



Family & Community Newsletter

May 15, 2011

Volume 4, Number 10

One Amazing Year at OMS

Calendar

- **May 21**
Bake Sale
- **May 30**
Memorial Day
(no school)
- **June 2**
End-of-the-Year
Ceremony and last day
of school
- **June 20**
Spanish Summer
Session 1 Begins
- **July 2**
Independence Day
Parade

Well, here we are in the last few weeks of school. What an amazing year it has been, and what a joy it is to see the growth that all the children have made.

The class is busy finishing up a wide variety of projects, getting things ready for the end-of-the-year play, and generally enjoying the apple blossoms and garden starts.

I want to wish all the returning students a wonderful summer. Big things await you in the fall. And to our students and families who are moving on, I want to give a heartfelt "thank you" for all of your humor, your hard work, and your amazing help in making the past three

years some of the most memorable in my career as a Montessori guide.

You will be sorely missed in the days to come, and all of you are welcome to visit any time!

Hope to see you at the Fourth of July parade, the summer programs, and the Farmers Market booths, as we have many exciting things planned for the summer months.

Until next year, here's wishing you good health, good fortune, and the time to enjoy it!

*Tom Rubottom,
Head Guide*



End-of-the-Year Ceremony



It is almost here! Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 2, at 10:30 and be

sure to attend! Our end-of-the-year ceremony is a truly special event that has been a tradition for the school's 22-year history.

The ceremony will take place in the backyard, weather permitting. The children will present a play they are writing, complete with props they are making. Our youngest chil-

dren's parts consist of being the chorus, while the older children will assume their place as class leaders with speaking parts.

After the play, each child will be presented with an attribute certificate and a flower. The attribute reflects a quality that your child embodies or is in the process of refining.

The children who have completed their kindergarten year here will receive certificates of graduation from the program

in celebration of their hard work and commitment.

The ceremony will be followed by a potluck and families will leave together after the potluck. There will be no afternoon session. We ask that you drop off the children who normally come in the afternoon at 9:30 am so that they can run through the dress rehearsal with us.

Teresa Chocano, Director

Apartment for Rent



The school's renter has decided to move, so we are looking for another long-term renter to occupy the

one-bedroom apartment above the school. The rent is \$750 per month, features a washer/dryer, and includes water, power, and heat. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Teresa for an application.

Parade, Spanish Program and T-Shirts, Oh My!

July 2: Independence Day Parade

This year Orcas Montessori will be marching in the Fourth of July parade. This year's theme is "Celebrate the Arts," which lends itself to all kinds of creative ideas for our troupe.

All students--graduating, current, new, and summer students--are welcome to march with us. We will need a few parents to coordinate our entry and to accompany us in the parade. If you would like to help, please talk to Teresa.

Summer Spanish Program Enrollment

It is time to enroll for the summer program. This year's format will change slightly, as we are offering two sessions of three weeks each. The sessions will run Monday through Friday from 9-1 and tuition is \$400 per session. The session dates are: June 20-July 8, and July 18-August 5.

The children will be introduced to beginning Spanish through total physical response (TPR) exercises, stories, games, and songs. We will create art projects inspired by Hispanic cul-

ture. We will spend time outside exploring the natural world around us and working in the garden. We are happy to have a high school student from our original class 13 years ago as an assistant!

Please fill out a registration form and turn in your deposit to secure a place in either or both sessions.

Get Your Orcas Montessori T-Shirt

Coming soon: Orcas Montessori School t-shirts will be available for sale (for you and your child). These attractive t-shirts make a wonderful addi-

tion to your wardrobe and help spread the word about our school. If you would like to order one, please tell Teresa what size.



Spring Auction a Smashing Success

Wow, What a Night!

On Saturday, April 30, the sun shone brightly through the windows of the Emmanuel Episcopal Parish Hall, matching the sunny mood of our auction partygoers. OMS families and friends, community supporters, and wine lovers turned out to sample premium wines and wonderful food, all in support of Orcas Montessori School.



We are delighted to announce we raised a total of \$16,000 for the school, beating our goal of \$10,000. This total includes an anonymous donation of \$5,000. In addition, we obtained a \$1,000 pledge to our Appleseed Scholarship Fund for September.

Thank You!

As always, the success of our biggest fundraiser of the year depends on the generosity of our dear Orcas community. We hope you saw our Letter to the Editor in the *Sounder* and were amazed by the number of wonderful community supporters who stepped up to the plate for us.

But the event couldn't have happened without the enthusiasm and dedication of our OMS families. In particular, we thank Autumn and Chimo for organizing an amazing wine tasting and creating such a special focus for this year's auction.

Tara did a fabulous job as chief food planner and Lisl successfully solicited donations from many Orcas restaurants. Once again, Joe Thoron hosted the evening with his usual grace and humor. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Alyson who spent countless hours organizing, designing, writing, printing and keeping the rest of us on schedule.

Thank you, too, to all who helped plan, call, set up, serve, pour, clean up, and tear down. Thank you Jessica Stahl and Teresa, Tom, and Ina. Thank you Sommer, Renee, Kari, Madeline, Sarah, and Jessica Haug. Thank you Noah, Dusti, Krista, Yuri, Christopher, and Yara. Thank you Erica, Erin, Justin, Ed, Angela, Heidi, Debbie, and Jackie. Once again, Sally and Bruce Buchanan stayed until the bitter end and we only hope we have the same stamina when we're someone's grandparents.



Most importantly, thank you to all our families for donating such an intriguing and diverse range of services and objects for this year's auction. This new format was received with much interest and appreciation. We'll be contacting you soon to let you know who placed the winning bid on each of your items.

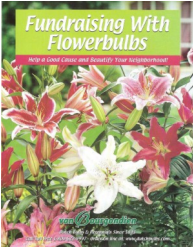
Cheers and Happy Spring,

Stacey Lancaster

On behalf of the 2011 Spring Auction Committee

What's Happening

Spring Bulb Sale Earns \$300



Thanks to the Orcas Montessori families who helped earn \$300 for the school by selling spring bulbs. We

are planning to bring back this fundraiser in the fall when it comes time to plant tulip and daffodil bulbs.

May 21: Calling All Bakers!



On May 21, Orcas Montessori will host its fourth and final bake sale of the school year at Island Market.

We still need a couple more volunteers to help staff the bake sale booth. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the school.

Amazon Purchases Earn Orcas Montessori Funds



It's quite possibly the easiest fundraiser Orcas Montessori has in place: every time you make a purchase at <http://amazon.orcasmontessori.org/> our school gets 6% of the proceeds. Just make sure you purchase items in your shopping cart within 24 hours. The more people who use the link, the more money Orcas Montessori earns. Tip! Add the link to your Internet Explorer Favorites or Favorites bar.

Remember: Shop local if you can. If you can't, visit <http://amazon.orcasmontessori.org/>.

