



Philomath Montessori School

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November 7, 2022

Dear PhMS friends and families,

As my almost-9-year-old helped me measure and mix dough for pita bread recently, then shape it into flat circles to go in the oven, I was flooded with the memory of the first time she ever baked bread: in her third year at Philomath Montessori School. When I picked her up that day, she was cradling the remains of a small loaf she'd made all on her own, and she was so excited and proud of her accomplishment—and eager to do it again, as soon as possible. She's been a happy kitchen helper ever since. I had another flash of PhMS a couple days later when she showed me a notepad on which she'd expertly written her name in cursive—even though she hasn't formally studied cursive writing since her time with the sandpaper letters. The muscle memory was intact, and her enthusiasm for what she'd done was contagious.



At her elementary school, they often talk about the kids coming to school “ready to learn.” Early Montessori education instills that passion for discovery and exploration that makes for “ready-learners,” a trait that has never been more important than in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Its massive toll on society includes lost opportunities to socialize, play, and learn, all of which will have long-reaching impacts we're only beginning to see.



Thanks to generous support from donors and government grants, Philomath Montessori was able to stay open for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, providing a singular space for peaceful learning in a time of great turmoil. We're grateful to have started the 2022-23 school year with no mask requirement and the worst of Covid hopefully behind us. Our aim is to regrow enrollment thoughtfully over the next couple years so we can return to the more even distribution of first-, second-, and third-year students that helps make our environment so special.

The 2022-23 Annual Giving Campaign is asking friends of PhMS to give in support of the increased need for financial assistance, the purchase of classroom materials, and quality professional development for our staff, as well as for the financial stability of the school going forward. We know many people have not recovered

from the financial hit of the pandemic, and inflation is through the roof. But we hope that if you are able, you will consider giving generously so that Philomath Montessori School can continue providing that beloved oasis of calm engagement in which children can thrive.



With all best wishes,

Karen Petersen
PhMS Board of Directors