting ready for fun!**

Knowing we only had a short window to get everything setup, almost every family showed up - even an alumni family! **Debbie and Dave Alba, Kati Albin, Kerry Boysen, Bill Brock, Daniel Cunningham, Heather Gerding, Gretchen Goode, Kim Gratz, Barbara and Althea Hinds-Cook, Carol and Jenna Hulstrunk, Beth and Rob Jordan, Janel Lawrence, Alissa Moses, Christi McClaren and Anya Mae, Hattie Muir, Mel Norland, Allan Rack, Lua Siegel, Ric Vega, and Dodie and John Wilson.**

**Mel Norland and Gretchen Goode** greeted our guests at the registration table and working the flurry at the other end was **Beth Jordan** at the cash register and **Kim Catton** with the credit card machine. Racing around were our check out runners: **Deb and Dave Alba, Aaron Amoth, Brad Catton, Leslie and Hasina Cohen, Daniel Cunningham, and Janel Lawrence**. Thank you for meeting the craziness at the end with your cool-headed aplomb.

**Michele and Rick** were responsible for getting that awesome band - **All Rights Reserved** and the great auctioneer - **Kurt Cleveland**. A big thank you to **Jessica Neebe and Carol Hulstrunk** for creating a beautiful display board of our school, **Doni Manning-Cyrus** for introducing our school to our auction guests and **Lua Seigel** for setting up and running a Peaceful Pages book sale during the auction - another fundraiser within a fundraiser for the school.

Thank you for all the wonderful family donations: **Dave and Deb Alba, Megan Alba, Kevin and Kati Albin, Aaron Amoth and Gretchen Goode, Leslie and Hasina Cohen, Melissa and Daniel Cunningham, Heather and Nate Gerding, Carol and Matt Hulstrunk, Jenna Hulstrunk, Jonathan**



Jensen, Beth and Rob Jordan, Janel Lawrence, Michele Mincinski, Hattie Muir and JC Mersman, and Mel and Trevor Norland. Thank you also to Olivia Amoth, Ava Gerding, Joanna Catton, Anna Gratz, Alan Hulstrunk, Emily Matsuba, Kaidyn Mincinski, Dhabih Plaire, and Anna Wilson for creating the lovely necklaces and tea towels for our auction. I hope I didn't forget anyone!



Anna W., Eva, and Olivia sing together

A very big thank you to our sponsors: **T.Gerding Construction, Albins Plumbing, Corvallis Sport and Spine Physical Therapy, Dairy Queen (Philomath), MVision, and Stone and Cobble.** Special thanks also to the wonderful community members who contributed so generously: **Paul Shih of Total Merchant Services, the Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis, Service Linens, and the many local businesses** who donated goods and services.

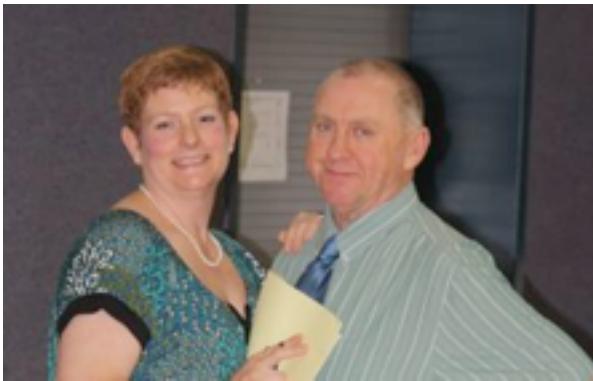
Cleanup was again a community effort and almost every family pitched in. Many thanks to all of you. Looking at this very long list, it is humbling to look at how much it takes to put on a fundraiser like this and how generous everyone has given - their time, their donations, and their energy!! **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**



Isabella and Kynlee sing together

## Thank You

Since mid-November a lot of energy has flowed to our auction fundraiser, but there were also plenty of jobs that parents took on so that our classroom had a steady supply of new and interesting things to do. **Janel Lawrence** prepared level two sewing cards, laminated, trimmed, and labeled a new batch of art cards, cut out animal shapes for painting, and cut felt for heart sachets, **Mel Norland** prepared gnome sewing activity, cut felt for gnomes, and repaired our hook and eye frame, **Hattie Muir** marked tea towels for sewing and prepared first level sewing cards, **Carol Hulstrunk** repaired the button and the hook and eye frames, **Beth Jordan** drew and cut out oak trees for drawing and prepared fabric for sewing bags, **Kerry Boysen** typed our art labels, **Jessica Neebe** laminated our geography pictures, **Lua Siegel** cut out laminated geography pictures, **Sherri Mortensen** prepared third level sewing cards and **Bill Brock** cut wood slabs for a new art activity. Thank you for all the work you did!!



**Doni and her husband pause for smile**

Getting ready for our open house takes a lot of preparation and at this very moment **Deb Alba, Alissa Moses, and Kim Gratz** are outside weeding, pruning, and planting flowers to spruce up our yard. Last weekend **Alissa Moses and Kevin Matsuba** came in to dust and clean our classroom shelves and materials. **Beth Jordan, Carol Hulstrunk, Dodie Wilson, Doni, Gretchen Goode, Hasina Cohen, Heather Gerding, Jessica Neebe, Kim Gratz, Melissa Cunningham, Mel Norland, and Sherri Mortensen** covered Philomath and Corvallis with fliers. This weekend **Heather Gerding, Gretchen Goode, and Carol Hulstrunk** will be coming in to be our parent hosts. Thank you for the help!!



**Alleck and Emily sing along**

Our classroom needs sprucing up continually so we are very grateful to **Alissa Moses Kim Catton, Stony and Janelle Lohr, Sheri**

**Mortensen, and Gretchen Goode** for coming in during the past few months to keep our classroom shelves and materials looking beautiful and inviting to the children!

Our classroom received some wonderful books as gifts. For their birthdays, **Clare Boysen** gave the class *Jules, the Lighthouse Dog*, **Alayna Jordan** gave *The Polar Bear Journey*, **Olivia Amoth** gave *A New Coat for Anna* and **Madison Foley** gave *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein..* Thank you all for your generosity!

## **Board Bio – Joan Extrom**

Joan has been the secretary of our board since the beginning of our non-profit life. Her older daughter was one of my first students. Being also trustee for the College United Methodist Church, she has served an important role as liaison for our two organizations.

**Briefly describe your background and interests/hobbies:** Reading, watching movies, playing fiddle. My Chocolate Lab, Tobey keeps me busy and takes me for walks twice a day.

**How long have you lived in this community?** Moved to Corvallis in December, 1980, then to Wren in July, 1983

**Family:** Daughters, Sam Corbin, 26, a Civil Engineer living in Springfield; and Crystal Corbin, 21, a student living in Corvallis. Both are former PhMS students.

**Educational experiences:** BA in Religious Studies from Oregon State University

**Current type of work:** Administrative Specialist for the City of Corvallis Planning Division