

S E P T E M B E R 1 5 , 2 0 1 0

ORCAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2



Calendar

Wed., Sept. 15: Parent Orientation

Sat., Sept. 18: Parent Orientation

Thurs., Sept. 23: Well child checkups

Sat., Sept. 25: Bake sale

Sat., Sept. 25: United Way Day of Caring



✧ Welcome! ✧

I'd like to take a moment to welcome back all of our returning families and offer the warmest of greetings to our new parents and their children. It is always an amazing process watching the community of the school come together in the early days of September, and this year has all the signs of being truly remarkable. We feel so lucky to find such a perfect mix of both age and gender in the room, and, thanks to the commitment of so many of you, we have enrolled more third year students than we have seen in years. It is their comfort and connection to the room that creates a smooth transition for the youngest of the children, who, in turn, bring such a fantastic wealth of new energy and joy to the program. On behalf of Ina, Teresa, and myself, I want to thank everyone for all the hard work that has gone into getting the school ready for what promises to be our best year yet!

Head Guide Tom Rubottom

Parent Orientation

Our Parent Orientation session for new parents will be offered at two separate times; come either on Wed., September 15, at 5:15 pm, or Saturday, Sept 18, at 10 am. This event is a wonderful opportunity to get a sense of the rhythm of your child's day, see a "lesson," put your hands on the materials, and get a broader understanding of the progression of the curriculum. We will keep it short, sweet and engaging. Since childcare is not available at the school during these required sessions, please talk to Teresa if you need help making arrangements.



Bake Sale at Island Market Saturday, September 25th



Calling all bakers! Each year we host 4 bake sales at Island Market. This is one of the simplest ways we can raise money for the school. In the past we have made the items for sale by donation. Recently we learned our generosity has led to us netting half of what other preschools make at their sales. This time we're pricing our items! We also have prepared a list of desired items based on what has sold quickly and reliably in the past. It's a greatest hits list of bake sale sweetsies.

You will find this list of items in the school foyer. We really would appreciate it if everyone could sign up to make one of the items. We get the impression we have some pretty skilled bakers this year so please

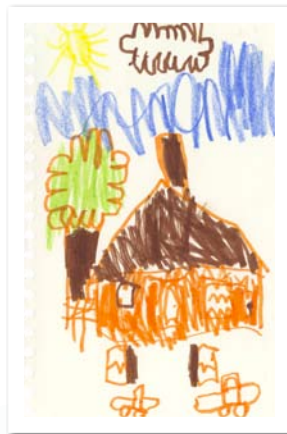
feel free to suggest something else fabulous that you would like to make instead. If your item is special in some way, if it is made from local ingredients, is organic, is gluten free or your recipe is a family secret passed down from your great-great Aunt Bertie for example, please let us know so we can label it as such.

Tara will be looking for volunteers to work the tables on the day of the sale. Find a friend and sign up for a shift. It's fun! You get to know your neighbors while plying them with sugar! Our goal is to make \$1000 for the school. Every little bit counts. Thanks so much for helping with this event.

Fundraising Chairperson Stacey Lancaster

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

Saturday, Sept 25, besides being our bake sale day, is also the United Way Day of Caring. On this day, members of the community will help the United Way work on various projects for a few of our local non profit organizations. As recipients of United Way grant funding for our tuition assistance program, this is an opportunity to show our gratitude by lending a hand. We invite parents to join us for a few hours of work on Saturday. So that the United Way can schedule these projects, please let Teresa know if you can help out that day as a representative of our school.



"My School" by Moose

Apples are Ripe and Ready to Pick

We'd love to have your help with harvesting, weeding and apple picking! Parents, if you can, please come 15 minutes early when you pick up your child. You can help us out in the yard while the children play. Thanks!

WELL CHILD CHECKUPS

Through a grant from the United Way of San Juan County, Orcas Family Heath Center (OFHC) will provide free Well Child checkups to children of families who might not otherwise be able to access them. OFHC will be doing screenings at our school, Kaleidoscope and Children's House, making it easy for families to participate. They will be at the Montessori School on Thursday, Sept 23, at 8:15. These checkups are an opportunity to evaluate your child's development, and to see if their immunizations are up to date. Dr Bailey's office also will be providing a free dental check at that time. Please see Teresa for the necessary paperwork, which must be turned in by Monday, Sept 19, for your child to be included.

Help for Baby Isabella

Many of you know Denielson's cousin, Alejandro Morillon Garcia, who was a student at our school last year. His baby sister Isabella has been diagnosed with cancer, and the family could really use some help.

Lisa Trifiro is organizing a garage sale to benefit the family, at Children's House on Saturday, September 18th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donated items can be dropped off at Children's House. Large items can be dropped off the morning of the sale, before 10 a.m., or call Lisa at 376-1489 for assistance.

An account has also been set up at Islanders Bank, through Orcas Family Connections. To donate, specify that the funds go to the Isabella Morillon-Garcia Medical Fund. The family would also welcome gift certificates to Fred Meyer, Target, QFC, Safeway, Chevron, or 76. Montessori parent Erin O'Dell, of Orcas Family Connections, has been coordinating help for the family. For more information, contact Erin at 376-5780 or 298-2456.

You can read more about the family in this article from the Islands Sounder:

<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/sanjuans/isj/news/102552629.html>

Ongoing Fundraisers – Help Spread the Word!

Grounds for Growth Coffee

Support Orcas Montessori one cup at a time with our own line of "Grounds for Growth" Coffee. Decaf, Medium Blend, Special Blend and Dark Roast are available for \$10 per 12 oz. bag, as whole bean or ground. Espresso ground is also available. A bag of coffee is a perfect gift idea and a great way to introduce our coffee line to others. All proceeds go directly to our school. A sale box is always available in the foyer or contact Cathy Faulkner at 376-2434 or me@cathyfaulkner.com if you want to set up a monthly account.



Box Tops For Education

Look for these tiny coupons on products that you buy, including Ziplocs, Kleenex, Cheerios, and many other items. Each coupon is worth 10 cents for our school. Please clip these, and bring them to our collection box in the foyer. If you shop on the internet, check out www.boxtops4education.com. Once you register, you can use this site as your gateway to online stores. There are over 140 participating retailers, including iTunes, Lands' End, Nordstrom, and many more; including travel sites and electronics stores. If you access these online stores through the Box Tops For Education website, a portion of the purchase price is donated to the school.

Cartridges for Kids

Orcas Montessori School has a printer cartridge recycling program, bringing money directly to our school for every cartridge recycled. Inkjet and laser cartridges as well as toner cartridges are accepted. Take a red collection bag to your home or workplace, or give a collection bag to friends. Return your empty cartridges to our collection site in the school foyer. It helps our school, and it's good for our planet, too.

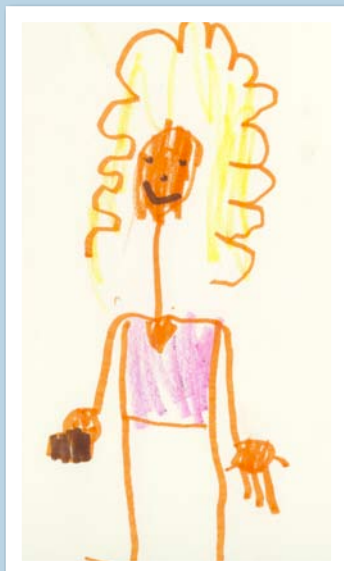


Friendly Reminders From the Teachers

Attention to these details will make your child's experience at school more enjoyable:



"Kitten" by Moose



"August Doing Beadwork"
by Moose

Please check your child's cubby regularly for dirty clothes to go home and clean clothes that need replenishing.

Please send your child to school with a sweatshirt or jacket as the weather is quite changeable these days and we try to go outside every day.

Please provide a phone number where you can be reached during the day. If you will be unavailable by phone, be sure we have 2-3 other current contact numbers on file of people you feel comfortable picking up your child in the event we cannot reach you.

The cold season will be approaching and we ask parents to review our policy in the parent handbook. Please check your child's health before leaving the house in the morning. Look for signs of a fever or cold coming on especially if they seem to be a little "off their game". We will be assessing your child at the door and if they seem ill, we will ask you to take your child with you. Remember to wait 24 hours after your child's temperature returns to normal after a fever, 24 hours after the last bout of diarrhea, and 24 hours after beginning medication for pink eye, Please do not bring your child with severe cough, or profuse nasal discharge. If your child seems ill, give them a chance to rest at home. Keeping your child at home when they are sick will help them heal faster and keep the rest of us from getting sick.