Orcas Montessori School

August 11, 2011

Volume 4, Number 11

Welcome (Back) to School!

Calendar

- **August 15**
  Orcas Chamber Music Festival Children's Concert
- **August 20**
  Community Open House
  10 AM—noon
- **August 27**
  Montessori work party
  10 AM—2 PM
- **September 1**
  Montessori Potluck
  5—7 PM
- **September 7**
  First day of school!
- **September 17**
  New Parent Orientation
  6 PM
- **September 24**
  New Parent Orientation
  10 AM
- **September 24**
  Bake Sale

First Days Back to School

Wednesday, September 7, is our first day of school for returning students. After that time, new students will be added one by one daily. Their first day will be preceded by a visit to the classroom after school to reacquaint themselves with the classroom and staff and put their things away in their cubbies in preparation for their first day.

What to Bring

Remember, your child needs:

- a change of clothing
- indoor shoes or slippers that fit and are easy to put on and take off
- a small, hardy plant
- a mug for water
- a family picture for our disaster kit

If any of these items pose a problem, please speak with Teresa and she will be glad to help.

Before School

Please help your child get a good night's sleep, so that they can get up early enough to allow them ample time to get washed and dressed and eat some breakfast before heading out the door. This will help ensure a good start to the day.

Please be mindful of how your child is doing and if they seem ill, check their temperature before you leave the house. Bringing an ill child to school not only is difficult for them but spreads their illness to the rest of the class. We do not like to be in the position of turning your child away at the door--but if they are obviously ill, we will. Please read your parent handbook for a full explanation of our policy.

Please do not have your child watch television before coming to school, which can make the transition out the door more difficult.

Saying Goodbye

If you suspect that saying goodbye will be difficult for your child (we know your child's first day of preschool may be difficult for you!), prepare your child in advance by agreeing on a goodbye ritual or agreed number of kisses after which they will enter the school.

We will be ready to offer assistance at the door if needed. Your child's tears, if any, are usually brief, and be assured that we will contact you to consult with you if they last longer than a few minutes.

Did You Complete Your Paperwork?

Parents, please make sure all your paperwork is up to date and turned in. We need the following up-to-date forms: Enrollment Agreement, Registration Emergency Information Form, and the Certificate of Immunization and the newest Certificate of Exemption form if your child does not have all the state required immunizations. Remember tuition is due on the first of each month and you will receive a statement with a late fee if your tuition is paid after the 10th of the month. The $50 materials and $25 registration fee will be due with September's payment if they have not already been paid.

August 27: Work Party

There will be a work party on August 27, from 10 AM until 2 PM to finish up some needed chores and cleaning at the school. Please come and help out. It is an excellent way to meet other parents and set a great example to your children of helping support their school.

The Sound of Music

August 15: Chamber Music Festival Children's Concert

The Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, generous sponsor of past music workshops and the source of funding for many of our classroom instruments, is holding a Children's Concert. The popular children's musician Rachel Buchman will be in the performance. The concert will be held at Orcas Center on Monday, August 15, at 1 PM.

"Pied Piper" Program

The Chamber Music Festival is going to be sponsoring the "Pied Piper" program this upcoming school year, which will feature several classroom visits to the preschool by island musicians. We have already had two visits during our summer program and the children enjoyed the up close, hands-on introductions.

Spread the Word, Get Involved

Want to Help the School Earn $9,750?

What would happen if each of our 25 (or so) Orcas Montessori families found just two people to donate $10 a month to the school? We'd earn **$6,000** annually from the donations.

What would happen if each family asked five friends to shop through the Orcas Montessori Amazon Link? If they each spent $500 in a year, at a rate of 6% per transaction, Orcas Montessori would earn **$3,750** per year.

That's nearly $10,000 annually to help support the mission of the Orcas Montessori School. And all you have to do is ask.

Let's Do It!

Let's get this year off to a great financial start. Talk to your friends and family about how they can support the amazing children at Orcas Montessori School by giving just $5, $10, or $15 a month at www.orcasmontessori.org/donate. Email your contacts to ask them to choose www.orcasmontessori.org/amazon/ every time they shop at Amazon*. Or simply post both links to your Facebook account and see what happens.

**Orcas Montessori School encourages you to shop locally when you can. When you can't, use our Amazon link.*

August 20: Community Open House

On Saturday, August 20, from 10 AM until noon, we will be hosting an open house to fill any remaining spots. Please invite your friends and acquaintances with young children to come. You are our ambassadors in the community and we depend on you to spread the word about our program and the benefits you've seen with your own child.

September 1: Potluck

Please don't miss our back to school potluck on Thursday, September 1, 5-7 PM. This is an opportunity to reconnect with the other families and get ready for the school year! Families with last names starting with A-G please bring a salad, H-M bring a main course, N-S bring fruit and T-Z bring dessert. If you have favorite potluck dish that doesn't fit into your category, bring it anyway. We look forward to seeing you there.

September 24: Calling All Bakers!

Do you make a mean chocolate chip cookie? Are you known for your scrumptious carrot cake? Get your butter and sugar and get ready to bake! Our first fabulous bake sale of the year will be September 24, in front of Island Market.

Early next month, you will find sign-up sheets in the school foyer. Please sign up to make at least one of the items on the list, or feel free to suggest some other delicious item that you love to bake. And please note that if there is something special about your item--whether it is organic, gluten-free, or made from an old family recipe, for example.

Please also sign up to work a shift at the table if you can. It's a fun and simple way to make money for the school. We have found that if we offer lots of appealing items, carefully priced, a good bake sale can make $1,000! Thanks for being sweet and helping out!