



Classroom News

The morning we returned to school after the Big Snow of February was eerily quiet. We hadn't been in session since Wednesday, I think, and this was now the following Tuesday.

The children were clearly eager to get back to work. Even though there was lush, virgin snowfall covering our schoolyard, very few children chose outdoor recreation. They were hungry for their school work. They went about it calmly with very little visiting, which was unusual. There was a trio of older boys who had much to say to each other, but their volume was reasonable and controlled. There truly seems to be a spell cast over the children here at school. To the staff, who usually see the children only in their school setting, it is easy to take for granted this seriousness, this purposefulness and this mindfulness. Others, though, remind us that it is "not normal."

Ace's Grandpa, John, has commented several times, "I don't know what comes over him here, but he gets so quiet! As soon as we walk in the door.... He's sure not like this at home!" I guess it is remarkable, after all.

I have been hearing wonderful stories about the auction. The children just loved the magician and told me about some of his illusions. We sat at group and one child after another told me virtually the same stories about the magician eating paper, colored paper being pulled out of his mouth, the rabbit, a puppet doggy. It's almost as if they all attended the same show! I have

heard about generous last-minute bidding for underappreciated auction items and how people went home at a reasonable hour with un-melted children. How nice! What a wonderful evolution of our fundraiser! I salute you all who made it such a success!

I don't know how the hand-stitched dish towels and culinary seasoned salts went over, but I can tell you that the process to make them was perfect for our kids. Especially the salts, because children could participate in their production at a variety of skill levels. Some children first snipped stems of lavender from the garden. We were going to use rosemary, but the cold got to it and turned it brown. Little ones could pluck the leaves from the stems and then tear those leaves into bits. Older children zested the lemons and it was challenging work. One could use a small grater



Yasmina painting, Sam works with tree puzzle





Max has snack
while Harper
cleans up



Hugo uses the movable
alphabet to write the
names of characters

or a lemon zester that would be pulled along the rind, raking off tendrils of zest. I zested my own knuckles several times, but I was the only one! Several children cut out the circles of pretty fabric that adorned the tops of the canning jars. Children with lovely handwriting wrote practice labels before they were allowed to write on the actual sticky ones. Children stirred the zest and the lavender into large bowls of kosher salt as the seasonings were produced over weeks' time and finally, children ladled the salts into the jars. Many steps, many skill levels and everyone could participate. I am thinking of bath salts for next year or perhaps the bead necklaces and bracelets we have made in the past. Please drop me a line if you have ideas. Bear in mind that the children's independence with the processes is a priority.

I think we have all learned a lot about Bolivia. Well, anyway, we have heard a lot about Bolivia. My favorite book that was read was "The Littlest Llama" by Jane Buxton, illustrations by Jenny Cooper. The pictures are adorable and realistic, showing, in a subtle way, some well-known South American wildlife and the real habits of llamas. The book conveys a story of a lonely llama looking for fun and companionship through a beautifully rhyming text. True, some of the llamas do speak English (clearly, in actuality, they would speak Spanish!), but other than that one

flight of fantasy, it is a rather real look at llamas and life on the Altiplano (high plains). Did you know that vicunas, wild cousins to llamas and alpacas cannot be tamed, but they are captured in their natural habitat and shorn? I had a lot of stories about my sweet alpaca, Sage, to tell, including how his shelter came down under the weight of the ice and snow. I told all about my travails of trying to get him to shelter in the barn where I keep his hay instead, but to no avail. Good old Sage was the star of many exciting tales. Rest assured, his shelter was rebuilt and he is back to his happy habits.

We learned a little about Bolivian president Evo Morales. Pauline is a big fan! She also told us about the fascinating salt pans, which dry up seasonally, leaving precious salt and lithium for harvest. We heard stories about the vagaries of travelling over questionable seasonal roads. We learned about the ancient Incas, the Uru and the Aymara peoples who still populate Bolivia. We also learned that there were many different Quechua nations with their own cultures, but who were all united by the common Quechua language which is still spoken. The older children heard descriptions of the Aymara people's gods, like Inti, the Father Sun god and Pachamama, the Mother Earth goddess. There is a flood myth told by these ancient people which is very similar to that



Ilana, Annabel and Yasmina make music together



Jude grades the color tablets around a plant

of Noah and the Ark, but instead of surviving in a boat, select people and 2 of every animal were saved by following a llama to the top of the mountain, Willka Qutu. I gather that the flood story spans centuries, cultures and continents.

Some of the Uru live on human-made islands in Lake Titicaca. The islands are woven of reeds that support 2-10 houses each. As you walk upon these islands, your footsteps sink 2-3 inches as you bob along. New reeds are added every 3 months as the older ones rot and the islands last about 30 years in total. Their boats are also woven of reeds and are used for transportation and fishing. They employ captive cormorants for this industry as well, probably more for the tourists, now. That is just a sampling of the stories we told the children. I think it is important to note that we share other cultures, places, flora and fauna with the children, not so they will have an encyclopedic knowledge of our planet, but to bring the 4 corners of the world to their consciousness. They can become aware, at this tender age, that there are others who are similar to us, yet still deliciously different, that there is a wide variety of noble and sentient beings around the world and that we humans are dependent on the plant world. They can see the commonality of humankind as we meet our needs for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, defense, art and spirituality in ways that are appropriate for our time and place. It is this global sense that can be incorporated into the personality and character of these children and that can guide them to live mindfully and peacefully. Whether or not they remember and repeat some fact or story, they are growing up to be citizens of the world, I hope.

Wishing you all a beautiful spring

Best Regards, Doni 📖



Jai, Jacoby and Ace work together on the 1000 chain



Sam works on the lock box



Rahmat and Hugo practice writing with movable alphabet

Newsline

- Our first Children's Open House of the year will be on Thursday, March 6 from 5:30 – 7:00.
- Doni will be presenting a language workshop on Thursday, March 20 from 5:30 -7:00. Discover a very different approach to reading and writing! Please invite friends and family to attend also.
- Spring Break begins Monday, March 24. School resumes on Monday, March 31. Enjoy!
- 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.
- We have our last parent meeting of the year on Thursday, April 17 from 6:00 -7:30.
- Our second Children's Open House will be on Thursday, May 8 from 5:30 – 7:00. 📖

Art Class

After working on the copper auction piece, which turned out beautiful, each of the children did copper tooling surrounding a mirror to take home.

This may be the last year for us to get the great donated wood scraps that we've used the past 3 years for wood sculptures. Mike, the toymaker is retiring. Each year as a thank you, I've sent him photos of the beautiful wood sculptures created from his scraps. On this year's sculptures, they chose 2 colors of water color paint to mist onto their piece and then embellished with either shells or glass.

With some interesting round and wavy cardboard scraps they created 3-d collages. The next session, inspired by the beginnings of growth on the trees and bushes, they worked on a collage of trees, which all together looked like a beautiful forest standing upright on folding pieces of mat board, using water color painted paper for the collage trees. Next they will be making painted hats, tops, and then tie-dyed t-shirts. All cotton white t-shirts can begin to start coming into school with child's name on a piece of tape on shirt or name pinned to shirt. 📖 *Jennifer Smith*



Nothing Disheartens the Love of Learning

You just can't intimidate **Trina McGaughy** and **Rachel Splan** – double-booking the venue, an avalanche of snow on the day of the auction, no JC, no Doni - they took it all in stride and pulled off a stellar fundraiser that felt more like a party! They were SO smart to shorten the auction this year AND to move it to an earlier hour. It seemed that everyone left in great spirits including the kids – no meltdowns!! Even with the rescheduling, everything seemed to be easy (at least on my end!) – the hallmark of great organizers.

We are very grateful to **Joan Demarest** for her very generous donation that became the center of our raffle prize, to **Becca Gose** (Connor's mom) for securing it for us and to **Shawnde Bausch** for organizing the raffle – I hope you were able to see the stunning binder she put together for the winner!

Jasmin Woodside and **Meagan Johanson** pulled together another great children's program with **Curt Nelson of Slightly Illusional** working his magic with his hilarious cast of characters and the amazing **OSU Kidspirit** volunteers who let the rest of us enjoy the event knowing that the kids were safe, happy and entertained. There were many selfless souls who provided backup supervision, too: **Chris Kenoyer, Ryan Johanson, Liesl and Steve Tavano, and Rigel Woodside**. Many thanks!

As always solicitations, the backbone of our auction, takes many hands on board. Thank goodness, we are blessed with a strong lineup of volunteers: **Shawde Bausch, Jenny and Anthony Braxton, Nina Erlich-Williams, Becca Gose, Amber Grapoli, Meagan Johanson, Amber and Chris Kenoyer, Janelle and Stony Lohr, Katy and Jeff Mabeck, Trina McGaughy, Liesl Rolston, Rachel Splan, Joy Ueng, Jasmin Woodsides, Doni, Jessica, and Leslie**. Kudos for the impressive array of donations! Which brings us to our generous donors – the many local businesses, organizations and individuals who have supported us enthusiastically. They are listed on our website. Please do let them know when you see them that we truly appreciate their generosity.

Our families also gave very generously: **the Bausch family, Leslie Cohen, the Kenoyers, the Grapolis, Jonathan Jensen, the Johansons (and Ryan's dad, Dennis Johanson), Doni Manning-Cyrus (also her girlfriend, Carla Brannan, and her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Cyrus), the MacClary family, the McGaughys (and friend, Jack Peterson), the Ralston-Tavanos, the Splan-Walkers, the Erlich-Williams family and Allan Rack. Also families of our alumni: Ed Durrenberger, Janel Lawrence, Gretchen Landis, Betty Malone and Ruby Moon** (and these are just the ones that I can remember at the moment).

Turning these items into tempting baskets was the work of our inspired volunteers. A big thank you to our party hosts for opening their homes and hearts and providing treats for everyone: **Meagan Johanson, Katy Mabeck and Trina McGaughy**. Our arty partiers included: **Jenny Braxton, Nina Erlich-Williams, Becca Gose, Meagan Johanson, Amber Kenoyer, Janelle Lohr, Liesl Ralston-Tavano, Joy Ueng, Jasmin Woodsides and Doni** – many of these wonderful women came to more than one party! Thank you for your creations, Ladies!!

We are so lucky to have **Amber Grapoli**. Her designs and layouts are always fresh, eye-catching and beautiful! Not only did she take care of our raffle and admission tickets, auction invitations, posters, signs, and booklet (with help from **Janelle Lohr!**), she and **Doni** dazzled everyone that passed the Footwise window with their alluring auction display. Many thanks to all of you who answered their call for props and hearts, too! **Meagan Johanson** created another lovely slideshow featuring our charming kids and our generous sponsors. A big thank you to **Joy Ueng** for all her work around securing these underwriters: **Barker-Uerlings Insurance, Corvallis Clinic, Anderson IP Consulting, Pioneer Telephone, Corvallis Sport and Spine, DeMoss-Durdan, E.D. Hughes, Korvis, Oregon Anesthesiology, Public Good PR, and Swanson Agency**. And a special thank you to **Ruby Moon of the Golden Crane**, for selling our admission and raffle tickets and always, always promoting us. We are also very grateful to **Bekki Levien** for all the website auction work and to **Janelle Lohr** for keeping our Facebook page current and posting all the Love of Learning news.

Morning setup in the new venue went smoothly and quickly. Many thanks to those who came to turn a cafeteria into a room fit for our gala event: **Jenny Braxton, Nina Erlich-Williams, Amber Grapoli, Meagan Johanson, Amber and Chris Kenoyer, Janelle and Stony Lohr, Damian Lynch, Trina McGaughy, Rachel Splan, Joy Ueng, Jasmin Wooside, and Allan Rack**. And thank you to Philomath Middle School and their wonderful staff!

Greeting everyone at the door were **Katy Mabeck, Kim Catton, and Leslie**. You couldn't ask for a warmer reception table. Then on the other end **Gary and Nancy Brown** (Doni's In-laws) came again to help us at checkout – we'll be lost if they ever give out on us! **Heather Gerding** was at the charge card machine again, too – another expert we can't do without! Many thanks to **Paul Shih of Total Merchant Services** who comes every year to set us up with charge card service – all the paperwork and a run-through at the site. Then running the items from the bidding tables to checkout were: **Brad Catton, Chris Kenoyer, Matt MacClary, Janelle Lohr, Damian Lynch, Sev and Nina Erlich-Williams and Allan Rack**.

The Suzannah Doyle Trio (Suzannah Doyle, Paul Bezanson, and his daughter, Nicki) came again to delight us while we bid – always a pleasure to see and hear them. Thank you for coming and sharing your song with us. Many thanks also to **Brain Thorsness**, our auctioneer. He and **Sean Grapoli** were an awesome team! And thank you, **Becca**, for filling in for Doni as our emcee. Kudos to **our children** for captivating everyone with Grandma's Feather Bed, **Doni** for teaching it to them and rehearsing it with them repeatedly and **Leslie** for leading them. Splendid job done by everyone!

When JC couldn't make it due to our date change, **Rian and Jennifer Perry of Nutcakes**, came to our rescue at the last minute and served up tables of delectable appetizers. And **Francesco's** came again to satisfy our sweet cravings with luscious gelato. Assisting **Rian and Jennifer** were **Nina and Sev Williams, Joy Ueng and Leslie**. Thank you very much!

We had a dedicated, hardworking crew of volunteers cleaning up at the end with smiles and not a even one yawn among them! **Shannon and Ed Bedford, Heather Gerding, Ryan and**

Meagan Johanson, Chris Kenoyer, Janelle and Stony Lohr, Katy Mabeck, Matt MacClary, Trina McGaughy, Rachel Splan, Jasmin Woodside and Allan Rack all pitched in and we were able to get out of there before 8:30!!

Finishing up business will be our Thank You crew – writing and sending those all-important, individually handwritten notes to our community donors: **Shawnde Bausch, Shannon Bedford, Jenny Braxton, Sarah MacClary, Liesl Ralston-Tavano, Leslie, and Doni**. Thank you!

Writing this always moves me to a greater appreciation of how much work it takes and how much all of you do to make this fundraiser such a success and then bringing your friends, your family and entreating our past families to join us. It was a great crowd to see! We have a remarkable community of parents and I cannot thank you enough. Your children are witness to your tremendous work and generosity and will certainly glean from it pearls for their future. Thank you.

Thank Yous

Classroom Projects

- Draw and cut angel shapes: **Kim Catton**
- Prepare “cutting corners” activity: **Kim Catton**
- Draw, trace and cut llama shapes for drawing: **Meagan Johanson**
- Trace & cut Bolivian hat shapes for drawing: **Kim Catton**
- 2nd & 3rd level sewing cards: **Lua Siegel**

Outside & Maintenance

- Fixed entry gate: **Jonathan Jensen**
- Moved in & recycled new refrigerator: **Jonathan Jensen**
- Lowered shed and put on new blocks: **Brad Catton & Allan Rack**
- Mounted new chalkboard and bulletin board: **Allan Rack**
- Put together new sand table and attached to shed: **Allan Rack**
- Mounted outside lights in sheds: **Jasmin Woodside**
- Gather and organize emergency supplies: **Jasmin Woodside**

Donations

- American Playground CD: **Tavano/Rolston**
- Emergency supplies: **Plaire, Ueng, Woodside, & Tavano**
- Extra kid's clothes: **Amber Kenoyer**

Classroom Cleaning

- **Kenoyer, Mabeck & Gerding Families**

Gift Books

- Dolphin's Rescue: **Jacoby Kenoyer**
- Benny's Flag: **Hugo Ueng**
- Are You a Grasshopper?: **Theo Ueng**
- Are You a Bee?: **Sam Bausch**
- Animals in Winter: **Ilana Catton**
- The Story of Snow: **Rahmat Plaire**
- Amber in the Mountains: **Sariah Kenoyer**
- National Geographic Magazine: **Eddie Bausch**
- Inside the Titanic: **Annabel MacClary**

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