

J A N U A R Y 1 5 , 2 0 1 1

# ORCAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6

## \*New Activities for a New Year\*

It has been wonderful seeing the class reunite after our holiday vacation, and things are off to a busy start in the New Year. The science shelf has turned its focus to a brief study of the ocean and the amazing life that can be found beneath the waves. I'd like to offer a personal thank you to Dr. George Rubottom for the contribution of many exciting scuba photographs. The children have been enjoying the school's large collection of seashells and the challenge of determining whether or not a given animal is a fish. In other areas, the Practical Life shelves are now offering a variety of sewing projects, and the art shelf (with some great input from Ina) is gearing up for the introduction of a number of new and more complex artistic media. While still a month or so away, the children have begun to ponder their performance at the Mid-Winter Tea. I would like to take one last moment to remind folks to sign up for conferences if you have not done so already, and to mention the upcoming Community Education night. This time we'll be looking at imagination and art within the Montessori curriculum. Thanks to all for your amazing support. Happy New Year!

*Head Guide Tom Rubottom*



### Calendar



January 17

MLK Day

**NO SCHOOL**

OICF Day of Service

January 20

Parent Night

5:30 at the library

February 12

Bake Sale

Island Market

February 14

Valentines Exchange

February 17

Midwinter Tea

10:30 a.m.



# MIDWINTER TEA

Parents, mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb 17, for our Mid-Winter Tea. This is an event not to be missed! The children are starting to plan their performance and will soon begin practicing pouring tea and serving refreshments. The tea is a potluck, so please sign up to bring something, which you can drop off when you bring your child in the morning. We hope all our families can join us.



The event will begin at 10:30 am with the children singing a few songs, followed by the sit down tea. Please come on time. The performance is short and you may miss it if you are late!

Siblings are welcome. Since space is limited, please check with us if you would like to bring more than your immediate family. If you or another significant person in your child's life is unable to come, please let us know so that we will make sure your child has an adult to sit with.

Morning children should come at their usual time, and children who usually come in the afternoon should come at 10. If your child does not usually come on Thursdays, please bring him or her at 10.

We are looking for volunteers to pick up folding chairs from Odd Fellows Hall in the morning, and return them after the tea. Please let Teresa know if you are able to help.

## *Valentines Day at Montessori School*

Valentine's Day is Monday, Feb 14, and your children are invited to bring valentines, either homemade or store-bought, on that day. If your child does not attend school on Mondays, we will distribute your child's valentines on Tuesday. It is certainly not mandatory that your child bring valentines but it is a great way for the children to practice writing.



If your child plans to make valentines, we suggest starting them well ahead of time, so they do not all need to be made at one sitting. This can make it a much more enjoyable experience for you and your child.



To help make distribution easier for us, please do not write the name of the recipient on the valentines, and please don't include candy. If your child chooses to bring valentines, please bring 26 so that there is one for each child. Thank you! The children look forward to this sweet tradition.

*Director Teresa Chocano*

# Bake Sale February 12th at Island Market

Mark your calendars for a sweet bake sale, just before the sweetest holiday! This bake sale will feature treats for people to buy for their sweeties. Look for a sign up sheet on the school door as the date approaches. Our bake sales this year have been wonderfully successful, and our February sale is sure to be another hit!



## National Day of Service January 17th

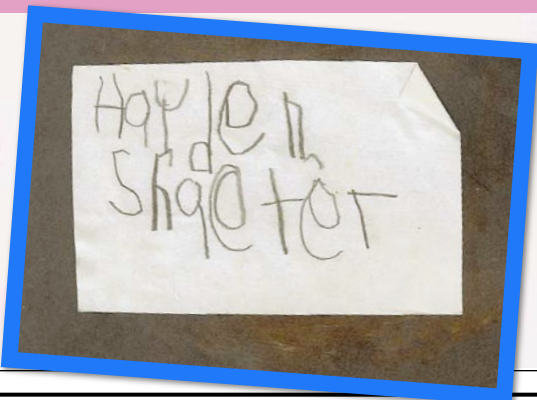
Orcas Island Community Foundation is organizing an National Day of Service event for Orcas on Martin Luther King Day.

There will be an informational open house at the public school cafeteria from 11-3 for local non-profits, where Teresa will have a table representing our school. Several projects are planned around the community including chip spreading on the public school playground, data entry for Orcas Island Education Foundation, and sidewalk sweeping at Orcas Island School District. At the Montessori school, we'll be working on garden clean-up. Please let Tara know if you are able to help out. Thank you for your participation in this community event.

## Art and the Imagination

The next Parent and Community Education Night will feature feature "Art and the Imagination in the Montessori Curriculum." Please join us on January 20th, at 5:30 at the public library, for what is sure to be an interesting presentation.

Please let Teresa know by January 18th if you plan to use childcare, which will be provided at the school.



Artwork by Hayden