



Farewell Letter

June 2015

Summer is almost here and for me it comes with that rosy anticipation of puttering in the garden, leisurely meals on the deck, and long, warm evenings with friends. But there's also that tug the other way – goodbyes to some of our dear families and children.

The first on the list is the **Catton family**. **Joanna** joined us in fall of 2008 until June 2010 and then **Ilana** came in fall of 2012 – both so different, but both such a treat to have in the classroom. Unfortunately, the **Cattons** will be moving to Astoria where **Brad** has been most of the school year. It will be so hard to see them go. **Ilana and Harper** have been soul mates for almost the entire time they've been with us. But at the same time, we know how difficult it can be to have the family in two different places. **Kim** has put her talents to work as our art parent for the last couple of years, while **Brad** has helped over the years with several maintenance and outdoor projects and both have given many hours to the auction --soliciting, setting up, running auction items from tables to check out and cleaning up.

The **Lohr family** goes almost as far back -- to fall of 2009 when **Raine** started with us and then on through **Mica** and now **Corvus** – they all managed to dazzle us by naming some rare or unusual animal along with a hefty dose of some intriguing information. In that time, **Janelle and Stony** contributed so much to the school. **Janelle** headed up our auction for two years – two of the

most successful years ever and continued to play an important role this year. She was great at basket parties – the confident idea maven and **Stony** was always creating new Excel worksheets to get our auction more organized. Both attended parent meetings regularly, were excellent solicitors, brought friends to the auction (and dine-outs, too!), and were instrumental in getting Francesco's to bring gelato to our auction. **Janelle** worked on our auction pamphlet many times and took on the job of managing our Facebook page since the beginning. And then all the other jobs of classroom cleaning, work parties, and scores of other things. Suffice it to say, they're going to leave a big void.

We will surely miss **Connor** who often gifted our class with flowers and, one day, even a dozen fresh eggs from his chickens. That generosity was often seen in his willingness to help others. And we know where that came from – **Becca and Damian** have given much to our school since early 2011 when **Arden** started. **Becca** rarely missed a parent meeting and spent many of her lunch hours calling businesses to put together amazing auction packages for Portland, Bend, Ashland and the coast. She was also instrumental in securing the awesome vacation rental for our raffle two years in a row from a friend. **Damian** pretty much spent the whole day at the auction from setup to cleanup helping wherever and whenever needed.

It has been fun and gratifying to watch the full day children, especially the four full day boys -- **Hugo, Jai, Connor, and Jacoby** -- navigate the ups and downs of pairing up and collaborating, especially on those days when there were only three. In the last few months it's been very evident that they have reached that coveted level of real social cohesion. They are not perfect, of course, but their ability to help each other, encourage each other, be happy and proud of each other's accomplishment makes being around them a joy. Unfortunately, smiling **Annabel**, sweet **Ren**, and exuberant **Mia**, also best of buddies, will moving on as well. Thankfully, their siblings will be keeping their families in our community for a little longer. We feel blessed, honored and humbled to be a part of your children's lives and your families. Thank you for entrusting them

to us for these all-important years.

A huge thank you to **Doni**, a woman who keeps astonishing me more every year with her talents and expertise, to **Leslie**, who makes us all (not only the children!) feel safe, secure and calm, to **Jessica**, who keeps our school afloat and moving along with incredible skill, aplomb and grace (who needs me anymore?!), to **Jennifer**, who keeps the children clamoring for more art days (we try not to feel too bad☺), to **Naomi and Maria**, for providing us with excellent child care during meetings and other events, and to **Perla** (who took her sister's place this year!) and **Maria**, her mom, for doing a superb job of maintaining our school so consistently and reliably.



Andy Goldsworthy inspired nature sculpture created by Friday Art

A grateful bow to our

board for their ever-wise guidance and work begins with **Ed Durrenberger**, our prez, followed by **Paul Hochfeld**, our treasurer, **Joan Extrom**, our secretary, **Lorri Hendon**, **Janel Lawrence**, **Ruby Moon**, **Sha Sifford**, **Dodie Wilson** and our two newest members, **Kathleen Lloyd** and **Alison Priewe**. And to **Jessica Neebe**, whose life is replete with events for her kids, still somehow squeezes us in and faithfully comes to all our board meetings to record our minutes. We are very thankful to her and to our entire board.

A special thank you to **Bekki Levien**, a former PhMS parent whose children attended in the 90's – as you can imagine, she was one of our super volunteers of the past and she has been putting her graphic arts expertise to work for us ever since – creating our brochures, our handbook, our banners, anything we need design help with and until recently, she was our webmaster. Thank you again, Bekki! Which brings me to **Paul Bausch**, another former parent who created our new website and continues to help us maintain it. We are very grateful for their constant help and attention to our needs!

A very deep thank you to all of you. Sadly, as I write this, I know that I will not be able to come to this year's End-of-the-Year potluck - - to visit, to thank, to witness the lovely flyaway ceremony, and to hug every one of you. **Please enjoy a wonderful summer – pare it down, keep it simple and enjoy it more. My love to you all!!**

OUR SUPER VOLUNTEERS

Every year we are blessed to have a few families who go over the top when it comes to giving their time and talents to our school – **the Kenoyers, the Johansons, the Splan-Walkers and the Woodsides**. These families all donated more than 50 hours and a couple of them tripled that! I'm sure you can guess who. It takes so much more than we know to create the school we have. Thank you for your enormous generosity and commitment to our school!!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Kathleen Lloyd's name is probably familiar to you as she has been a featured speaker at our parent orientations in recent years and at talks that we have offered to our families and the public. A former Montessori teacher, she currently teaches Early Childhood Education at Lane Community College and continues to lecture around the country. We are exceedingly fortunate to have her on our board.

Alison Priewe is an elementary school teacher – formerly at Mountain View and next year in Portland. She will help bring a different perspective to our meetings as well as keeping us informed about changes and expectations in the public school system. Her mom, **Diane Priewe**, has been a favorite teacher at Philomath Elementary for many years and is now teaching at Blodgett Elementary.

YEAR ROUND VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to our year-round volunteers: **Meagan Johanson** and **Kim Catton** were our Art Parents; **Rachel Brinker**, our Library Parent; **Joy Ueng**, our Marketing Parent; **Jenny Braxton**, our Classroom Gift Parent; **Maya Emshwiler and Zhaohui Wu**, our Outdoor Maintenance Parents; Amber Kenoyer, our Volunteer Coordinator AND our Montessori Services Order Coordinator; **Liesl Rolston**, our School Chronicler; and **Lin Li**, our newsletter designer: and the **MacClary** and **Mabeck** families for being our Mentor Families.

ADDITIONAL THANK YOUS

CLASSROOM PROJECTS:

Prepare Burlap Sewing: **Lua Siegel**

Preparing & Maintaining Tasting

Bottles: **Lua Siegel**

DONATIONS:

Extra Cloths: **The Runciman/Brinker Family**

Butterfly Larvae & Flowers: **The Hahn Family**

Presentation on Fire Safety: **Anthony Braxton**

TECH SUPPORT:

Document conversion and general tech support: **Rory Plaire**

