



## Family & Community Newsletter

September 15, 2011

Volume 5, Number 1

### *Digging into a New School Year*

#### Calendar

- **September 17**  
New Parent Orientation  
10 AM
- **September 24**  
Bake Sale 10-4
- **October 6**  
Flu Shot Clinic 8:30 AM
- **Now – October 21**  
Fall Bulb Sale

Hello everybody!

By the time this is published, we will have begun classes, but I still want to take a moment to welcome all of you to what I am confident will be a truly amazing year.

I'd also like to offer a gigantic "thank you" to everyone who so kindly helped us get our school ready for the children over these past few weeks of summer. As you have no doubt noticed, we have had a change in staff. While a class-

room without Ina will take some getting used to, I am delighted with our new assistant Serena, whose bright energy has really revitalized our program. September can be a notoriously busy time, but please remember that we are always available to chat about any questions or concerns you may have.

And now, on with the show!

Best,

*Tom Rubottom, Head Guide*



### *Parents of New and Returning Students*

#### New Parent Orientation

We offered a new parent orientation on Wednesday September 14 at the school. If you were unable to attend that session, please make time to attend the alternate session on Saturday, September 17, at 10 AM. There will be no childcare offered.

This orientation is mandatory for new parents to help give you a better understanding of your child's experience here and the basics of the Montessori Method. We promise to make it enjoyable--you will have the opportunity to get your hands on the materials, experience a "lesson" with

Tom, and hear about the rhythm of your child's day.

#### Important Reminders

If your child will be late to school or absent, PLEASE CALL TO LET US KNOW. For that reason, we won't be waiting for a child who isn't coming, and we will know ahead of time how much food to prepare and save on waste. If several children are absent, this can add up. We realize it may seem like one more small detail in your busy life, but it is important to us.

Please make sure that we have your child's **new immunization form** on file. It is a state requirement that we have a current form for each child

attending. If you have not turned in a form for this year, please pick one up in the entry and fill it out as soon as possible.



#### Flu Shot Clinic

The Public Health Department will be holding a flu shot clinic at Kaleidoscope on Thursday, October 6, at 8:30 AM. This is a voluntary clinic.

#### Apartment for Rent

**FOR RENT**  
We are once again seeking a long-term renter to occupy the one-bedroom apartment above the school. The rent has been reduced to \$650 per month. The apartment features a washer/dryer, and includes water, power, and heat. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Teresa for an application.

*Teresa Chocano, Director*

## Volunteers: Let's Pull Together!

### Too Good to Miss



Wouldn't you like to see the inner workings of the school lunch program?

We still need a lunch cleanup person to come on Wednesdays from noon until about 12:45 to help clean up from lunch- load the dishwasher, wipe down tables and sweep. It's a great way to see what goes on during this busy time of day indoors and out from the kitchen window. Please talk to Teresa if you can commit to this weekly.

### Another Great Opportunity to Serve

We are in need of an afternoon cleaner on Thursdays. This is a

wonderful way to help your child's school, see the classroom up close, and make sure the children's environment is clean. The school needs to be cleaned every afternoon and if there is not a parent to do this, Tom and Teresa need to stay after school and clean instead of planning curriculum and preparing materials.

### Volunteers Needed for Outdoor Projects

There are still some unfinished projects here at the school that we need help with!

We have a big pile of branches, brambles and weeds that we need hauled away. We want our compost pile to produce compost but instead we have blackberries in it and growing

out of it. This would help us get our compost back under control for our garden.

We need help in the garden: our summer plants are done, old blossoms need to be cut off, and old plants and weeds removed to make way for fall planting. We are looking for landscape cloth to put down



and wood chips to spread between the garden beds to keep the weeds down and eliminate the need to weed whack the grass between the garden beds.

We are looking to replace the logs that are rotting around our swings to keep the woodchips from spreading out all over the yard.

The north side of our building and trim still needs its two coats of stain to match the rest of the building. We would like to get it done before winter rain and cold weather set in.

Finally, as the apples ripen, we will need volunteers to pick them. We also need fruit boxes, so if you have some, please feel free to drop them by.

## In Other News...

### Thank You to Departing Board Members

Orcas Montessori School has been fortunate to have a number of dedicated board members over the past years. Board members help to organize fundraising activities that are vital to keeping our school on sound financial footing.

A heartfelt "thank you" goes to **Joe Thoron, Stacey Lancaster, Sally Buchanan, and Alyson Stephens** who have all put in countless hours raising money and doing volunteer work for Orcas Montessori School.

### Welcome to Mike Douglas

We are pleased to welcome Mike Douglas to the Orcas Montessori School board. Mike has graciously offered to take on the role of treasurer. Mike has experience as an educator

and as the director of the Four Winds Westward Ho Sailing Camp. Mike has a personal connection to the school and the Montessori Method. His daughter is a Montessori teacher in the Seattle area and he watched his granddaughter flourish at Orcas Montessori School. Welcome Mike!

### Orcas Family Connections Resource Center

Orcas Island families are assisted by the Orcas Family Connections Resource Center. Erin O'Dell, the family advocate, assists families with a great many issues that island families grapple with. The resource center has moved its office to its new location in the newly constructed addition at Kaleidoscope. The phone number is 376-3184. The center is now seeking members during its membership drive. Your membership donation

will help provide the funding to continue with the organization's programs.

### OMS Represented at Day of Caring



Orcas Montessori School participated in the United Way Day of Caring on Saturday, September 10. The task? Help tidy the flowerbeds at the Orcas Senior Center. United Way has provided crucial grant funding for Orcas Montessori School.

### Orcas Montessori Earns \$1,000 at Doe Bay Fest

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for the Doe Bay Fest. I hope you all had lots of fun checking IDs, which started with the year 1990! The music was even more incredible this year, and the overall vibe was excellent. You all contributed to helping our wonderful school continue to flourish. If you have feedback on how we can enhance this volunteer event, I would love to hear from you. If you couldn't make it this year, I highly recommend you come play with us next year--you will not regret it. Thank you again.

*Jessica Hang*

## Fall Fundraisers Are Here!

### Fall Bulb Fundraiser



Do you know a few gardeners? From now through October 21, Orcas Montessori School is running a Fall Bulb Sale. The bulb sale is a great fundraiser for the Orcas Montessori School. We will keep half of

what we sell. We are asking each family to sell some flower bulbs. Last spring we raised \$300. Let's triple that number this fall!

Watch your box in the foyer for a packet including a color brochure with photographs of the plants we are selling. There also will be instructions for taking orders and collecting money. Want to start right away? Email or Facebook the online link to your friends and family to help spread the word. The link is <https://www.dutchbulbs.com/fg/orcasmontessori> and shipping is a flat \$5 for all orders. If you have questions, contact [Angela Saxe](#).

### September 24: Bake Sale

Our first bake sale of the year will be September 24, in front of Island Market.

Please sign up to make at least one of the items on the list in the school foyer or suggest some other delicious item that you love to bake. Be sure to note if there is something special about your item--whether it is organic, gluten-free, or made from an old family recipe. Please also sign up to work a shift at the bake sale table.

Bake sales are 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!

Additionally, we will be selling fall bulbs at this year's bake sale. So be sure and spread the word. The more people who attend our bake sale, the more money we earn.



## Ongoing Fundraisers for Orcas Montessori School

### Grounds for Growth Coffee



Not many schools have their own line of coffee. Orcas Montessori actually has four blends in our Grounds for Growth Coffee line: Decaf (red bag), Medium Blend (green bag), Special Blend (silver bag), and Dark Roast (black bag). Our coffee is quite tasty, and we are pleased to have many regular customers enjoying their favorite blend at home. A bag of coffee also makes a great gift for any occasion...or "just because".

Avalanche Distributing in Zillah WA (family of a past parent), roasts, bags, and labels the coffee for us at a special price. Each 12 oz bag of coffee is available in whole bean or ground for \$10. An honor box is available in the school foyer. Espresso ground and monthly orders are available upon request. We also can special order five pound bags for \$50 (20 oz free compared to the per bag rate). In addition to the honor box, Grounds for Growth Coffee is sold at all bake sales and other school functions, with net proceeds going directly to our wonderful Montessori program.

If you have any questions or need more information, contact past parent Cathy Faulkner at 376-2434 or [me@cathyfaulkner.com](mailto:me@cathyfaulkner.com).

### Recycle Printer Cartridges at OMS

Are you looking for a way to recycle your empty printer cartridges? Orcas Montessori School's Cartridges for Kids program will turn your empty ink jet, laser, and toner cartridges into cash for the school. Generic and refillable cartridges cannot be recycled through this program.

Bring your empty cartridges to us and we'll do the rest. Our collection bin is open 24/7 at the foyer entrance.

Free collection bags are also available. If you have any questions or need more information, contact past parent Cathy Faulkner at 376-2434 or [me@cathyfaulkner.com](mailto:me@cathyfaulkner.com).

**Make Your Online Purchase Count!**

Can't find it locally? Then make your online purchase count for Orcas Montessori School. When you make a purchase at <http://amazon.orcasmontessori.org/> our school gets 6% of the proceeds. So spread the word and use this link whenever you shop online.

**amazon.com**