



Family & Community Newsletter

April 15, 2011

Volume 4, Number 9

Calendar

- **April 18-22**
Spring Break!
- **April 21**
Bulb Sale Orders Due
- **April 30**
Spring Auction 6 PM at
Emmanuel Episcopal
Parish Hall
- **May 21**
Bake Sale
- **May 30**
Memorial Day
(no school)

A Great Big Thank You!

It's hard to believe that summer is just around the corner, but these last weeks of school are notorious for flying by. So, I thought that this month I would just take a minute to thank all of you parents and friends of the school for an amazing year of community.

To those who take on daily and weekend cleaning, I hope you understand what a burden you take off of Ina, Teresa, and me, giving us the time to better prepare the shelves and ourselves for the children.

To all of you lunch helpers, I give a hearty "Cheers!" as you help make one of our most wonderful social events possible. To those lending a hand

with the physical maintenance of the school, I want to express great gratitude for making our building and our playground a place of beauty and fun.

To all of you who have managed tight schedules to attend the open houses, teas, parent nights, and observations, thank you for showing such deep commitment to your children.

Finally, to each and every one of you involved in our bake sales, wreath sales, coffee sales, beer gardens, box tops, on-line adventures, flower sales, and of course, the SPRING AUCTION, I hope that you take great pride in helping to keep our doors open to the children of Orcas Island. I look forward



to chatting with you all at the upcoming conferences. Have a wonderful Spring Break, and get ready for some amazing times as we enter the last leg of this year's journey.

Tom Rubottom, Head Guide

Orcas Montessori Summer Fun

Summer Spanish Program

Our popular summer Spanish program returns for the 13th summer! This year we have scheduled two, three-week sessions for 4-6 year olds. You can sign up for one or both sessions.

The sessions run June 20-July 8, and July 18-August 5, from 9 AM to 1 PM Monday through Friday. The program will be an introduction to Spanish through stories, art, and music.

Robin Freeman and Teresa have been teaching this summer program together for 13 years and will be joined by one of our original students as an assistant. For the second session, our popular aide, Serena Burman, will teach with Robin. Pick up your registration form at the school.

Advice Booth at the Farmer's Market

Does your child have lots of advice and insight to offer? Orcas Montessori will once

again set up the popular advice booth (Linus and Lucy-style) at the Farmer's Market. It's a great opportunity to promote the school, raise support, and hear the unique life perspectives of children. Watch for the dates to be published in the May newsletter.

July 2 Parade

Do you have a penchant for parades? Orcas Montessori is planning to march in the July 2 parade and would love your help and participation. It is great fun for old and new stu-

dents alike, including those from our Summer Spanish Program. If you'd like to participate, please let us know.



Even More Summer Fun

August 8: Music Day with Rachel Buchman

On August 8, Rachel Buchman will return with her guitar and a variety of musical activities for the children. The time will be announced later. Please RSVP and let us know if your child will attend. Alumni are also welcome to attend.



August 15: Chamber Music Festival Children’s Concert

Give your child the opportunity to hear live music performed by world-class musicians.

Join Orcas Montessori students for the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival Children’s Concert at the Orcas Center on August 15, at 1 PM. We will be attending as a group—chaperones are welcome. Please RSVP. You will receive a reminder a couple of weeks before the concert.

Explore the Outdoors

In addition to all the scheduled activities your child may have this summer, don’t forget to allow them some unstructured time outdoors to explore and enjoy nature.

Spending time outside in a natural setting offers your child opportunities to walk on various types of terrain, develop their sense of balance, strengthen their body, observe, experiment, problem solve, and learn from the physical world around them.

We are so fortunate here on Orcas to have beautiful hiking

trails, woods, meadows, and beaches all around us. Even the area around your house outside offers a host of opportunities for learning!

Teresa Chocano, Director



Spring Auction: Help Get Those Tickets Sold!

April 30, 6-9 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall

Two more weeks until our BIG NIGHT! Thank you to all of you who have donated your time and your wonderful, creative auction items.

Autumn and Chimo Boehm have selected 10 delicious premium wines for the wine tasting, and local restaurants have generously agreed to offer appetizers at a reduced rate, or even donate them outright. It’s shaping up to be a great event, and we are sure to have a fun and successful night, as long as we sell lots of tickets!

Tickets Please!

As the auction time nears, please help us by contacting everyone you know who might want to come to the auction. At \$35 a ticket, it’s a great opportunity for wine lovers to try some expertly-chosen premium wines.

For those who don’t drink wine, \$20 allows access to the

auction, delicious finger-food from local restaurants, and the opportunity to bid on the great items donated by our families. Tickets can be purchased at Darvill’s Bookstore or at the Orcas Montessori School.

Tickets can be purchased at Orcas Montessori School or Darvill’s Bookstore.

- **\$35 ticket** includes appetizers and wine
- **\$20 ticket** includes appetizers only (no wine)

For those of you who have volunteered to help at the event, you may be wondering whether you need to buy a ticket. If you are helping at the auction, you do NOT need to buy a ticket. However, if you want to participate in the wine tasting, you will need to buy a wine-tasting punch card for \$15.



Lizanne Hennessey and Roland Stolk

The latest auction news is that Lizanne Hennessey and Roland Stolk of “This Is Lizzard” will provide our musical entertainment. Lizanne’s mother, Sara, is a familiar face at the school: our beloved substitute teacher. Singer Lizanne and her guitar player, percussionist, and hus-

band, Roland, have recently returned to Orcas from their home in the Netherlands, and we are looking forward to hearing their sweet sounds! Mary Giampietro, leader of the popular local Music Together classes, will help us get the party rolling again this year with an opening musical set.

Alyson Stephens, Board Member

Observations and Conferences

If you haven't come in to observe the class, please sign up without delay. You will have a chance to see the community of children in action, while gaining a better understanding of what your child's day is like while she is here. If you observed in the fall, you will be amazed to see how our community of children has developed.

Don't miss this opportunity!

In addition, be sure to sign up for a conference. Parent/Teacher Conferences are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and accomplishments. We ask all parents to sign up for two of these per year. At our final conference, we will review the year and talk about plans for your child's upcoming year.

Teresa Chocano, Director

Can't Shop Local? Shop Amazon!

Need stuff? If you can't find it locally, make your purchase count by shopping <http://amazon.orcasmontessori.org/>. Each time you purchase an item through this link, our school gets 6% of the proceeds. Just make sure you purchase items in your shopping cart within 24 hours. Don't forget to spread the word: the more people who use the link, the more money Orcas Montessori earns.

