

A U G U S T 1 5 , 2 0 1 0

# ORCAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1



## ✧ Welcome back to school! ✧

It's been a busy summer for the Montessori school community. The Spanish program was well received, we sang our way through the 4th of July parade, we got lots of interesting advice from the kids at the farmer's market, and made some money for the school at the Doe Bay Fest!

In just a couple of weeks, our children will be going back to school, or starting school for the first time. Following are some suggestions from our teachers that might make the transition easier for your family.

*Start having some conversations with your child about the upcoming beginning of the school year.*

*Begin adjusting bedtime and wake time so your child has an opportunity to get ready for an earlier start to the day.*

*If your child is used to watching TV in the morning, please consider discontinuing this a week prior to school, as children may find it difficult to transition to leave for school when absorbed in a TV program.*

*Once at school, one of the teachers will be receiving and greeting children outside the door. Your child will be saying goodbye to you in the foyer and entering without you. If your child is not used to separating from you or finds it difficult, you could work out a ritual. For example, you could decide on the number of hugs and kisses, or whatever you agree on. Tom, Teresa and Ina will be happy to work with you to help ease the transition.*

### *Calendar*

**August 17 Music Day**

**August 25 Children's  
Concert**

**August 30 Back to School  
Potluck**

**September 1 First Day of  
School for returning  
students**

**September 4 Farmer's  
Market**

**September 6 Labor Day -  
No School**

### *What to bring to school:*

**Indoor slippers** (rubber soles preferred), **a mug** for your child to use throughout the school year,

**a plant** that your child will care for in the classroom, and a complete **change of clothes**. Also, please check with Teresa to make sure you have completed all of the necessary paperwork.



## Tuesday, August 17, 10 a.m. Music Day in the Yard

Come reconnect with school families and enjoy a morning in the backyard with music, crafts and a potluck. The morning will start with Rachel Buchman engaging the children in musical activities. The remainder of the morning we will enjoy each other's company and offer some craft activities and a potluck lunch. Please RSVP; let Teresa know if you are coming. We are fortunate to have Rachel come visit all the preschools during this week of August, sponsored by the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival.

## *Farmer's Market Fun!*

Who knew our kids were so full of great advice? On July 31 our advice booth drew lots of attention, as the children answered questions ranging from "what career path should I follow," to "what's the best topping for pizza?" For the record, the answers are "become a miner," and "flambeed mushrooms!"

Head Guide Tom presided over a tent full of Montessori materials, and we sold berry crisps and lemonade from a second booth. Thanks for those who helped in July. We'll be doing it again on September 4th, so please tell our volunteer coordinator Tara Linnes if you're able to lend a hand!

## Summer Spanish Program



Teachers Robin Freeman and Teresa Chocano enjoyed working with a mix of familiar Montessori kids, and new students as well this summer. The program utilized Total Physical Response (TPR) to teach Spanish language, while incorporating cultural arts through music, dance, art projects, and stories. TPR, founded by linguist James Asher, promotes language acquisition in a fun and lively way.

Students included a mixed language group of English and Spanish speakers. The program created a context for communication across both languages, modeled how to ask questions, and provided the Spanish-speaking students an opportunity to be the "experts." As the weeks progressed, it was not uncommon for the students to sprinkle their new vocabulary in everyday conversation ("pass the azul tape, por favor"). Students also saw one another as resources for learning new words or helping to express themselves.

Parents and students enjoyed a party on the last day, featuring tamales made by the children. Thank you to all who participated in this great summer program! We'll look forward to doing it again next year.



## Money for Montessori

To make ends meet, we'll hold several fundraisers this year, including our holiday wreath sale, fall apple crisp sale, bake sales, and our May Day Auction on April 31. Thinking ahead to the May Day Auction, we are planning to sell some large planted pots. Please keep your eyes open for pots or containers at least 20" in diameter, that can be used as interesting planters. We'll also be looking for trellises to go in the pots, or scrap metal or other materials for making trellises. Please talk with a board member if you have any materials or ideas.

**Our 4th of July parade float:  
One Love, One Heart, Lots of Kids!**



Thank you for all who helped out, checking IDs at the Doe Bay Fest beer garden. We heard some great music, and we made much needed funds for our school. We're thankful to the folks at Doe Bay Resort for the opportunity.

Your Orcas Montessori School Board of Directors includes President Joe Thoron, Sally Buchanan, Stacey Lancaster, Tara Linnes, and Alyson Stephens. Please come to us with your suggestions and ideas. We're committed to making our school the best it can be.

**GOT SOME EXTRA STORAGE SPACE?** Our beautiful booth needs safe storage! This is the great looking wood and canvas structure we're using for our farmer's market project, designed and built by Chris Brems for the 2009 county fair. Please talk with Teresa or Alyson if you have some room to spare. Thanks!