



Classroom News

A couple weeks ago was Valentine's Day. The hallway was congested with children clamoring to distribute their Valentines into the adorable little bags provided for them. One grandpa, seeing the chaos as he brought his little grandson to school said "I'm not going in there!" or words to that effect. His valentines were not distributed. The little boy was unconcerned. One mother dropped her child off, reminding her that we would be celebrating her adoption day in class. The mother said, "It's going to be a really exciting day!" I was at the door greeting the child and chose to contradict this mom. "No," I said, "it's going to be a really calm, meaningful and productive day." "Oh, yes," said the mom, "I suppose that would be better." (She was a really good sport.) And indeed we did enjoy a day that allowed the children to focus on the other things that were significant to them.

Holidays in the Montessori classroom are different than anywhere else. We realize that certain holidays; Christmas, Halloween and Valentine's Day come to mind, can put people, especially young children, into a real frenzy. People like to see children get excited. People also like to see dogs excited. However, this state of excitement often brings about undesirable results. Dogs bite. Children become overwrought. Poor decision-making, wild antics and meltdowns ensue. We offer children a respite from the seasonal craziness of decorations, social

gatherings, extra cooking and cleaning, etc. As parents know, children can only sustain that transcendent energy for so long and then the bottom falls out. It is centering and rejuvenating to come to a place each day, where life goes on in relative peace and predictability. To some, that may seem drab and dull, but to the

young child, who revels in routine, it is a great relief. This relief is also felt during times of crisis or sorrow. A death in the family, marital discord, a sick pet can be set aside for a few hours each day, allowing the child to attend to his/her own personal growth.

Ask anyone who knows me well and they will tell you that no one loves our cherished American holidays more than I. People come to my home at any time of year and ask, "Are you having a party?" My home is usually decked out in seasonal garb of one sort or another. I redecorate 8-11 times per year, transitioning from "Christmas" to "Festive Winter/Valentine's Day" to "Spring/Easter" to "Beachy Summer" etc. I like to dress in colors that speak to the season/

occasion. I plan special meals for special days. I love holidays. For children, though, less is more. Our celebrations that go along with our units of cultural study are brief and meaningful. And the children love them. A special song, a relevant story, a simple ritual means so much to them. They are able to absorb the meaning of the holiday, but remain calm and peaceful. We always enjoy our holidays here at school. Only today a child asked me at group if we would be celebrating Carnavale to go along with our study of Brazil. She asked if the children should bring back the masks they had made in the classroom and already taken home.





Clare reads while Connor and Arden look on.

“Maybe we should do that,” I said. “The other teachers and I will discuss it. We may have Jai’s mom come and perform some Afro-Brazilian dance, too. We’ll plan a nice celebration.” The child nodded enthusiastically. She is a 3rd year student and her experience has been that we always have nice celebrations, low-key as they may be.

I tell you this not so that you will change any part of what you as parents do around your celebrations. Family traditions and memories are so very important. They are, in fact, some of the things I cherish about my holidays. I share this only so you can know why we do what we do. We aren’t dour killjoys, but educators who have decades of experience. I have celebrated in other, much more elaborate ways when I was still “green” and have learned what not to do. After all, school is not like a party where you can wind the children up, fill them full of sugar and send them home. We have to live with these kids for the rest of the day! In conclusion, I hope everyone had a warm and lovely Valentine’s Day. We celebrated by singing our love songs and telling one of the many legends of St. Valentine. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. 📖



Jude and Zoe sew together.

Newsline

Our first Children’s Open House of the year will be on Thursday, March 15 from 5:30 – 7:00.

Spring Break begins Monday, March 19. School resumes on Monday, April 2. Enjoy!

We have our last parent meeting of the year on Thursday, April 12 from 6:00 -7:30.

We will be having our Parent-Teacher conferences in April. Signup are up already. Please signup as soon as possible so that we can begin focused observations.

Our second Children’s Open House will be on Thursday, May 5 from 5:30 – 7:00.

Our Papa’s Pizza fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, May 9th. The school will receive 50% of all food orders (beverages and delivery excluded) and 25% of all gift certificates purchased on that day. There is a flyer that they prefer you bring in or you can mention our school name. 🍕

Art Fridays

Since 2012 began, the fabric collage quilt has been completed for the Love of Learning Auction. The Art Friday children did printmaking on fabric for brightly colored pillows, which the



children stuffed and stitched closed. Many circular woven pillows have been completed with some second weavings started. To decorate the Love of Learning auction, the children made fabric collage flags (like Tibetan prayer flags) which they individually took home after the event. Journals and handmade books have



been the recent focus with accordion fold journals collaged with their water color paintings and then a water color painting folded inside. Right now we are working on hand sewn, hard bound journals with crayon rubbing resist (we did rubbings of the bottoms of our shoes with many interesting and varied patterns) and water color covers. Last week, this involved a lot of step by step gluing and assembling of the covers. They all stuck in there through this process in order to be ready to put these books together for sewing this week. This coming Friday, while the rug is being put into the classroom, we will meet in the room next door and have stations set up to work on sewing and embellishing these hardbound books. A few of the children have been crocheting and knitting , with two of the older children working on a knitted dwarf. ~Jennifer Smith 🧶

For the Love of Learning - A Stunning Success!!

Every year our Love of Learning auction fundraiser goes up a few notches, improves and evolves, but this year, there was an amazing leap. Any descriptive word that I can think of for this year's auction and raffle falls woefully short and it was a winning event in every way.

First and foremost, we need to pay lavish tribute to **Clara Bozievich and Janelle Lohr** for the outstanding job they did chairing our fundraiser. Not a single item slipped past them; they were on top of everything and their gracious and inviting style made our close and supportive community even more so. This is the first auction in which we had almost 100% participation!

Next in line is **Bill Brock** who spent many hours handcrafting that beautiful and impressive credenza. He and Clara and **Hardwood Centre** provided the materials and **Kid Larson**, a well-known local cabinet maker, donated the finishing work. We are very grateful to **Inkwell Home Store, The Hardwood Centre, Blackledge Furniture, and Gibbs Furniture** for their help in selling tickets and displaying the credenza.

Kerry Boysen and Liesl Tavano again headed up the Children' Program – the part of our fundraiser that really makes this a family affair and sets apart from other fundraisers. **KidSpirit** sent a large crew of volunteers to do gymnastics with the kids as well as helping out with child care duties. **Curt Nelson** brought his always popular magic, **Suzy Conway** entranced her audience with stories and songs and **Leslie Cohen** put together some fun art activities. **Jenni Neville, Aurora Jensen, Audrey Irwin, Dawn Anzinger and Christian Petrovich** worked all evening helping Kerry and Liesl oversee the childrens' area. **Nutcakes** donated many boxes of cupcakes. Thanks to all of you for providing a safe and fun evening for our youngest attendees.

And then that glorious food! **JC Mersman and Hattie Muir** did it again – even providing labeled gluten-free and vegetarian items! Their tasty, tempting treats always dazzling to the eyes and to the tummy kept us happy and sated all evening. Many thanks to **Gathering Together Farms** for the use of their kitchen and facilities and to **Francesco' Gelato** for taking care of our sweet tooth. Thank you, JC and Hattie and to their crew -- **Nina Erlich-Williams, Trina McGaughy, and Joy Ueng** . Everything was great!

Our crew of solicitors outdid themselves this year with an incredible wealth of items. Many thanks to **Becca Lynch, Joy Ueng, Meagan Johansen, Doni Manning-Cyrus, Hattie Muir, Jasmine Woodside, Kerry Boysen, Janelle and Stony Lohr, Clara Bozievich, Bill Brock, Nina Erlich-Williams, Lara Lee-Reavis, Heather Gerding, Amber Grapoli, Mary Beth Altmann-Hughes, Andrea Myhre, Jessica Neebe, Trina McGaughy, Audrey Irwin, and Heidi Junge** – for getting out there and bringing back some wonderful booty. A very special acknowledgement goes to **Ruby Moon of The Golden Crane**, one of our board members, for her enterprising effort to jump start an endowment fund for a child who would never have the chance to attend our school. She gathered enough donations to fill two tables!

I would love to list all the great family donations (many alumni families, too!), but there are far too many to list. It seems that every family donated something and many went all out. A special thank you to **Jennifer Smith** for creating with the children a stunning quilt and the lovely nature madela and we are very grateful to **Jonathan Jensen's sister, Robin**, who stitched the quilt together – a time-consuming, tedious, heroic job. A very deep thank you to **our broad community** for their enormous generosity, who despite a tough economy continue to take care of their own.

At the basket parties this prodigious assortment of donations were turned into tempting packages! Our wonderful basket hostesses were **Meagan Johansen, Nina Erlich-Williams and**

Clara Bozievich. And their stylin', crafty partiers included: **Audrey and Brian Irwin, Andrea Myhre, Nina Erlich-Williams, Mary Beth Hughes, Amber Grapoli, Joy Ueng, Janelle and Stony Lohr, Clara Bozievich, Liesl Rolston-Tavano, Heather Gerding and Kerry Boysen.** Quite a few of you came to more than one. Thank you very much for the beautiful baskets, your time and creative talents!

I think one of the biggest things that set this auction apart from our fundraisers in the past was the PR work! A very big thank you to **Amber Grapoli** for the gorgeous graphic work she created for our tickets, fliers, thank you notes and that awesome auction booklet! **Jasmin Woodside** did a beautiful job on the slideshow to thank and promote our sponsors. Thanks to the **Siegel-Plaire** family for the use of their slide projector and screen. **Lara Lee-Reavis** and her friends, **Cindi Shear and Verna Paynter** (a mother-daughter team), created incredible eye-catching window displays at **Citizens Bank and Book Bin.** Many thanks to **Kent Buys** of Troubadour Music for hanging our banner over his store front and to **Lanny McGaughy** for helping Kent put it up AND take it down. **Nina Erlich-Williams** generously put her professional skills to work for us by sending out a press release which resulted in an article in the GT about our auction and credenza raffle! She also wrote a Good Words column to thank our most notable supporters and donors.

We had some very generous sponsors this year who underwrote a large portion of our expenses: **Barker-Uerling Insurance, Gerding Construction, Mario and Alma Pastega Family Foundation, Alsea Geospatial, Citizens Bank, Corvallis Sport and Spine, Dickerhoof Properties, Philomath Family Medicine, Swanson Agency, and Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis.** Thank you very much for sponsorship and support!

On the day of the auction, setup went off without a hitch thanks to Clara's great organizational work and dedicated crew of volunteers: **Mary Beth Altman-Hughes, Kerry Boysen, Clara and Bill Brock, Nina Erlich-Williams, Ryan Johansen, Janel and Stony Lohr, Doni Manning-Cyrus, Trina McGaughy, Ruby Moon, Hattie Muir, Andrea Myhre, Mel Norland, and Joy Ueng.** Many thanks to **Mel Norland and Laughing Planet** for feeding our hungry volunteers those delicious burritos and a special thank you to **Jeremy Marble** for picking up the table cloths from Portland and to **Gathering Together Farms** for taking care of the return.

We were so fortunate to be entertained during the auction by **The Suz Doyle Trio +1: Paul Bezanson, vocals, Stuart Curtis, woodwinds, and George Beekman, percussion** – just loved their music! Many thanks to **Kurt Cleveland** for being our auctioneer once again, to **Rigel Woodside** for accompanying the children's performance and to **Doni Manning-Cyrus** for saying a

few words about our school and graciously thanking everyone.

At the auction, **Mel Norland and Leslie Cohen** were at the reception table greeting and registering our guests and on the other end **Gary and Nancy Brown** (Doni's In-laws) again did a stellar job at checkout with **Heather Gerding** at the charge card machine. Running the items from the bidding tables to checkout were: **Stony Lohr, Lanny McGaughy, Jessica Neebe, Trevor Norland, Rory Plaire, and Allan Rack.**

We had a happy crew of volunteers cleaning up at the end – even alumni families! **The Albas, Clara Bozeivich, Bill Brock, Kerry Boysen, the Hulstrunk family, Brian Irwin, Doni Manning-Cyrus, the McLaren-Panose family, Ruby Moon, Rory Plaire, Allan Rack, and Lua Siegel** all pitched in and made a quick job of it.

Take a deep bow. You did a LOT of work and somehow you manage to get better every year even though the bar keeps getting ever higher. We are so grateful for your generosity and support for... the love of learning. 🍷

Thank You

Classroom Projects

- Trace & cut out shapes for drawing: Audrey Irwin, Mel Norland, & Liesl Rolston-Tavano
- Cut crocodile shapes for sewing: Mel Norland
- Cut camel shapes for drawing: Liesl Rolston-Tavano
- Sewing dust clothes: Lara Lee-Reavis
- Cutting felt caiman for sewing: Mel Norland
- Fixing the hinge on one of our cabinets: Brian Irwin

Outside

- Shoveling snow in the parking lot: Lara Lee-Reavis

Donations

- Baby food jars: The Plaire/Siegel Family
- Extra clothes: Jenny Braxton
- Oranges for juicing: Rahmat Plaire, Maggie Brock & Charolette Irwin
- Time moving and hanging our auction banner: Lanny McGaughy

Gift Books & Music

- Apples to Oregon: Maggie Rose Mersmann
- About Mountains: Clare Boysen
- The Boy in the Garden: Hugo Ueng
- Vietnamese Music CD: Mary Beth Altmann Hughes
- B is for Beaver: Jake McGaughy

Classroom Cleaning

Boysen, Plaire/Siegel & Myhre Families

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