



Philomath Montessori School Newsletter

September 2019

Classroom News

In a high-functioning Montessori classroom such as ours, it is typical for one-third of the students to graduate each spring after having finished their three-year course. A group of first-year students enrolls for the following year and they begin their Montessori journey in the fall. We are so happy to welcome these students! This year, many of our new kids are joining their older siblings in our classroom and so there are really only a handful of brand-new-to-us families. Let's meet everyone, shall we?

Let's welcome **Ila Andresen** and her family. Ila has a baby sister named Jane that she likes to look out for. Ila also enjoys walks with her family and playing in the backyard. Ila's dad, Jeremy, is a social



Ila getting a lesson on cylinder blocks.

worker who plays guitar and enjoys cycling. Her mom, Sarah, is a nurse who spends her leisure time hiking, cooking and travelling.

Many of you already know **Willa Arzner** because big sis Cassidy just graduated. Willa can do 25 piece puzzles and build structures with Legos



Willa using the screw toys.

and blocks. She and her family just moved into a lovely home with a cascading water feature in the backyard. They have been grilling out there since they moved in. Willa's parents are Nick and Kristen, who are Corvallis brewers and restaurateurs. Both are athletes who enjoy travel.

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Newsline

Iris Benton is a bit older than most of our new kids as she has already been in the Corvallis Waldorf School for 2 years. Iris will, no doubt, have lots of stories. She likes to swing in the backyard or color alone, but she really prefers to go swimming, get a pedicure or camp all together with her family, which includes baby sister, Fern. Iris' mom, Autumn, is a licensed marriage and family therapist (dibs on her time at the potluck, ha ha!) who is a runner, gardener and artist as well. Iris' dad, Marcus is a nurse, guitarist, biker and hiker.



Iris enjoying an Asian pear.

Does anyone remember the Braxtons? Jai and Grace graduated a few years ago and now here comes little **Xavier**, whose nickname is pronounced “Zay.” Xavier, I observed at the work party, likes to be held by his mommy and has a lot to say. He loves to be outside and to ride



Xavier listening to a book from his chair.

bikes and garden. His mom, Jenny, was a student here many years ago and is now an Afro-Brazilian dancer who runs a big homestead out in Summit and is a birth educator. Xavier's fire-fighter dad, Anthony, is an avid reader who lists sleeping as a special interest. I'm sure a lot of you parents can relate!

- Join us this Saturday, September 14 for our **beginning of the year potluck** in the schoolyard. Please bring plates, utensils, napkins and drinks for your family as well as a potluck dish. Many families also like to bring a blanket to sit on :-)
- Thursday, September 19 is our **first parent meeting of the year**. It will be from 6:00 – 7:30. We will provide free child care for all children – our guidelines for childcare state that we can only provide care for children under 2 ½ if they are accompanied by another caregiver 12 years old or older. Another parent meeting follows on Thursday, October 17. Please put these dates on your calendar!
- **Thistledown Studios** will be coming to take class picture and individual photos of the children on Thursday, September 25 at 9am – please be on time! If you are interested in sibling photos for non-enrolled siblings, please email us to set that up.
- Our **Parent Orientation/Workshop** will be Thursday, October 3 at 6pm. **Doni and Jessica** will be presenting *Hands on in the Casa*, an interactive evening in the classroom.
- During the year, you 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.

And here is **Claire Hulick**, not just bringing older sister Laura to school, but actually joining in our fun this year! Claire loves her stuffed animals, water play, jumping on the furniture and playing



Claire doing bead stringing.

lions and sharks! Claire's mom, Alalia, is a physician who participates in some crazy- extreme mountain biking, as does Claire's dad, Kevin. Kevin is a mechanical engineer specializing in 3D printing. This family appears to be perfectly normal as they go off cycling on the pavement as a family. It is only when you get mom and dad in the mountains and the mud that they let their freak-flag fly!

Little **Henry LeBoldus** is joining us this year. Henry occupies himself with his books and puzzles, his playdough and cars when he is not busy with his 2 older sisters. Henry's mom, Elise, is a nurse who is into ecology and botany, skiing, camping, hiking and knitting. Isn't it nice to know that one can still have hobbies with a job and 3 kids!? Father Jared is an Assistant Professor who also likes science and outside activities. This family likes to go on bike rides together, have game night and do many outdoor pursuits.



Henry pushing the wheelbarrow.

Penelope Russo will be following big sister Greta into the casa this year! Penelope was so friendly at her home visit and let me admire her closet full of pretty dresses. She likes her dolls, her blocks, books and play kitchen. Penelope's



Penelope doing yoga.

mom, Candace, is in-between jobs right now and looking hard! She has enjoyed having the summer off with her girls to garden and play.

Penelope's dad, Chris, just ran in the Hood to Coast! He plays golf and has done some beautiful wood-working projects for us here at school. The Russos have a family dinner every Sunday with all of the grandparents. How nice is that?

Finally, we meet **Mia Veltri**, who will join brother Isaac at school this year. Mia can pump her own swing and takes such good care of her special baby doll. Her mom, Rebecca, is a physical therapist who likes her CrossFit and her hiking. Mia's dad, Anthony, is a USDA Forest Service manager, but I always think of him as a photographer. He does a great job of chronicling things around here. He is also really into fitness with his trail running and hiking.

What a colorful bunch! The staff is so excited to know these kids and these few new families. I know



Mia hanging with her brother, Isaac.

our community will go out of their way to meet and greet these folks in the halls and make them feel welcome. It's going to be a great year with all of you!

A New School Year!

Just a few 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 full 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. 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.

Welcome new staff!

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about our two new staff members...

Christi McLaren, our administrative assistant, is a long-standing alumni parent whose daughter graduated from the PhMS program. She has a BA in Education & Community Health and experience working in crisis counseling and case management. Later, she home-schooled her daughter through the elementary and middle school years. For the past decade, Christi has been a member of the Oregon Ki Society where she is a Ki-Aikido instructor, the communications officer, and bookkeeper. She is also a professional organizer who loves to help people experience the freedom and joy which comes from a well-organized home and life. Christi is pleased to join the PhMS team, and she is looking forward to utilizing her skills and talents in their new capacity.

Rachel Gregg, our classroom assistant, is a Philomath native who left our area to pursue life in glamorous locales including New York, Miami, and eight years in West Hollywood working in fashion and acting before returning home to raise her son. Rachel is a Nutritional Therapist and the mother of a little boy named Olivier. Rachel finds that her work in our classroom dovetails beautifully with the rearing of her own child, giving her much to ponder philosophically and many ideas for her son's home environment and daily activities. Rachel enjoys bike riding, dancing, music and literature. Children respond warmly to her friendly and relaxed energy.



Resources

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

- montessoriguide.org
- mariamontessori.org
- montessori-nw.org/blog/



Join our parent Facebook group entitled **Philomath Montessori Parent News!**



Thank You

SUMMER YARD WORK

Weeding and Harvesting: **Houtman family, Neilson family, McGann family, Hulick/Berry family and Eisenlohr family**
Mowing: **Eisenlohers**

TAKE HOME PROJECTS

Iron Laces of bow tying frame: **Jocelyn Eisenlohr**
Rebuild outdoor picnic tables: **Kirby Phelps**
Build outdoor coat rack/shelf: **Chris Russo**
Make playdough: **Alicia Jones**
Wash laundry: **Kimberly Purdy**
Trim fringe from towels: **Brittini McGann**
Wash & bleach white towels: **Alicia Jones**

DONATIONS

Rose petals: **Remedios-Natarajan family**

PARENT WORK DAY!!

Jocelyn and Fred Eisenlohr, Leah Houtman, Kevin Hulick and Alalia Berry, Jonathan Jensen, Shaden Jensen, Alicia Jones, Kyle and Brittini McGann, Candace Russo, Kimberly Purdy, Rebecca Veltri, Amy and Brendan Ward, Kristen and Nick Arzner, Autumn Benton, Jeremy and Sarah Andresen, Jenny Braxton, and Shannon Zuschlag.

YEAR-ROUND PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Library Parent: **Alalia Berry**
Newsletter Designer: **Candace Russo**
School Chronicler: **Anthony Veltri**
Laundry: **Rebecca Veltri**
Snack/Playdough: **Alicia Jones**
Giveback Coordinator: **Houtman family**
Benefit Concert: **Shannon Zuschlag**
Emergency Phone Tree Coordinator: **Jocelyn Eisenlohr**
Meeting Secretary: **Alalia Berry**