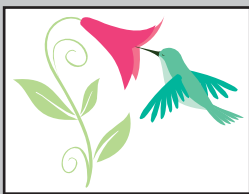


Trillium Charter School is a public school that nurtures each child's inherent curiosity, creativity and connection to community. We support diverse learning styles and use democratic processes to help students grow fully as human beings and contribute to and enhance the world.

# Newsletter

May 2009



Trillium Charter School  
5420 N Interstate Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217  
Phone: 503-285-3833  
Fax: 503-249-0348  
info@trilliumcharterschool.org  
www.trilliumcharterschool.org

# Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

## Dear Trillium Families

By Stephanie Hinkle, Director

The month of May is busy, busy, busy. April left us having the All School Project Fair, and the very next day, we moved right to Senior Project Night. We have just finished most of Trillium in Bloom activities, although the raffles for the wonderful baskets are still happening. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported these events. I spent the last two weeks of April attending senior project review committee meetings. I am the only one who gets to see all of the senior projects and it is quite an honor. I am so impressed with the work the students have done. Students really challenged themselves and learned that they are quite capable people. The projects represented a wide variety of topics from the influence of weather on D-Day to producing a CD of original music. Some students came away with more enthusiasm for their subject, and some with less. Some learned that they needed more support than they thought, while others fully utilized help from the beginning. All said that the length of the writing component (20 pages) challenged them. Some are still editing said writing. A few students believe they should go to college that didn't before the project. Most gained a stronger sense of their capabilities and those capabilities have increased. The struggle the seniors go through in this process, as well as the college entrance process, the idea of leaving home and the realities of becoming an adult all mingle together in this time to cause stress and struggle for the students. While often we try to reduce stress for students, in this case, the stress and struggle are important life lessons. It's a good struggle. It changes students. Their confidence that is gained as a result of the struggle is essential to the growth that they need to take on their next set of challenges.



In the 80's and 90's there was a lot of talk in the parenting and education worlds of building self-esteem. Kids started getting lots of praise. The conventional wisdom was that low self-esteem was because kids didn't get enough unconditional love and acceptance. Well, while unconditional love and acceptance are essential to a healthy human development, they are only underlying supports for self-esteem. They do not necessarily build self-esteem. The main factor that builds self-esteem is accomplishment. In that way, senior projects are the last time Trillium gets the opportunity to influence self-esteem in students. Kids feel better about themselves when they realize that they are capable. This is true from a very young age. Children quite young can distinguish unearned praise from true accomplishment. It is important that children also recognize that unconditional love is not related to accomplishment and is not about doing anything, either good or bad.

We often try to rescue children from emotionally challenging things. This often is a disservice. Children can and need to learn to cope with their world. They need tools

(Continued on Page 4)

## My Plans to Teach Abroad

A letter from Zach Post

Dear Trillium Community,

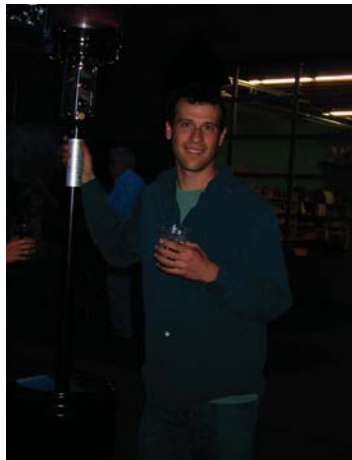
As many of you have heard, there are exciting and major changes on my horizon. I have accepted a job at an international school in the Dominican Republic for the 2009-2010 school year. It has been a career goal of mine to teach in a Spanish speaking country and the timing is right for me. Leaving will certainly be emotional, as I



have been with Trillium since its start in 2002; however, I am confident that the school is on stable footing and able to sustain staffing changes such as this. In my

remaining time, I am committed to providing the highest level of service to our community.

Joining me in the city of Santo Domingo will be my wonderful partner, Kris. I will be working at the Carol Morgan School as an 8th grade U.S. history teacher and Kris will be at the MC School as a counselor and health teacher. Both schools are private non-profit K-12 programs with English based instruction. I am excited for the opportunity to expand my teaching repertoire by working with a new age group. Needless to say, this will be a great stepping-stone to other possible educational adventures and a golden opportunity to gain proficiency in Spanish.



*We'll miss you Zach!*

Many people have wondered if I am coming back to Trillium at the conclusion of my contract. The answer is that I'm really not sure what will unfold. I am not asking for a spot to be held for me. The energy to make this move and to shift gears leaves me thinking we may be away for more than a few years. Additionally, upon our return to the states, we would likely be moving to a rural area outside of Portland. I hope that no matter where I am in the world I can keep a connection with Trillium and with all the families who have opened their hearts to me over the years. Before leaving I will provide the community with a link to a blog as a way to stay in touch.

Working at Trillium has been an honor and allowed me to develop as an educator in ways not possible elsewhere. I want to thank first and foremost the students for their inquisitive minds, kindness, and creative approach to living their lives. They have been, and will remain, my inspiration for doing this line of work. It has been a privilege to watch them grow-up. Saying goodbye to former students has been just as touching as to my current class. I would also like to thank you as families for your trust, humor, and involvement. I feel lucky to work within such an accepting and forward thinking community.

I hope that everyone can share in my excitement. For now, I am savoring the time I still have in this amazing educational environment. Trillium has been my focus for many years and I feel strongly connected with all those parents, staff and students who have given so much time and energy to make it a success. I hope I am so lucky as to find such support and commitment in my future endeavors.

Warmly, Zach Post

## Intensives for Grownups

By Nikos Tzetos

The first annual Intensives for Grownups event was conducted at Trillium on March 14. It was organized by Together for Trillium and provided an opportunity for parents and staff to get together in an informal setting to learn about various topics of interest, as taught by other parents or staff.

Seven classes were on the schedule, ranging from beer making to knitting for all levels. A potluck lunch was organized, and child care was available.

Instructors included Fern Capella, Nikos Tzetos, Will Ganschow, Dawn Weaver, Kerri Creager, Michael Klopfenstein, Korrutai Yujaroen and Rick Burkard. The event went smoothly thanks to the efforts of Kerri Creager.

We are looking forward to a successful event next year!

# TRILLIUM *in* BLOOM

2009 Trillium Charter School Community Showcase and Gala

## Fun! By Kerri Creager

2009's Trillium in Bloom event was a great community-building fun time! We learned about all sorts of things, including the Japanese program, the new rooftop garden, our new lunchtime food program, this year's Kids for Kenya trip, the Why Not program, our seniors' final projects, our high school students' musical talents, how to think about placemaking



(transforming the communities in which we live), how to make great smoked salmon, how to can foods, make rain barrels and fix a flat tire. We also listened to a variety of great music, had a chance to hang out and talk under a fun canopy built by inventive parents, had some wonderful food and drinks, and bought

some amazing artworks. And we're still buying raffle tickets for chances to win those gorgeous baskets of goodies donated by our community members!

School director Stephanie Hinkle gets the credit for this grand vision of a multi-part, all-school event with aspects for all members of our community and ways to showcase our school for the broader community. And many, many staff members, students, and parents made the event possible.

Thank you to the following folks: Stephanie Hinkle, Melynda Retallack, Renee Devereux, Beth Hilton, Megan Klepp, Abby and Dean Boudouris, Dawn Liljenquist, Mary Drinkhouse, James Hindes, Joy Preciso, Dawn Weaver, Polly Christopher, Ken Gadbow and the students from Kids for Kenya and the Why Not programs, Yoko Niki-Breyfogle and the students from the Japanese program, Arianne Newton and the students in the garden program, Kirk Ellis and students from the music program, Nina Thomopson, Niko Tzetos and the River City Pipe Band, April Door-Jorgenson, Rebecca Bateman, Justyn Hegreberg, Tristan Trotter, Ben Cosloy, Jim Barber and their bands Lord Master and Bad Assets, Mykle Hanson, Brent Clarke, Jon Molenkamp, Trent Retallack, Rob van Nood, Genevieve



Bouwes, the Murphy family and their band Ginkgo, Grant Dixon for the wonderful food, Jodie Throckmorton, Kathryn Lavenne, Shanna Maree, Juli Maus, Floyd and Ofelia Bullock, Chenoa Philabaum, Jane Rosenstein, Tom McCourt, Leora Troper, Julie Brush, Jennifer Sample, Susan Millhauser, David Poe, Marie Taylor, Taylor Watkins, Dana Smith, Ben Dyer, Tiffany Harrington, Janet Lageson, Matt Klepp, Kitty, Cristin, all the students who served food and gave presentations and performed, all the parents and staff members who donated artworks to the art sale and goods and services to the classroom baskets, all the parents who helped gather the basket donations and make them beautiful collections to raffle, and all the students and parents who are buying and selling raffle tickets to raise funds.



**W h e w !  
It took lots  
of people to  
make this  
happen and  
it was \*fun\*!**

Take a look at the website ([www.trilliumcharterschool.org](http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org)) for links to more photos from the event. Thanks to Rebecca Bateman, Brian Johnson, and Melynda Retallack for the photography.



We have lots of great ideas already for improving next year's event and we're going to begin planning \*now\*. **If you're interested in helping with the beginning stages of the plan for next year—and celebrating what we managed this year—join us this Sunday night, May 17th, at 5:30 pm.** We'll have a potluck (simple foods are great), figure out the format and date for next year's event, and drink some of the leftover wine. If you can't make the meeting but have ideas,

email Kerri Creager ([kerri@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:kerri@trilliumcharterschool.org)).

## All School Meeting By Rob van Nood

It has been a few months since I shared an update about the All School Meeting. Recently we have seen an upswing in the amount of proposals brought by upper school students. In fact, the majority of the proposals have been coming from the upper school!!! This is so great to see and represents a real shift in the way the All School Meeting has been used. It demonstrates that it has become a place where students of all ages can affect real change to the way the school functions. (In the first years most of the proposals were from the lower school kids and staff.) In my eyes, this has been a long time coming and real sign that the democratic structures that the school is built around are starting to take hold across the age levels.

Please follow the link below to read up on the variety of proposals that have been presented as well as their outcomes. The language of each proposal reflects the final language that was hammered out in the meeting. (Sometimes it looks quite different than the original proposal).

Recent proposals have had to do with skateboarding helmet rules, creation of a prom committee, requests for use of the building by a variety of groups, recommendations for changes to how credits are received by some activities, requests for funding by a variety of groups, changes made to the bathroom and Judicial Committee rules. Those are just the last few weeks.

If you want to know more about how the rules are created, what the rules are or more about this democratic structure at Trillium just look around the rest of the wikispace or send your questions my way.

All School Meetings begin at 11:00 a.m. on each Friday which there are Issues or Proposals are received.

To have an issue put on the ASM agenda, download the form from the ASM website (follow the All School Meeting link from the main Trillium web page: [www.trilliumcharterschool.org](http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org)), fill it out completely, and return it to the drop box in the common space three days prior to the meeting.

To see the agenda, go to: <http://trilliumallschoolmeeting.wikispaces.com/Next+Meeting+Agenda>.

## Dear Trillium Families (Continued from Page 1)

and support, but not rescue. Many children have very traumatic issues to deal with, such as divorce, death, abuse, and neglect. Even these very difficult issues must be addressed by the person experiencing them, even if they are very young. We take away their power if we do not believe they can deal with them at some level. I do not mean that we should not intervene in situations that are damaging. What I mean is that once the safety of the child is achieved we then give them the support to deal with the emotions surrounding the situation. We also have expectations that they will begin to deal with those emotions.

How do we take care of our children while not rescuing them? Sometimes the line is not clear. What is reasonable to expect children to do with their emotions? How can we as the adults handle the pain our children are going through? These are factors that impact our ability to help children navigate tough emotional times. My best advice, as a parent of children, who at a very young age, experienced great loss, is to be willing to let your child cry and feel emotions. Let them realize that emotions won't destroy them, and then let them realize that they do not have to be ruled by those emotions. They can learn to feel and think at the same time. They have built in safeguards that protect them from too much emotion. Emotions do not need to be an excuse for poor decision making and lack of control. Emotions also can be affected by our interpretation of events. We, as thinking beings, get to choose how to view events. We can decide how to think about our experiences, thereby influencing how we feel about events. Thinking and feeling all occur in our brain and are part of our mind. Thinking, at least how I am using the term, refers to the conscious, rational part of our mind. Emotions are thoughts, and can therefore be influenced by other thoughts.



Well, the year is almost over. Only one more letter from me to families for the year. I have really enjoyed this forum, and I thank you for giving me such an outlet. Take care.

# Thank You from TFT (Together for Trillium)! By Kerri Creager

Although it's not quite the end of the year, we wanted to take this chance to thank folks who've helped out with various projects this year. I know we'll have missed some thank you's that are needed but please know it's never deliberate.

- Nikos Tzetos--for jumping in with both feet and organizing our first "Intensives for Grownups" event. And the parents and staff members who gave their time to teach their fellow Trillium adults all sorts of cool skills.
- Lori Preston and Dana McLean--for being dedicated purveyors of SCRIP all year!
- Janet Lageson--for organizing our monthly Coffee Klatches--making staff \*and\* parents happy with coffee and goodies
- Susan Maginn--for coordinating/organizing the weekly Staff Snacks which the staff greatly appreciate
- Marie Taylor and Taylor Watkins--organizing Run for the Arts for the school!
- Renee Devereux--for organizing \*many\* things, including the Chinook Book sales and moderating the parent listserv for the past couple of years
- Matthew Klepp--taking over for Renee as the new moderator for the parent listserv
- Ben and Megan Dyer, Michelle Hightower, Mary Drinkhouse, and all the other parent and student volunteers: for putting on a great Staff Appreciation Dinner yet again!
- Catherine Murphy, Renee Devereux and Ken Gadbow--for working together to give out our first Senior Project grant funds to many of our senior students!
- Our wonderful classroom liaisons: Mary Drinkhouse, April Door-Jorgenson, Chenoa Philabaum, Jennifer Sample, Melissa Crenshaw, Mariah McNiece, Jennifer Jardee-Borquist, Dana Smith, Beth Hilton, Sheila Guardino, Maria Parker, Tina Kolpakowski, Leora Troper, Jane Rosenstein, Kristin Purkapile, Dean Boudouris, John Ross, Shari Trujillo, and Renee Devereux
- Our TFT leaders for this year: Catherine Murphy (communications specialist), Dawn Weaver (treasurer), Ajna Rae (volunteer coordinator), Polly Christopher (teacher representative), Melynda Retallack (board representative), Alexandra Philips (student representative), Mary Drinkhouse (classroom liaison coordinator), Kerri Creager (president--yes, I'm thanking myself--because I was told to)

We've had a small-ish but dedicated group attending Together for Trillium meetings all year. Thank you to everyone who has been involved! *We'd love to involve more folks, so please keep in mind that we meet the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 pm. Childcare is provided.*

For this year's big all-school Trillium in Bloom event, though not strictly TFT events, thank you to:

- The many parent and staff volunteers involved in planning: Stephanie Hinkle, Mary Drinkhouse, James Hindes, Renee Devereux, Melynda Retallack, Dawn Liljenquist, Beth Hilton, Polly Christopher, Arianne Newton, Dean & Abby Boudouris, Megan Klepp, Rebecca Bateman, April Door-Jorgenson, Yoko Niki-Breyfogle, Ken Gadbow, Kirk Ellis, Joy Preciso, Mykle Hansen, Tristan Trotter, Ben Cosloy, Catherine Murphy & family
- All the parents and staff who donated to the Trillium in Bloom Baskets!
- All those who organized the Trillium in Bloom Baskets: Mary Drinkhouse, Dawn Liljenquist, James Hindes, April Door-Jorgenson, Jennifer Sample, Melissa Crenshaw, Jennifer Jardee-Borquist, Chenoa Philabaum, Dana Smith, Sheila Guardino, Kathryn Lavenne, Leora Troper, John and Connie Ross, Arianne Newton, Dana McLees, and also the teachers who helped collect and store the donated items!
- Everyone who donated to the Trillium in Bloom Art Sale!
- Everyone who helped out during this big two-day event!

While I'm at it, there are a few completely non-TFT things for which we should thank people:

- For putting this newsletter together every month--Jodie Throckmorton and Susan Millhauser
- For volunteering on Trillium's active Board of Directors: Jodie Throckmorton, Abby Boudouris, Zach Post, James Hindes, Genevieve Bouwes, Melynda Retallack, David Poe and Jana Potter

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer in the classroom, on fieldtrips, and at various events held throughout the year. Your involvement is great for the school as well as for your children.

Thank you to Stephanie Hinkle who works tirelessly for the success of the school!

And, last but not least, thank you to all the staff members who teach our children with love, respect, and dedication! We greatly appreciate all that you do.

## Classroom Basket Raffle Continues

The Classroom Basket Raffle is still going on! **Tickets, only \$5 each, are on sale through Wednesday, May 27th, in the front lobby at school. The drawing will be on Friday, May 29th, at 9:00 am.** (You don't need to be present to win.) We also encourage students and parents to take tickets to sell to neighbors, families, and friends. Those tickets—sold or unsold—are due back by Friday, May 22nd, so we can sell off any that remain.

Visit the Trillium website for details about the baskets, including pictures and detailed item lists (a few examples are shown below)! These are amazing baskets, so don't miss your chance to win big.

### GARDEN\*

RETAIL VALUE: \$617  
200 TICKETS AVAILABLE  
\*WINNER MUST BE 21+



### MUSIC & DANCE

RETAIL VALUE: \$659  
200 TICKETS AVAILABLE



### PORTLAND

RETAIL VALUE: \$385  
150 TICKETS AVAILABLE



*Trillium's newsletter is produced monthly by parent volunteers Jodie Throckmorton and Susan Millhauser. Submissions to the newsletter are due by the third Monday of the month and can be directed to Jodie. Please contact Jodie at [jodie@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:jodie@trilliumcharterschool.org). Photos or other images along with your submissions are also welcome!*

#### Important Dates

*(Details on the Trillium web calendar.  
All events at Trillium unless otherwise noted.)*

**Sunday, May 17, 5:30pm**

Trillium in Bloom potluck, post-mortem, and party

**Monday, May 18, 6:00pm**

Board Meeting. All are welcome. Kirk's Room

**Friday, May 22, 9:30am**

HS/Intermediate Buddy Field Games 9:30-11:30

**Monday, May 25**

**Memorial Day—No School**

**Tuesday, May 26—Friday, May 29**

6th Grade Outdoor School

**Thursday, May 28**

All School Service Day

**Friday, May 29—K-1-2 Performances**

**Sunday, May 31, 12:00pm**

Intermediate Cookout

**Monday, June 1—Thursday, June 4**

9 AM - Noon Daily  
Middle and Lower School Intensives

**Friday, June 5—Field Day**

**Friday, June 5, 8:00am**

TFT Coffee Klatch. Garden Classroom.

**Saturday, June 6, 2:00pm**

**High School Graduation**

**Monday, June 8, 6:30pm**

TFT Meeting

**Tuesday, June 9—Middle School Exhibitions**

**Wednesday, June 10, 1:15pm**

5th Grade Promotion Ceremony

**Thursday, June 11—**

High School Exhibitions

**Thursday, June 11, 1:15pm**

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

**Friday, June 12—Last Day of School**