



Philomath Montessori School

PO Box 125 · Philomath, OR 97370 · (541) 929-2672

November 9, 2020

Dear PhMS friends and families,

For over thirty-five years, Philomath Montessori School has offered a singular space of gracious learning and peaceful engagement for children and families of Benton County and beyond. The value of this special school has never been as evident as it is in these tumultuous times. The gifts of PhMS are not only in what they offer current students and families. We also find hope and solace in the many ways that a Montessori education contributes to development of creativity, grace, and confidence that we all need to navigate ever-changing worlds. As we all continue to draw on our deepest wells of resourcefulness to get through these difficult months, the value of PHMS is more apparent than ever.



In the throes of the pandemic crisis, in the face of more uncertainty than any of us could have anticipated, PhMS made the important decision to operate for the 20-21 school year. Taking into consideration all possible safety measures, the director, staff, and board of directors made this decision with the urgent sense that the social development and personal growth that PhMS offers are especially vital for young children and their caretakers in this time. The benefits of continued learning and social routines for the children outweigh the concerns and financial setbacks incurred by PhMS in order to make this return to school possible. For those of us whose daily lives, school and otherwise, have been profoundly contorted by the pandemic, the decision of PhMS to hold school—albeit with a smaller enrollment and a number of other costly safety measures—offers a ray of hope, like catching a glimpse of a verdant oasis across a desert of endless Zoom isolation.

In years past, the Annual Giving Campaign has asked friends of PhMS to give in support of financial aid, the purchase of classroom materials, and quality professional development for our staff. The decision to operate this year at lower enrollment means that this year we need to ask for support in a more general and pressing way, for the financial stability of the school going forward. We recognize that these are difficult and uncertain times for everyone. We hope that, if you are able, you will consider giving generously to secure the ability of Philomath Montessori School to continue providing that oasis of calm engagement and love of learning into the far future.

With gratitude and all best wishes,

Karin Bolender Hart

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Secretary of the PhMS Board of Directors

