

F E B R U A R Y 1 5 , 2 0 1 1

ORCAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 7

Art and our Montessori Classroom

As a follow up to our recent Community Education Night, I have a request for all of our parents. If you joined us at the library, you (hopefully) learned that we see imagination as a creative potential that can, after much work, give rise to unique artistic creations. The classroom offers many materials to further the refinement of the children's senses, and places an emphasis on using real tools to develop the coordination of their hands. Our aim is to help the children discover and give shape to whatever content their minds may hold. We stress the fact that art requires a great deal of practice and are careful to avoid placing either judgment or unasked for praise upon the children's attempts.

Of course, we also hope to inspire the children by offering them a room that is rich with examples of literature, music and art. This is where you can help! If you happen to have any pieces of artwork (paintings, sculpture, weavings, music, poems etc) that you would be willing to part with for a short time, consider loaning it to our ever-changing "Montessori Museum". Our hope is that by seeing that "art" can be made by anyone, our children will continue to grow more comfortable with their own endeavors. Our general topic this month is sculpture, and we owe a great thank you to Sally Buchanan for her wonderful contributions (now being displayed on the piano). If you can add to our collection, please let me know. See you all at the tea!

Head Guide Tom Rubottom



Calendar

Thursday, February 17
Midwinter Tea
10:30am at the school

February 21-25
Midwinter Break
no school

Wednesday, March 16
Re-enrollment deadline
for returning students

Saturday, March 19th
Community Open House

Saturday, April 2
Children's Open House

Saturday, April 30
SPRING AUCTION!!!

leela



✕ Our Big Fat Fabulous Fundraiser! ✕

It's a ton of fun, and it's a ton of work - it's the biggest fundraiser of the year. Parents, we're going to need your help! We're gearing up for a festive evening at Emmanuel Episcopal Parish Hall. Local musicians will help set the tone. Partygoers will enjoy a wine tasting showcasing Sonoma wines, and appetizers from local restaurants.

We're planning for three categories of auction items. First, we'll offer large planters, adorned with trellises and planted with spring flowers.

Please be on the lookout for large found object vessels and pots for this purpose. Second, we'll be promoting donations to the school by identifying school items for bidding. For instance, a bidder will be able to make a \$1000 contribution to the scholarship fund, or a \$100 donation to buy a new classroom chair. Third, we'll be offering certificates for services, provided by our students' families. For example, Lisl Thomsen will offer a certificate to make a birthday cake for the winning bidder. Andrew Stephens will offer a certificate good for the milling of lumber. Every family will contribute a certificate. **Please think about what you can contribute**, for instance, 5 hours of housecleaning, a once-a-month batch of homemade cookies, or an afternoon of garden work. You can be as creative with this as you would like, or you can keep it simple. Share your special skill!

In addition to contributing a certificate from the auction, **all of our families will need to help with the event**. We will develop a list of tasks as planning continues, but already we know we will need somebody to bartend, and several people to serve and bus. We'll also need people to pour wine at the tasting tables, and a group of volunteers who can stay late for cleanup.

This is the big one, folks! We count on our largest fundraiser of the year to bring the money that we need to make our budget. This year our operating and scholarship needs are high, and we need **100% participation** to create a successful and fun evening. So let's all roll up our sleeves and show this island a great time!



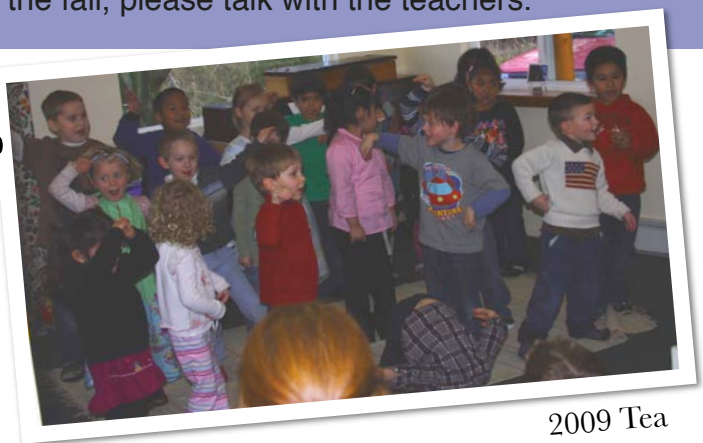
A table display from the 2010 auction



Open House

If you love our school, help it thrive by spreading the word! Tell others about the positive impact the school has had on your child and family. New students are essential to the health of our program. We have a large group of graduating students leaving for first grade next year, so we will have several openings for new 3-year-olds. Talk to your friends and encourage them to attend our Open House on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am. Here's an incentive: if a new student enrolls due to your efforts, you will receive one month of free lunches for your child!

Midwinter Tea This Thursday



2009 Tea

The children have been busy preparing for Thursday's Midwinter Tea by making decorations and props, and learning the songs and poems. Be ready to enjoy one of the sweetest events of the year!

While the older year children are looking forward to their announcing duties, what the younger children may do is anyone's guess. Don't be surprised if your child becomes shy looking at the sea of faces and makes a beeline for the safety of your lap. This probably is their first performance before a large group of people. It's fine – they don't have to perform.

The room will be jam packed, so if you would like to invite more than your immediate family, please talk to us. On the other hand, if no family member or close friend can attend, please tell us. We will arrange for your child to sit with a family that they know.

Please sign up to bring food if you haven't already done so. **Please bring it at 8:15** when you drop off your child so that we can get it out on the tables well before the start of the tea.

Please do be on time. **The show starts at 10:30.** Your children do not want you to miss their performance and we can't hold them captive "on stage" waiting to begin for very long. The performance is very short so if you are late you will probably miss it! **Give yourself plenty of time to find parking.** If our lot is full, you can park in the day park on the corner. Please do not park along the street, in our neighbor's driveways or yards and avoid blocking our upstairs tenant's driveway.

Come prepared for acres of cute!

Director Teresa Chocano

Save Your Spot for the 2011/2012 Year

Believe it or not, it's already time to think about the next school year! **Re-enroll your current student by March 16** to guarantee your requested spot. After that date, we will open enrollment to the community. Scholarship applications will be available March 1 and should be turned in with your re-enrollment application. The final deadline for scholarship applications is April 15. Scholarship awards will be determined by June 1, and applications turned in after that time may be considered and awarded if there are adequate funds. If you need help deciding whether your child will be ready for full school days in the fall, please talk with the teachers.