

# Philomath Montessori School Newsletter

JUNE 2018



To Develop the Human Potential

## Time to bid a fond farewell

By Jessica Neebe

**C**an you believe the school year is already coming to an end? Though I am excited to spend long days in the garden and do some camping around Oregon, I am also sad to say goodbye to some of our dear students and their families.

The first family we say goodbye to is the **Wiethorn/Giftai** family. The leader of the pack, **Gabriel**, will be heading to first grade at Blodgett School after spending four years in our classroom. We will miss his knack for finding agates, his silly expressiveness, and his eagerness for learning. Gabe thinks of others first and has a giving soul; whether it is a special rock or a delightful story, he would like to give it to you for your enjoyment. **Elke Wiethorn** and **Nicholas Giftai** made a huge commitment to transport Gabe several days a week into town to be with us from the outskirts of Blodgett and for that we are very thankful! Not only did we get to have Elke and Nicholas as active volunteers in our community, but what a blessing it has been to also have **Julie Wiethorn**, Gabe's grandmother, as an active participant as well. This family has radiated their positive energy and helpful hands consistently over the years – volunteering at numerous parent work parties and fundraising events. Elke took on being our school chronicler for a year and Nicholas stepped up to help with handy tasks such as cutting gourds for our art class creations. They also donated several of their beautiful



This spring we say goodbye to five students: **Ella, Rolly, Dahlia, Gabe, and Nico**.

ful artistic creations for our auction. Julie has been right there the whole time – no task is too big or too small, from art material preparation to laundry to soliciting for our auction events.

**Rolly** will be moving on to new endeavors at Blodgett School next year as well. Full of enthusiasm, rhythm, and focus, this gal can really take the lead in a square dance. She is also quite the whiz with addition in her head – especially when it comes to cookies! We are very grateful to **Karin** and

**Sean Hart** for the many things they have done for our school. They have attended many a parent work party – we will not soon forget the monster log round Sean delivered at last year's work party that will provide years of log hammering! Karin has been our steady outdoor maintenance parent, keeping our yard beautiful both during the school year and over the summer, as well as many years as an art parent prepping art materials. Stepping up at fundraisers, open houses, maintaining our tasting

bottles, refinishing picnic tables – they've tried their hand at such a variety of helpful and needed tasks!

Yes, **Ella** is leaving too, to attend Clemens Primary School. We have watched Ella transform over the years. She began as a timid girl and now she stuns us with her vibrant singing, dancing, and creative artwork. Ella loves her time with friends and never turns down a new lesson! **Dave Williams** and **Amy Bassett** squeeze us into their

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# It's so hard to say goodbye ...

It is so difficult to put into words a thank you to Leslie Cohen that I feel adequately conveys all that she has meant to us over the years.

Leslie came to Philomath Montessori in the fall of 1990 with Hasina, her oldest daughter. I was just a novice, but she was always supportive and kind. She helped with bookkeeping through the years that both of her daughters attended, and then in August 2000 joined Doni and me in the classroom.

As our assistant, she continually supplied our art shelves with ever new, bright, and appealing activities. She also gradually took over most of the tasks of caring for the classroom materials and shelves that we teachers often do, giving us more time for planning and creating new materials. What a gift that was!

However, the most significant and lasting contribution she gave every day to our school was her incredible gentle and kind presence. No matter how chaotic the atmosphere, Leslie never lost her Buddha-like demeanor. Never ... really. She has comforted and calmed every child who has passed through our doors at some time and in some way, leaving smiles and happiness in her wake. How we will miss her. Dear Leslie, thank you very much!!

— Pauline



Photo by Anthony Veltri

**Among Leslie's innumerable roles has been working with students in the school yard. With her, from left, are Cedar, Lili W., Ella, and Dahlia.**

**"Leslie has comforted and calmed every child who has passed through our doors at some time and in some way, leaving smiles and happiness in her wake."**

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busy lives over and over again. They have repeatedly attended our parent work parties, cleaned our classroom, and helped with yard work. Remember the days of the LOL Auction Fundraiser? These guys staffed our children's program at the event and solicited numerous donations. Amy single-handedly took on organizing our phone tree this year! Dave shopped weekly for our classroom snack, has been our school chronicler, and designed and printed parts of our fundraising materials. These guys know how to have a full life!

**Dahlia** will be moving on and joining her older sisters at Franklin School in Corvallis. As the song goes, we will miss her bright eyes and sweet smile. Dahlia is always there to offer you a hug at just the right moment! With Dahlia go her talented parents, **Audrey** and **James Deatherage**, who have supported us throughout the years with their much needed skills. Audrey has filled so

many roles — *For Small Hands* order coordinator, dine-out coordinator, and classroom cleaner. She has dazzled us with her design skills for the LOL auction, transforming a cafeteria into a cheery event venue. She has never hesitated to go the extra mile and help where needed — even now with a little one in tow. Alternatively, James has filled a different niche of volunteer work. As an experienced plumber, he has come to our rescue repeatedly for leaks and drips throughout the building. This family has also been a constant at our parent work parties and on our summer yard care sign up. We are hoping for a return of the Deatherage family in a couple years when Ingrid is ready!

We also bid farewell to **Nico**. As circumstance has it, Nico will join her sister in the Philomath schools next year. Over the past two years, **Liz Grant** and **Jeff Siler** have contributed their technologically savvy skills and artistic talents, as well as their time at numerous events. We will miss you!

## Newsline

❖ Please join us for our **End-of-the-Year Potluck** on Saturday, June 2, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in our school yard. If the weather is inclement, we will meet at Marys River Park (just south of the Philomath Library on 11<sup>th</sup> Street). At 6 p.m. we will celebrate Leslie's retirement from being our long-time classroom assistant. Our farewell and flyaway ritual for our graduates will begin at 6:15.

❖ If you would like to keep your **current year-round job** for the 2018-2019 school year, please let us know soon.

❖ Our **last day of school** is Thursday, June 7. **All children are dismissed at noon.**

❖ Please be sure to mark Saturday, Aug. 18, on your calendar — our **Parent Work Day** will run from 9 a.m. to noon. We definitely will need you all!!





The class poses for a portrait near the end of the school year. Front row, from left: Rolly, Ella, Gabe, Dahlia, and Cassidy. Middle row, from left: Roo, Nico, Astrid, Mackay, Roen, Cedar, Greta, Isaac, and Tyler. Back row, from left: Darwin, Zedro, Rose, Laura, Lily V., Sophia, Nora, and Lili W. Not pictured: Theo and TJ.

## Thank You!

### Classroom and Take Home Projects

Prepare cutting activities – Dave Williams

Cutting squares – Amy Bassett

New tasting bottles parent – Alicia Jones

Classroom cleaning – Karen Remedios,  
Alalia Berry and Candace Russo

Filled bird feeders over spring break –  
Leah and Rachel Houtman

Organize and create new library database  
– Shannon Zuschlag

### Repairs and Maintenance

Repair small bead frame – Arun Natarajan

Refinishing tables – Candace and Chris  
Russo

Mow lawn – Dave Williams

Yardwork – Eisenlohr and Remedios-  
Natarajan families

### Sharing

Estonian artifacts – Sirje Tamm

Hatched butterflies for releasing in  
schoolyard – Sirje Tamm, TJ and Astrid

### Other

Parent meeting minutes – Alalia Berry

### Year-round volunteers

A big thank you to our year-round volunteers: Shannon Zuschlag, our library parent; Karen Petersen, our marketing/social media parent, volunteer coordinator, and newsletter designer; Kai Foster, Karen Remedios, and Karin Bolender, our art

parents; Karin Bolender, our outdoor maintenance parent; Anthony Veltri, our school chronicler; Rachel Splan, our meeting secretary; Julie Weithorn and the Veltri family, who split the job of laundry parent; Dave Williams, our snack parent; and Audrey Deatherage, our dine-out coordinator.

### Additional thank yous

Three cheers for our board for their ever-wise guidance and work! Ed Durrenberger, our president; followed by Paul Hochfeld, our treasurer; Kim Gratz, our secretary; and members Joan Extrom, Janel Lawrence, Ruby Moon, Sha Sifford, Dodie Wilson, and Kathleen Lloyd. We are very thankful to all of you!



# Candid CLASSROOM

A sampling of images captured  
by school chronicler Anthony Veltri



**Gabe serves  
cucumber  
slices to Lily V.,  
Roo, and Astrid.**



**ABOVE: Doni  
works on color  
tablets with Tyler,  
Rose and Darwin,  
while other  
students work  
independently  
and in groups.**

**RIGHT: Jessica  
gives Cassidy  
a lesson with the  
second set of  
color tablets.**



**TJ and Zedro wash dishes together.**