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# Philomath Montessori School Newsletter

JUNE 2017



Congratulations to our 2017 graduates: Zaynab, Aviva, Jovian, Lilian, Juniper, Piper and Theo.

## Good luck, graduates!

By Jessica Neebe

**I**t is hard to believe this school year is coming to an end! As I look back at this year, my first in the classroom and as Director, I am amazed by our school community and how we continue to support, grow and enjoy each other's company. Not much different from 10 years ago when my own children were finishing up at Philomath Montessori, I see the friendships and bonds that have formed between our children and

more importantly, our families. The end of the school year means that we must say goodbye to seeing some of these families daily and instead keep them in our hearts and minds as they embark on their next journey, their next school experience (though we hope they will visit, keep in touch, and remember how fond of them we are!).

### Our Graduates!

**Theo** will be leaving us and joining his big brother, **Hugo**, at Franklin Elementary. **Joy** and **Tim** have sup-

ported us throughout the years in countless ways and in very big ways.

**Joy** co-chaired our largest fundraiser – twice – the Love of Learning auction, and in the years preceding the auction, she has been a messenger of our mission securing auction sponsorships, and as our marketing parent and an open house host. She has put many hours in at work parties and, together, **Joy** and **Tim** have generously given to our scholarship fund in a variety of

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ways. We are going to miss the Uengs very much and **Theo's** humor and sweet presence in the classroom. As the kids would say, what a dreamy fellow!

Also, leaving us this year is smiling **Lili** with her steady demeanor and solid work ethic. Over the years, the **Wu/Emshwiller** family have given their all to our schoolyard, keeping it tidy and beautiful, even over the summer when we are not in session – that's dedication! **Maya** and **Wu** have continuously stepped up and supported our school through donations made to the auction, scholarship fund and classroom. We will greatly miss them.

Sweet and spirited **Jovi** will also be leaving this year. His departure will take away our daily connection with the **Tavano/Rolston** family who have been with us since 2011 when **Cian** joined our class. **Liesl** has led our very popular children's program for our auction fundraiser and volunteered to do countless other jobs for our classroom such as school chronicler, open house host, dine out organizer, and has attended countless work parties. **Steve** has donated some pretty coveted experiences to our auction event and is always up for transporting critters to the classroom for us to observe. We will miss their family terribly.

Another longstanding family in our community, in attendance since 2007, the **Plaire/Siegel** family have finished their time with us. **Zaynab** will be moving on to join her brothers, **Rahmat** and **Dhabih**, in other educational endeavors. The **Plaire/Siegel** family's continuous generosity over the years has never dwindled, through thick and thin times. I have always marveled at this family's dedication to their children's education and the community at large. Such big hearts! **Lua** has taken on countless classroom jobs including classroom cleaning, tasting bottles, art prep and yardwork. **Rory** has been our go-to guy for tech support. He always



**We're going to miss all our graduates and other children who aren't returning next year. Front row, from left: Ames, Theo, Aayenda, Khetan, Addy and Nayla. Back row, from left: Zaynab, Piper, Aviva, Lili, Juniper, Jovi and Peter.**

seemed to have the part we needed for a computer repair or an idea on how to trouble shoot a pesky tech issue, taking time out of his busy schedule to stop by the school office. It is no wonder that **Zaynab** has such a kind and empathetic heart.

With great sadness, we say goodbye to the **Feldman** family. Joining us part way through their Montessori journey, we hate to see them go so soon. **Aviva** inspires me every day with her creativity and hunger for new lessons. **Karin** stepped in to take our parent meeting notes from the start and **Stuart** offered up his skills to keep our webpage up to date and looking great. We wish them success and happiness in their new home and community. What a high-powered family – we wish them all the best in Tualatin!

**Juniper** is also graduating this year, but fortunately we have her sibling, **Zedro**, to keep us together for a few more years. We look forward to **Amy** and **Brendan** sticking around for a bit. These two never miss a work party! **Amy** stepped up to create a Scrip Info Sheet that we will use for years to come to unravel the marvels

of scrip for our families. She also has been an active volunteer at our auction fundraiser and with classroom projects. **Brendan** has been our right-hand man for woodworking projects – making gorgeous low outside tables, very popular for making “nature soup” on, our potting table and refinishing numerous classroom tables to the perfect sheen. Brendan has shared his intellectual side with us as well, analyzing our auction sales and producing a top-notch slideshow for our fundraiser for several years.

Creative, sensitive **Piper**, with her contagious smile, is in the same boat. We are excitedly awaiting Piper's little sister, Peyton, coming of age, in anticipation of the **Meyers'** return to PhMS. **Jamie** and **Dave's** presence at the work parties never fails – even taking on weeding over the summer. **Jamie** has taken on many classroom preparation tasks and kept us flush with library books all year.

### **Goodbyes are hard!**

It's sad to say, but we bid farewell to several other families at this year-

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end as well. We say goodbye to **Ad-dy, Ames, Aayenda, Khetan, Peter and Nayla**. As circumstance has it, some will move on to join their siblings and friends at new schools in the fall. A few of the highlights of their support over the years: we thank **Leanne Miller** for co-chairing our annual fundraiser and the efficient way she dispatched any task that came her way, and **Sarah MacClary** for her years of service to our school, including keeping the auction donation tracked with a high-powered spreadsheet and a multitude of tasks at the event – too many to list! **Yalda and Jon** took on the huge task of writing our Annual Giving Campaign letter, and **Katy** hosted our basket parties on more than one occasion. **Sandie and Jeff** represented with their cooking talents at the auction, though sickness kept them at home, and the **Ransdells** have been taking classroom table after table home to put on a new coat of finish. Their families have given their all and wholeheartedly engaged in our community, and for that we thank them.

We are very grateful to all of you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of your children's lives and a part of yours. Thank you for the extraordinary generosity – you have made so much possible. We hope that we can maintain our connections as the years go by.



**Isaac and Aayenda hang out in the yard.**



**Rolly, Juniper and Lili lounge in the shade of the school yard.**

### **Many thanks!**

How fortunate I am to have the staff that I do – **Doni, Leslie, Pauline, Jennifer and Perla** – so caring and reliable. **Doni** keeps the classroom in tip-top shape, stocked with interesting and beautiful materials, and never fails to impress with her interesting groups – such an inspiration to me as a new teacher! **Leslie's** calm demeanor sets the tone of our classroom right from the start each morning. I rely on her smile each day as she greets each of us early arrivers. **Pauline's** got the office running smoothly and is always right there asking what she can do to help. She keeps that all going while being my valiant mentor and friend. Many of you do not know **Perla**, but we can't survive without her. She is our trusty classroom cleaning staff that keeps our space clean and our dishes sanitized and ready for the next day's banana slicing ;-). Unfortunately, we say goodbye to **Jennifer** this year as our Friday Art Class teacher – and how much she will be missed! We will no longer have Friday Art Class :-). Jennifer and I both began working at PhMS in 2011 when Friday

Art began, but our connection goes much deeper. Jennifer was the classroom assistant in my daughter's Montessori elementary class! I treasured our Fridays together at Art Class, and missed them dearly this year when I stepped out of the position of art class assistant (lucky Pauline got all the Jennifer time!). Jennifer never fails to inspire and kindle an artistic spark in all of us. Her never-ending art project ideas and endless source of cool art material will be fondly remembered. We hope she will entertain the idea of being a guest artist in the classroom in the future! I couldn't ask for better people to spend my days with. They are so dedicated to their work and to all our families.

I would also like to say a big thank you to our Board of Directors, **Ed, Sha, Joan, Paul, Janel, Ruby, Dodie, Kim and Kathleen**. Their guidance and support through our school's transition to a new Director has been above and beyond their call of duty!

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**LEFT: Dahlia, Nico and Ella play outside.**

**ABOVE: Nora and Mackay fill the bird feeder.**

**BELOW: Cedar and Cassidy play with the Mexican top game.**

## Year-Round Volunteers

We would like to thank our year-round parent volunteers – **Karen Petersen**, who stepped right in as a new parent in our community and took on being the volunteer coordinator, newsletter designer, and social media parent. As our library parent, **Jamie Meyer** has kept our classroom stocked with library books and has been vigilant about quickly filling our requests. **Kai Henefin** and **Karin Hart** were always ready to take home art prep from Leslie, and **Elke Wiethorn** snapped photos at our events as our chronicler. For 2 years, **Karin Feldman** took minutes at our parent meetings with precision and wit. **Maya** and **Wu** have kept our schoolyard in tip-top shape as our outdoor maintenance coordinators for the last 3 years, and **Audrey Deatherage** spearheaded our Montessori Services order.

## Thank you to our Super Volunteers!

Once again we would like to recognize our super volunteers – families who put in over 50 hours a year. This year we are honored to recognize the **Ueng** family and the **Miller** family for their extraordinary demonstration of support. And a big thank you to all of you – almost every family went beyond their required hours! We think that all of you are super!



## Newsline

❖ Please join us for our **End-of-the-Year Potluck** this Saturday, June 3, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in our school yard. If the weather is inclement, we will meet at Mary's River Park (south of the Philomath Library on 11<sup>th</sup> Street). Please be sure to be on hand for our fourth annual farewell and flyaway ritual! It will begin at 6:15.

❖ If you would like to keep your **current year-round job** for the 2017-2018 school year, please let us know soon.

❖ Our **last day of school** is Thursday, June 8. No full day or extended care.

❖ Please be sure to mark Saturday, Aug. 19 (9 a.m. to noon) on your calendar – our **Parent Work Day**. We definitely will need you all!

## Additional Thank Yous

### Classroom Projects

- Trace and cut circles for rubbing activity: **Kai Foster**
- Cut burlap for sewing: **Sandie and Jeff Hallman**
- Draw flower shapes for collage: **Karin Bolendar**
- Punch 3<sup>rd</sup> Level sewing cards: **Rebecca Veltri**
- Cut burlap sewing squares: **Rebecca Veltri**

- Cut felt for button sewing: **Rebecca Veltri**

### Donations

- Extra coat: **Karen Petersen**
- Leather kids garden gloves: **Liesl Rolston**

### Open House Hosts

- **Maya Emshwiller** and **Lili Wu**

- **Kristen Arzner**
- **Amy Ward, Juniper and Zedro Ward**

### Dine out Organizers

- **Jamie Meyer, Leanne Miller and Kai Foster**

### Classroom Cleaning

- **Asmatey-Stoll family**
- **Deatherage family**
- **Nielson family**

- **Mabeck family**
- **MacClary family**
- **Williams family**

### Garden work

- **Lua Siegel**

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