

O C T O B E R 1 5 , 2 0 1 0

# ORCAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

## <sup>x</sup>Presenting – the Appleseed Fund!<sup>x</sup>

In response to increased need for tuition assistance, your Fundraising Committee is excited to announce the Appleseed Fund! We are seeking a total of ten “Silent Partners” each to provide support for one scholarship student through the Appleseed Fund. Each Silent Partner will choose a child from a list describing 10 students (names kept anonymous) and will donate \$1000 toward that student’s tuition. The Silent Partner will receive two updates on their child’s progress during the school year and will have an opportunity to visit the school, observe the classroom and enjoy lunch with the children.

As the school board and parent community, we pledge to match each donation with another \$1000 through our fundraising efforts.

We are thrilled to say that three generous Silent Partners are already participating in the program. Also, we have matched two of these donations, with our proceeds from the Doe Bay Fest, and the September bake sale.

If you know of anybody who might be interested in participating as a Silent Partner, please talk with a teacher or board member.

## Amazon.com purchases earn money for our school!

Please click through from our school website when shopping at [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). The school will receive a percentage of the purchase price, as long as you buy on that same day. Thank you to Angela Saxe for this great idea!  
<http://www.orcasmontessori.org/amazon/>  
Please buy locally when you can, but when that’s not possible, shop at Amazon.com and support our school!

## Calendar

October 30

Apple crisp making party  
9 a.m. at the school

November 11th

Veteran’s Day – No school

November 18th

Parent night, 5:30 p.m.  
at the library

November 21st

Wreath sale begins

November 24th

Apple crisp and bake sale

November 25th/26th:

Thanksgiving break -  
no school



## WINTER COATS AVAILABLE

Each year Island Hardware generously provides a new warm winter coat to any child in need. If your child needs a new winter coat, please leave your child's gender, size and contact information in the Frausto/O'Dell parent cubby as soon as possible. Erin O'Dell, Family Support Specialist for Orcas Family Connections, will contact you when the coats come in.



Metal inset by Will

## APPLE CRISP FUNDRAISER

In past autumns, we've made and sold delicious apple pies to support our school. This year we'll make apple crisps instead. These will be quicker than pies to make, and we will offer them at a lower price. Professional baker Heidi Hudlet has graciously offered to help, and to share her recipe. We will be selling the crisps frozen, ready-to-bake. We need four more people to help us make the crisps at the school on Saturday, October 30th, starting at 9a.m. Please let Tara Linnes know if you can be there. You can also help anytime before the 30th by picking apples at the school. Thanks!

### Halloween is coming

We politely ask that you save your child's costume for trick or treating. This helps maintain the comfortable environment and avoids possibly scaring the younger children. Tom lives in Bonnie Brae and would love a "trick or treat" on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

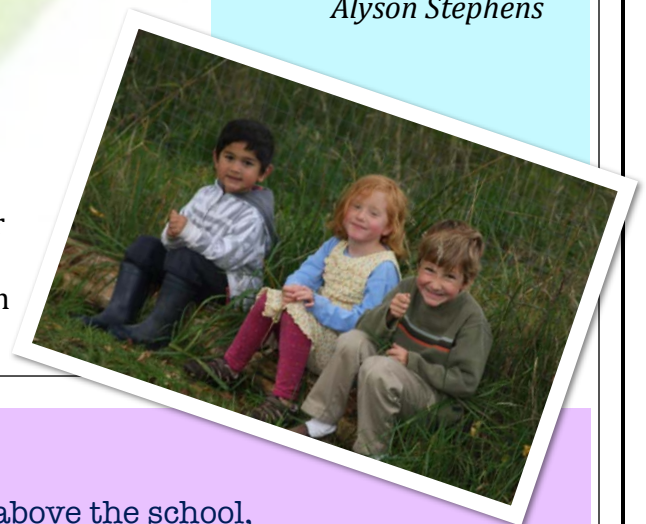
### *A Parking Request*

We love our tenant, Sage. She lives in the apartment above the school, and we want to keep her happy! Please note that her driveway runs directly along the south side of the building, and avoid blocking the driveway when dropping off or picking up your child.

### Be Alert to School Closures

Don't be like me! Last year, when the power went out one day, it didn't occur to me that the school would close. Friends found me and brought me my kid while I was nonchalantly browsing in the library, waiting for 12:30 to pick him up! Though it may be plenty light enough to see in the school when the power is out, the school cannot stay open without heat, or hot running water. So when the power goes out, please plan to pick up your child. Also, school may close if it snows. Please phone the school if the snow starts to fall during the school day.

*Alyson Stephens*



# Wreath Sale

Dare we say *Holiday*? Absolutely! It's time to prepare for our 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fundraiser of the year, the Orcas Montessori's Holiday Wreath Sale! Now in our 16<sup>th</sup> year, these holiday wreaths are an island wide tradition as gifts, decorations and random acts of holiday cheer far and wide.

24", 35", and 40" holiday wreaths are available this year for \$25, \$35 and \$55 respectively. Our wreath prices have remained the same for over 5 years. US Shipping is also available for the 24" wreath for an additional fee. Pre-orders are in early November with our school sale site opening November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our website, [www.orcasmontessori.org](http://www.orcasmontessori.org), also provides an excellent online sales and information tool.

Our goal is to raise \$6000. To achieve this goal, we will need everyone's help. Consider wreaths as gifts for family, friends and/or clients. Spread the word to your social clubs

and church groups. Volunteer for one of the many tasks associated with the wreath sale.

The holiday wreath sale is an excellent opportunity to touch base with our extended Montessori and Island Community. It's also a wonderful way to introduce Orcas Montessori to new residents and friends, one wreath at a time.

Take a look at the various wreath sale tasks presently at hand. Contact Tara Linnes, volunteer coordinator or Cathy Faulkner, project lead to sign up.

Tara: 376-5795 [greentarialinnes@yahoo.com](mailto:greentarialinnes@yahoo.com)  
Cathy: 376-2434 [me@cathyfaulkner.com](mailto:me@cathyfaulkner.com)

## October Tasks

- Help stuff envelopes for mailing (at home task) – end of month
- Looking for artistic individuals to help paint signs and sandwich boards

## November Tasks

- **Help selling wreaths**
- Help distribute flyers 1<sup>st</sup> week of November
- Looking for artists to paint water tank across from Country Corners
  - Will provide text for tank
- Help distribute flyers 1<sup>st</sup> week of November
- 11/15-18 Volunteers to phone past business customers – reminder calls
- Wreaths arrive Nov 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>
  - ★ Use of Truck / flat bed trailer to transport wreaths. 6 pallets/each 5' tall
  - ★ Volunteers to bag wreaths (either at school or at storage unit) –starting November 19<sup>th</sup>
  - ★ Nov 15-18 Help "beautifying" sales Trailer area at school
  - ★ Volunteers to bag ribbons (at home task) starting November 19<sup>th</sup>

*Cathy Faulkner*



Wreath Delivery Boys, 2009

# END OF THE HONEYMOON

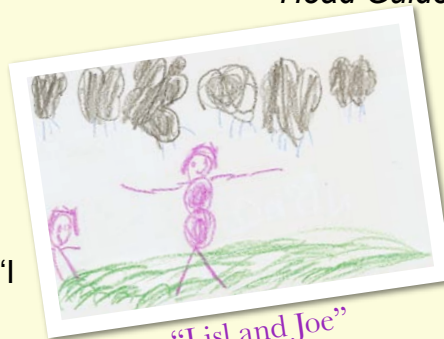
With the first weeks gone by, the class is settling into a wonderful rhythm of community and work. Yet, this time of the year is notorious for what we have come to call “the end of the honeymoon.” Children who began the year eagerly walking through the door can suddenly show a great deal of reluctance about the whole idea of school. That this is a common issue doesn’t mean that it’s not really really hard on parents, but it does mean that there are many things we can do to help the children through their turmoil. While the emotions shown at the door often fade quickly once the child comes into the room, please rest assured that we will be calling you within 15-20 minutes if this is not the case.

So, here are a few ideas to consider. Young children have trouble transitioning from one activity to another. If your morning routine includes some activity that the child becomes deeply engaged with (i.e. t.v. shows, playtime with their toys, book reading) make sure that you give them enough time to shift gears before going out the door. Children check boundaries to reassure themselves of what is expected and what will be consistent. Saying “I don’t want to go to school” explores whether school is something arbitrary or something they can rely on. A routine for the actual goodbye can also be great fun, and a nice way to ease into the day. We have found that things like a certain number of hugs, a special whispered message, or the act of handing you the sign in sheet can go a long way. However, a promise of a treat or reward for going into the school is quite likely to backfire as the child

then comes to see trouble at the door as a way of getting goodies. In a like manner, giving in to the children and saying “okay no school today” generally has the outcome of prolonging these issues as it intermittently reinforces their behavior. It is perfectly fine to take a day off every once and a while, but it should be the parent’s decision as to when this will be, and a decision that is made ahead of time and not in the heat of the moment.

Lastly, children do better if they can open the door and enter the school independently. It is much harder to separate yourself from a person who has you in their arms. If you find that carrying your children from your car is part of your routine, we suggest that you put them down at the far end of the sidewalk, and walk together to the door. To close, I just want to say that despite the topic of this letter, I feel that the class has shown a tremendous amount of joy in both their work and their peers, and believe strongly that we have had a wonderful start to what looks like a truly fantastic year.

*Head Guide Tom Rubottom*



*“Lisl and Joe”*

*Artwork by Nisha*



*“Miette and Nisha”*

## *Montessori School Board News:*

Welcome to our new board members, parents Angela Saxe and Sommer McKenzie! The board now consists of Angela, Sommer, Joe Thoron, Stacey Lancaster, Sally Buchanan, Tara Linnes, and Alyson Stephens.