
Philomath Montessori School

September 2010

For the Families and Friends of the Philomath Montessori School



Welcome to the New School Year!

Here we are together, together, together!
Here we are together at our Montessori school! So goes a song we frequently sing here at PhMS and at Montessori schools around the globe. I speak for the entire staff (all 5 of us!) when I say we are excited to begin another school year with all of you. Please allow me to introduce the new players on the field:

Zaiya Garza, 3 years old, joins us with her mom, Andrea Myhre, who is the director of Strengthening Rural Families. Zaiya's dad, Tomas, lives in McMinnville, but will be making a regular appearance to pick up Zaiya. Izel Garcia Hernandez, age 2, is just returning from visiting family in Mexico City! Her dad, Hernan Garcia Ruiz put in a very hard day weeding the gardens at our work party and is a research assistant at OSU. Izel's mom, Delfina Hernandez Perez is an

administrative assistant at Casa Latinos Unidos. Mica Lohr, 2 years old, joins his big sister, Raine, in our classroom this year. It's been quite a summer for their parents, Janelle and Stony, as they welcomed their new baby boy, Corvus, in June.



Cian proudly finishes his sewing card!

Congratulations to them all! Little Charlotte Irvin, age 2 and her parents, Audrey and Brian, joined us late in the summer and Brian was here pitching in mightily for our work party before they had even filled out their paperwork! We are thrilled to have them! Lastly, welcome to Cian Tavano, who is 3 years old. Cian's father, Steve, was a force to be reckoned with at the work party and is a service coordinator for Benton Co Health Dept. Cian's mom, Liesl, was confined to tasks she could perform standing up as she is

expecting her second child rather soon and we thought it best that she not crouch, bend or get down on the floor. (No one wanted to be responsible for getting her back up again!) Welcome to all our new children and their families.



Eliason decorates his kite!

Our first unit of cultural study this year will be Canada, our neighbor to the north. We will focus on the indigenous Haida people and their ancient ways of life. The Pacific Coast Indians have been considered the richest of all the North American native peoples as they were surrounded by incredible natural resources and blessed with a temperate climate. Among other activities, we will make masks, weavings and paint totem poles to reflect the Haida's traditional arts. We will learn all about how they lived in extended family groups, made canoes, cooked their food and lived by the seasons. We will focus on the cedar tree, the phases of the moon, the salmon and other creatures of the Pacific ocean. I am already fascinated with how these people once lived and I look forward to my research on the Canadians of today. I am woefully ignorant about Canada. I do know that they dislike being mistaken for Americans, though!

Pauline, Leslie and Phyllis all had very eventful summers which I'm sure they will

enjoy telling you all about. Perhaps at the Beginning of the School Year Potluck! My summer was rather mundane and even so, it seemed to pass more quickly than any other. I won't let go of summer just yet though. There is still time for picnics, trips to the coast and farmer's markets. I encourage all of you to join me in savoring the rest of the season even as we usher in the school year. Welcome to you all!

Some important reminders!

PLEASE:

- Send in that extra set of clothes! Don't forget rubber boots and rain gear, too.
- Walk hand-in-hand with your child until he/she can walk quietly down the hallway on their own.
- Help us combat an outbreak of illness in the classroom with hand washing before and after school.

ALSO:

We have decided to broaden our "sharing" guidelines -- we just want to avoid toys for sharing.

We need to continue to lock doors in the afternoon after Extended children leave. **Please do not prop open any of the doors to the outside** except when loading or unloading large items. Please remember to close it right away. The church is very concerned about this - to keep wandering animals from coming inside and especially, for security reasons.

Thank you so much for your help with all of these to-dos!!



Maggie M. with her pattern blocks works alongside Ian who is pinning

Thank Yous

September 2010

Well, summer has raced across the calendar to the beginning of a new school year. Even though it sped by many parents found time to give us a hand. We are grateful to **Deb and Dave Alba** for not only watering and weeding pretty much all of July, but also overseeing the garden maintenance all summer. **Keith and Alissa Moses** came in to mow and trim the lawn at the end of June, July, and August and they also came in to water and weed the garden for couple of weeks. And thanks to **Gretchen Goode** for also coming in to take care of watering, too!

At the end of July, we had a craft booth at the Corvallis Farmers' Market. We were very grateful to have **Jessica Neebe, Gretchen Goode, Heather Gerding, and Hasina Cohen** on hand to work with children on their sewing cards and to talk to perspective families. Many thanks to **Doni and Leslie** for taking time out their summer vacation to organize and take care of booth details and to talk to

perspective families, too. A big thank you to **Carol Hulstrunk** for talking to booth organizers and attempting to come out and help us - a hurt back got in the way!

A week before school started **Kerry Boysen and Kati Albin** came out to paint our girls' bathroom. They did a great job - it looks so bright, clean, and cheery. Thank you very much!!



Many thanks to Leslie for bringing this lovely vase for our classroom back from her Israel trip

On Parent Work Day, our school yard received a major facelift. **Hernan Garcia, Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook, Brian Irwin, Stony Lohr, Keith Moses, Trevor Norland, Allan Rack, and Steve Tavano** spread gravel, repaired our fence, gate, play structure, and borders, gave our play structure a new coat, cleaned and organized our tool shed and greenhouse, trimmed back plants, pruned trees, dug out plants, weeded, and dressed the beds with compost. **Janelle Lohr** kept the children safe, fed and watered. **Trevor Norland** donated and brought in the gravel and **Brian Irwin** went to pickup compost and donated the cost as well. **Andrea Myhre** raced over to Spaeth during her busy day and picked up the lumber

to replace some of our borders. **Barbara and Don Hinds-Cook** brought large trash cans to pile yard debris in - thanks for thinking of that!! Inside, **Kerry Boysen, Audrey Irwin, and Liesl Ralston** helped us clean the classroom shelves and materials. They also washed windows, dusted our wall paintings and removed old labels. Thank you for the immense amount of work!! So much was accomplished in one day!

That same day many parents took work home and others signed up later: **Barbara Hinds-Cook** took the curtains and boot bags to wash and iron and she also took the sewing card project, **Liesl Ralston-Tavano** cut kite shapes, large circles and triangles for drawing and collage, **Kerry Boysen** cut bear and wolf shapes, cut other shapes for our totem pole activity and patterns for decorating our bentwood box activity, **Mel Norland** is cutting seashell shapes for drawing and paper for clockwork, **Gretchen Goode** is preparing 3rd level sewing cards, **Audrey Irwin** cut raven and butterfly shapes, **Carol Hulstunk** took the salmon and frog shapes to cut out. Thank you all for help and support!

Later in the week after I sent out an email, **Hattie Muir and JC Mersman** came by to take the lawnmower and weedeater to the Goodwill and **Richard Gratz** came by to take the wood scraps from the work party and our old trampoline to the dump. A couple of big to-dos to cross off our list!



Alleck and Maggie B. are looking at animals of the North American Polar Regions

All of our Year-Round Parent Jobs are taken except for our Meeting Secretary. **Barbara Hinds-Cook** signed up to be our Library Parent again, **Beth Jordan and Janel Lawrence** will be our Art Parents again, **Janel** will also be our Classroom Gift Parent again, **Debbie Alba** will not only be our Parent Volunteer Coordinator again, but also our Outdoor Maintenance Parent and the coordinator for our Montessori Services Catalog fundraiser. **Kim Gratz** volunteered to be our School Chronicler and has also agreed to help us get a couple of newsletters out to you this year. A big thank you to all of you for committing to these big jobs!



Anna is matching the sound cylinders

Newsline

- There will **no school** on Monday, September 6. It's Labor Day.
- Please come to our **Beginning-of-Year potluck**. It will be Saturday, September 11, from 5:00 - 6:30 in our schoolyard. Please help us be green - please bring your own dinnerware, utensils, and cups/glasses. A blanket and/or low lawn chairs to sit on is also nice to bring along. There is a signup on the wall in the hallway.
- Thursday, September 23 is our **first parent meeting**. It will be from 6:00 - 7:30. We will provide free child care for children 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and older.
- **Hise Studios** will be coming to take our class photo on Thursday, September 30.

- If your child is a **returning student**, your child's current forms are or will soon be 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 and date.**
Thanks.
- During the year, we will be posting **flyers 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.
- **Our Birthday Celebration handout, Medication Permission form, and our 2010-2011 Calendar** are available as PDF files at the *bottom of the home page* of our web site: www.philomathmontessori.org