



Family & Community Newsletter

March 15, 2011

Volume 4, Number 8

Signs of Spring at Orcas Montessori

Calendar

- **March 16**
Pre-registration due for the 2011-2012 school year
- **March 17**
Parent Night 5:30 PM
- **March 19**
Community Open House 10 AM to 1 PM
- **April 2**
Children's Open House
- **April 18-22**
Spring Break!
- **April 30**
Spring Auction 6 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Parish Hall

Well, despite the recent blizzard, spring is definitely in the air. Inside the room, we've made the rains welcome with a look at swamps, marshes, and amphibians. Last year we had the great pleasure of following the growth of a batch of tadpoles. If you have access to a nice pond, we would love to get some new frog eggs for our aquarium.

On the playground, the children having been watching the trees for the first signs of apple buds and are eager to get started in the garden. If you would like to help in our annual planting, please talk to Teresa.

Of course, this spring has brought its share of runny noses and a particularly wicked

cough, so do make sure that your children are still bringing clothes suitable to the weather.

In other news, Teresa and I are off to spend a weekend in Seattle at a Montessori professional development conference: Nature and Human Development. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with other Montessori teachers from around the nation, and always seem to inspire us to new work for the children. We plan to share what we learn with you at our final Parent/Community Education night, where we'll be discussing the role of nature, media, and the outside environment from a Montessorian perspective. Hope to see you there.

Head Guide Tom Rubottom



Community Open House March 19

Encourage your friends and neighbors with young children to attend our Open House on Saturday from 10 to 12. This is a great opportunity for their children to see the school and explore the materials, while parents talk to the staff and get their questions answered about our program.

Due March 16: Pre-register Your Child for Next Year

Spring is in the air and it is time to re-enroll your child for next school year. Turn your pre-registration forms in by Wednesday, March 16, to ensure that your child gets the schedule you prefer. After March 16, registration will be open to the community. If you are not sure whether your child is ready for an all day program, speak to Tom or Teresa. We also have a five-morning option.

Already, there are several students on the waiting list for

next year, and we look forward to welcoming a new crop of three-year-olds. Please let your friends know that we are accepting pre-registration forms at this time. Registering early puts them higher on the enrollment roster.

Expect Returning Students to Blossom

If your child is returning for a second year, you will be amazed at their transformation when they confidently walk through the door in September

as seasoned students--ready to assist their new young classmates. If your child is returning for a third year, you will see her blossom into her new role as a class leader and take on some of the work she has been watching the leaders do this past year. As you observe this process, the benefits of the three-year program become amazingly clear.

Scholarship forms are also available and should be turned in as soon as possible. Registration forms can be given to

Teresa or placed in her mailbox.



See Your Child in Action

April 2: Don't Miss the Children's Open House

Ever wonder what your child likes to do at school? Be sure to attend the Children's Open House on Saturday April 2, one of the favorite events of the year. This is when your child will show you some of his favorite work. We will post a signup sheet, so your family can reserve a 20-minute time-slot. By having only 4 or 5 families at a time, it doesn't get too crowded. We ask that you respect the time limit, even though your child may want to

show you everything. Some children get shy, while others go all out. Please remember that they are working on the process and not the product. If, for instance, your child does a math problem and gets an incorrect answer, instead of pointing out the mistake, you could wait and see if he discovers it. Many of the materials are self correcting and he will discover it at some point—if not, simply suggest that he counts it again. It's a wonderful event, so don't miss it!

Sign Up for Parent Observations

It's time to sign up for the second round of Parent Observations. Get greeted at the door by our class leaders who will escort you to a seat and offer you tea (please say "yes"). You will be amazed at what the activity in the classroom looks like now as opposed to the beginning of the year. It is a joy to watch the bustle of so many children busy at work. If you missed the first round, please be sure to come—it will help you see first-hand what is go-

ing on in your child's day. Plus, you will be able to match the faces to the names of the children your child has been talking about.



Help Needed for Spring Auction on April 30



We're thrilled to have Joe Gaydos returning as our auctioneer this year! He did a fantastic job for us two years ago. Live and silent auction items will include scholarships and other direct school needs, large planted pots, and services donated by our school families.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is just six weeks away! The party will start at 6 p.m. on April 30th, at Emmanuel Episcopal Parish Hall. Chimo and Autumn Boehm are lining up some wonderful wines for the wine-tasting event. Local restaurants will provide appetizers. The list of participating restaurants and cooks is growing and so far includes Deer Harbor Inn, Fire, Orcas Hotel, Heather Smith, the Kitchen, and Tracy Todd. We're still looking for musicians to play at the event and would love your ideas.

Got a Service or Item to Offer?

Please think about a service or item that your family can contribute. This can be either a service you provide or an item you agree to make for the winning bidder. You should have received a form recently in your cubby. If you have not already done so, please fill it out and return it as soon as possible. The sooner we have our list of items, the more time we'll have to create an eye-catching display.

Help Wanted

Here's the second way to help: we need your assistance at the event. Specifically, we are looking for people to help us with set up and people who can stay late at night to clean up. We also need several folks at the wine tables to pour wine or to punch tickets. We'll have lots of other jobs to do as we finalize plans. Parents, please fill out your recommitment form to let us know how you can help. Other community members can phone 376-5868 to volunteer.

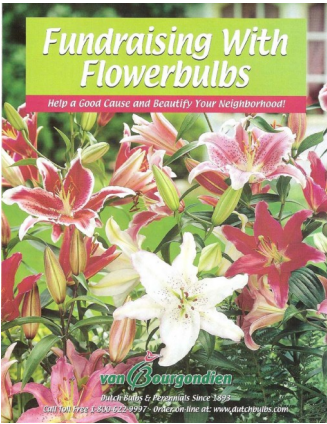
With your help, we can put together an extraordinary fundraiser for our school!

A Few of Our Auction Items

- **Jessica Haug:** One-hour massage
- **Chimo & Autumn Boehm:** Wine-tasting party for ten
- **Lisl Thomsen:** 2-3 hours of domestic assistance (organization, meal planning, and/or budget awareness)
- **Tara Linnes & Stacey Lancaster:** Four hours of gardening
- **Andrew Stephens:** 500 board feet of custom-milled fir
- **Andy Saxe:** Handcrafted toy ferry



New Spring Flower Bulb Fundraiser



For the first time, the Orcas Montessori community is selling bulbs and perennials for a spring fundraiser. We will keep half of what we sell--which is a generous offer from the bulb company for non-profit organizations. We are asking each family to sell some flower bulbs.

Everyone loves flowers so it should be fun. These bulbs will bloom this summer if planted

immediately after they arrive.

You will receive in your mailbox a packet including a color brochure with photographs of the 13 flowering plants we are selling. Please notice the summer daffodils--something new on the market. There also will be instructions for taking orders and collecting money. If you have questions talk with Teresa or Tara Lannes. The important points are that we

must have the names and phone numbers of all the buyers, so we can call them when the bulbs come in. And everyone must pay when they place an order. **Orders must be turned in by April 22.**

At the conclusion of the Spring Flower Bulb Sale, we will ask you if you think this is a fundraiser we should continue. If so, there will be a fall sale for spring-blooming flower bulbs.

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. So spread the word: email your friends and family or post it on Facebook. To make it easy-to-use, simply 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/>.

Pre-Valentine's Bake Sale Earns \$620

In spite of a cold, rainy February day, the latest Montessori School bake sale generated \$620. Thanks to everyone who contributed baked goods. In particular, a HUGE thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers, especially **Stacey and Dusti**, who took on extra shifts and endured the cold and rain for the bulk of the day.

