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# Philomath Montessori School Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2017



To Develop the Human Potential

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## Let's get to know our new families

By Doni Manning-Cyrus

Welcome to the new school year, my friends. The big news is that we have a lot of new students and families to get to know. I haven't even met everyone yet myself, as some of our new schoolmates only recently found us and introductions have not yet been made. Others are on trips overseas!

Nevertheless, it is my glad duty to tell you a little bit about our new comrades. It is fortunate that all families fill out a questionnaire, which is a handy reference in such situations. In no particular order, let's learn a little bit about all these families!

Theo Eisenlohr will turn 4 in October. Theo likes to sing and "read" books. He likes to talk to people ... and his toys! His mom, Jocelyn, is an actress who also likes singing, sewing, crafts and gardening. Theo's dad, Fred, is semi-retired and he also enjoys talking to people! Just like Theo! Fred is into photography and still works as an assistant director for TV commercials. Now, don't be alarmed, you other new fam-



Lily Vilagi is all smiles while working with play-doh.

ilies, no one expects you all to be as glamorous as this couple who are "in the biz!"

For example, little Darwin Houtman, a nearly 3-year-old girl, also enjoys talking to her dolls and stuffed animals, but her parents seem to have few, if any, show-business contacts! They seem nice anyway. Rachel is a research assistant in forestry and Leah is a PhD student in anthropology. So, that's pretty interesting, right? As a family, including little sis,

Linnea, they enjoy reading, gardening and trips to the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Laura Hulick, too, is nearly 3 and she is very, very fond of her baby sister, Claire. She also likes blocks, books and pretending. Her mom, Alalia, who goes by Lali (pronounced "Lolly"), is a physician who is interested in art and her dad, Kevin, is an engineer who likes biking. Together, this family enjoys music and dancing and bike rides!

Sophia Jones, who is 3, really likes reciting poems and doing fingerplays. I say this from first-hand experience in class today. Reportedly, she also likes to role play and do a lot of the same activities that she sees her mama, Alicia, do, like taking care of babies (Sophia has a younger brother, Hudson), grocery shopping and caring for the home. Alicia enjoys her actual role as SAHM and helpmate to her husband, Tyler, who is a farmer! Tyler enjoys woodworking and history, among other things, and they all like to go to church, take walks and have picnics.

Roo Natarajan, who loves his nickname for Ruhan and goes by it exclusively, is deceptively compact for his ripe old age of nearly 5. Roo is already one of our older kids, though still a novice to our mysterious ways. Roo can read and likes to work with blocks and Legos. He has an older brother, Neil. Roo's mother, Karen, is a homemaker who enjoys crafts, reading and gardening and has enviable cursive

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**Theo Eisenlohr cuts strips of paper.**



**Greta Russo works on a collage.**



**Tyler Schultz washes a plate.**

handwriting. She and her husband Arun grew up in India and when I hear Karen speak, it sounds so refined. It makes me want to be a more genteel version of myself! Arun is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at OSU and is into carpentry, robotics and electronics.

Astrid Noorlaas (almost 3) and TJ Noorlaas (4) are in Estonia with their parents as I write this. This family speaks Estonian at home! Astrid likes to paint, draw and sing and TJ likes to read books and use his iPad. Mom Sirje (pronounced "Syria") is a homemaker

who likes to sew, craft and hike. Dad Mat is an ER physician who is in touch with his artistic side through photography, music and art. Together, they like to go to interactive museums and go swimming and hiking.

Greta Russo, who is almost 4, loves her little sister Penelope and imaginary play. That is, when she's not cleaning house for real, another favorite. The girls also like to go for walks with Mom and Dad, gardening and going to the park. Greta's mother, Candace, manages the Healthy Youth Program at the Linus Pauling Institute at OSU. Chris,

Greta's dad, is a scientist. He is probably not an evil scientist or we would recognize him from some James Bond films. Chris also likes boating, fishing and golfing.

Tyler Schultz just turned 4 this summer and is really fascinated by monster trucks. He also likes puzzles and Legos and has a little sister, Kaia. Tyler's mom, Kim, is a homemaker who listed no interests on her questionnaire! Everyone, let's all reach out to this busy mom and help her find some

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## **Thank you!**

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

### **Summer Yard Work**

Garden Coordinator: **Karin Bolender-Hart**

Weeding and harvesting: **The Bolender-Hart and Rolston/Tavano families**

Mowing and trimming the yard: **Lua Siegal**

### **Parent Work Day!!**

So much accomplished in one day – inside and out – by our hard-working volunteers: **Nick Arzner, Audrey and James Deatherage, Kai and Andrew Foster, Elke Wiethorn and Nicholas Giftai, Karen Remedios, Karin and Sean Hart, Liz Grant and Jeff Siler, Rebecca and Anthony Veltri, Amy and Brendan Ward, Candice Russo, Jocelyn Eisenlohr, Tara Starr Marvin,**

**Shannon Zuschlag, Les and Rachael Oehler, Rachel Splan and Mia Walker, Rachel and Leah Houtman, Dave Williams and Amy Bassett, Kimberly Purdy and Jonathan Jensen**

### **Year-Round Jobs**

- Library Parent: **Shannon Zuschlag**
- Social Media/Marketing Parent: **Karen Petersen**
- Art Parents: **Karin Bolender-Hart, Kai Foster and Karen Remedios**
- Volunteer Coordinator: **Karen Petersen**
- Outdoor Maintenance Parents: **Karin Bolendar-Hart and Alicia Jones**
- Newsletter Designer: **Karen Petersen**
- Montessori Services Coordinator: **Rachel Splan**
- School Chronicler: **Anthony Veltri**
- Meeting Secretary: **Rachel Splan**
- Snack Parent: **Dave Williams**
- Classroom Laundry: **Julie Wiethorn**





**LEFT: Rose Zuschlag shovels rocks, while Cedar Marvin and Mackay Foster work behind her. RIGHT: Darwin Houtman plays on the bridge.**

interests! I observed that she wears real shoes with actual heels from time to time. That is such a challenge for me, taking all my concentration, I would completely understand if she were to have no energy for hobbies. Tyler's dad, Steven, is an engineer and Senior Project Manager for ODOT. He too, left the "interests" field blank, but you'll be glad to know that Steve has no significant health issues!

Lily Vilagi is also 3 and she likes to engage in water play and tricycle riding. But, wait! She is also into dolls and purses! She has an older brother, Johnathan, who is home-schooled by their mom, Grace. Grace enjoys crafts and

gardening as well as her dual role as teacher at home and customer service dynamo at Denison Farm. Lily's dad, Palmer, is a financial and insurance advisor who enjoys being outdoors with the family – hikes, bike rides and backyard hangouts.

Lili Walker is 3 years old and we remember her from when her older sister, Mia, was a student here. Lili likes to play with blocks, puzzles and stuffed animals. We're told she'll climb anything, too! She likes to go to the coast or to Portland with her family or just play in the yard. Her mom, Rachel, is interested in crafts and loves to read and study foreign languages. Lili's dad, Kolby, is a psychiatrist, pianist and trumpeter. He's very keen on jazz. And board games.

And Zedro Ward is a student! Zedro, who is nearly 3, escorted big sister Juniper to school every day for years and now it's his turn! Zedro likes collecting things outdoors, books, blocks and the trampoline arts. He goes to various events around Corvallis with his parents, Amy and Brendan. Amy enjoys art and craft projects and reading. I have a feeling she might also enjoy a minute to herself now that both kids are in school! Brendan is a software engineer who has done some mighty fine woodworking right here at PhMS that



**Roo Natarajan hangs from the monkey bars.**

## A New School Year!

Just a few of reminders to make it safe, sweet and wonderful:

**Extra Clothes** – please send in an extra set of clothes (tags labeled with your child's initials). Also rain gear and rubber boots for that upcoming Oregon weather.

**Emergency packs** – please be sure to send your child in with a gallon-size Ziploc bag full of nutritious, non-perishable food by the end of the first week of school.

**Please be on time** – we open the doors at 8:50 and will begin circle time at 9:10. You don't want your child to miss those wonderful stories, lessons and games that we do first thing in the morning! It's also a great message to your child that being on time is important.

**Hallway decorum** – please remember to walk in the building and use quiet voices. There will be a staff member in the hallway time at pick up to remind students of what our expectations are for hallway decorum. We hope you will do all you can to support us – holding your child's hand while walking in the building or, if necessary, picking her up and carrying her. Thanks!

**Birthdays** – please call us a week or two ahead of your child's birthday celebration so we can put it on the calendar and plan for it. We welcome ½ birthday celebrations, but please – only true May and June birthdays in May and June. Every year we seem to have an onslaught of birthday celebrations during those two months.

**After-school play** – please remember that using the safety rules that we use at school keeps everyone safe and happy. Children all feel safer when parents set boundaries and consistently adhere to them.

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**ABOVE:** Lili Walker spoons beans from one bowl to another. **LEFT:** Sophia Jones jumps on the trampoline, while Roo looks on.



we appreciate each day. (Check out the potting table!)

Rose Zuschlag is 3 and she is so happy when playing with her dolls, train or puzzles. She can be torn away to go to the library, though, to get more books! She and her family like to ride bikes, go to the beach and parks, and cook together. Rose's mother, Shannon, is a homemaker/biologist who likes yoga, backpacking and identifying plants and wildlife. Rose's father, Kail, is an electrician and union organizer who likes rafting and mountain biking.

I know, these all sound like cheesy intros for "The Dating Game," don't they? Sorry about that! But I know that

you will all be getting to know each other out there in the hallway and by the ball court after school. Feel free to use these informative tidbits as ice-breakers. "Hi, I'm Doni. You must be Chris, the scientist. How 'bout that Scientific Method?!" Or, "I hear you like jazz. Have you heard of Count Basie?" People are really impressed if you dazzle them with your familiarity with their domain, I've found. All silliness aside, I look forward to getting to know all of these new kids and families. I rejoice in the return of all your familiar faces, too, and am just happy to work where so many dear people come together for the good of our kids. Let's have a great school year!



**LEFT:** Zedro Ward strings beads in the classroom. **RIGHT:** Laura Hulick plays at the sand table.

**"Let's have a great school year!"**

## Newsline

❖ Thursday, Sept. 14, is our **first parent meeting of the year**. It will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. We will provide free child care for all children – the only requirement is that they are potty-trained. **Another parent meeting** follows on Thursday, Oct. 19. Please put these dates on your calendar!

❖ **Thistledown Studios** will be coming to take class picture and individual photos of the children on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 9 a.m. – so please be on time!

❖ Our **Parent Orientation/Workshop** will be Thursday, Oct. 5, at 6 p.m. **Doni and Jessica** will be presenting *Hands on in the Casa*.

❖ If your child is a **returning student**, your child's current forms are 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 (Child Care Division requires it) and date. Thanks.**

❖ During the year, we may see **fliers 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.

❖ Check out these great links for lots of quality Montessori information and interesting blogs:

- [montessoriguide.org](http://montessoriguide.org)
- [mariamontessori.com](http://mariamontessori.com)
- <https://montessori-nw.org/blog/>

❖ Join our parent Facebook group, titled **Philomath Montessori Parent News!**