



## Classroom News

It is always a shock to realize that I am writing my article for the school year's final newsletter! Where did the year go so quickly? This has been a challenging and rewarding year. We have our share of big personalities in the classroom this year and that has ignited our creativity in the area of classroom management. We have welcomed new staff members who have become vital to our success. We began our after-care program and worked out the kinks as the days progressed. There will likely never again be such a year. Next year will bring its own challenges, but they will be different from this year's.

We are really enjoying our study of Italy right now. I have visited Italy twice. Leslie and Pauline have been as well, so we have some first-hand knowledge of the culture and a lot of heart-felt enthusiasm for it. I was surprised how many little phrases of Italian I have retained and how much I love speaking it. Anthony Bourdain, the celebrity chef/traveler

postulates that we all secretly wish we were Italian and I believe it. "La Dolce Vita" is an ideal we hedonists can all embrace. One puts pleasurable leisure pursuits high on the priority list. Cooking and eating are not afterthoughts jammed into our days between other activities, but they are the focus of the day. Shopping and

harvesting are followed by a long, enjoyable hour or two in the kitchen and family and friends gather at the table to really savor a wholesome, well-prepared meal and each other's company. Even when time is scarce, a simple pasta dish can be quickly assembled, but the time around the table is still a priority. A love of nature, sport, art, beauty and history seems to be part of every Italian's constitution. I really idealize the image of loved ones

sitting outdoors in a beautiful setting whether in a historic piazza or on a hillside overlooking a vineyard, drinking vino and sharing lively conversation after a meal.

We have been learning about Michelangelo and DaVinci, the famous sights to be seen in various regions of the country,



Conner shoe washing



Bayla and Charlotte enjoy some Ecuadorian culture.



What happened, Mica?!



Maggie Brock checks over her numbers.





Duncan works on his collage design.

enjoying Andrea Bocelli and Luciano Pavarotti and doing the calendar and weather report in Italian to the best of our ability! We sing one song in Italian about losing, then finding one's dear , sweet rooster and we've been singing "Funiculi Funicula." Believe me, it is impossible not to feel buoyant and joyful when singing that song. One feels like they are reveling in the Tyrol on a beautiful day!


The children are already anticipating the end of the year and are working to finish up any unfinished papers that lurk in their work folders. In order to promote the value of finishing what one starts, our practice is to allow children to take their work home only if everything is finished. There is a great deal of satisfaction felt by the child who finishes their work as they go. They don't



Zach, Mica and Ace eagerly showing their outside activity cards.

have a lot of half-done metal insets and multiplication tables weighing them down! This is something they learn over the years spent here.

I and the staff of PhMS wish you all a wonderful summer break and much success to our graduates. This is a banner year in that every child who is leaving has completed 3 years of Montessori school and is therefore graduating as opposed to merely leaving. That is what we wish for all children

and it is noteworthy to have this ideal manifested this year. Congratulations to all! 

## Newsline

- **Jessica Neebe**, our administrative assistant and art class assistant, **will be taking the Montessori training to become a Primary guide** over the next three summers.
- Please join us for our **End-of-the-Year Potluck on Saturday, May 16 from 5pm to 6:30pm** in our school yard. If the weather is inclement, we will meet at Mary's River Park (just south of the Philomath Library on 11th).
- If you would like to keep your current year-round job for the 2012-13 school year, please let us know soon.
- Our **last day of school is Tuesday, June 19.** No full day or extended care.
- Please mark **Saturday, August 25 (9am – noon)** on your calendar – our **Parent Work Day.** We will need you!! 



Zaiya takes a break from her weaving to pose with Ben.

## Art Fridays

In March , the Art Friday class worked on a burlap stitchery project, beginning with cutting out colored felt shapes and gluing these on to the burlap, and finishing with yarn running stitches and embellishments. Following this project, we focused on sculpture and after getting some wonderful wood scraps from a local toymaker, the children joyously created very inspiring pieces, extending far reaches of height and width with some intricate progressive patterns by repeating certain wood pieces. They were to choose 2 of the 3 primary colors to mist water color paints on to their wood sculptures. Then they had the challenge of choosing one type of embellishment ( assortment included shells, glass stones, springs, wire, smooth beach stones, colored paper clips, drift wood). With their selection , they could then proceed to glue these onto their sculptures. I heard no complaints about this challenge and I think this limitation helped them to consider the design possibilities of their choice.

Continuing with sculpture, we did connected body sculpture as a group and began paper mache. The initial inspiration for





Burlap and felt sewing creations.



Zany, wild and beautiful wood sculptures.



Rahmat works on his burlap and felt design.

these was masks but for many it morphed into more sculpture extending in all directions. They had so much fun with the adding, building, and taping parts onto their base, that I hesitated to put the brakes on because of their enthusiasm. Then the challenge of paper mache on this structure was another thing as some children had a harder time than others to even get their hands messy, and gradually got into it. The painting of these sculptures seemed more to everyone's enjoyment than the messy application of newspaper and flour paste.

More children have been working on learning to knit and Jakes grandmother, Grace, has also come in some to help with one on one time with the new knitters.

We will be working on printmaking on t-shirts starting on May 25th and June 1st. This is a creation of their own that they can actually wear. ~Jennifer Smith

### Gift Books & Music

- About Wetlands: Ben Boysen
- Artful Reading: Ezra Williams
- An Earthworm's Life: Jude Williams

### Classroom Cleaning

- Irwin & Johanson Families

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

## Thank You

### Classroom Projects

- Prepared arctic tern, penguin & elephant shapes for drawing: Meagan Johanson
- Prepared sperm whale & squid shapes for drawing: Liesl Rolston-Tavano
- Mounted art cards: Liesl Rolston-Tavano
- Prepared triptych shapes: Meagan Johanson
- Refinished our classroom chairs: Matt Junge

### Open House Hosts

- The Irwin, Reavis, Woodside, Petrovich and Norland

### Donations

- Rose Petals: Plaire/Siegel, Williams & Braxton Families
- Extra clothes: Gerding & Hughes Families
- Time working with children doing knitting in art class: Grace Jarvis
- Dance presentation and demonstration: Jenny Braxton

