

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

November 2009



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Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

Dear Trillium Families

By Stephanie Hinkle, Director

Two months come and gone. Imagine that. Thanks to everyone who has helped so much already this year, from Trillium in Bloom to driving on field trips and campouts. Thanks also for the paper donations that we received. We couldn't do this work without you.

With the Holidays right around the corner, it is a good time to appreciate the simple things in life: spending time with friends and family, accomplishing goals, playing music, cooking, weatherizing our homes. Make plans to enjoy your life. Don't get stuck in the fear that tough times have to rob us of our happiness. We choose. Help others who are struggling. It helps us remember all of that we have.

Our first single parent group will meet Thursday November 19th from 6-7pm. There will be childcare if I receive requests by Monday November 16th. I look forward to seeing several of you that night.

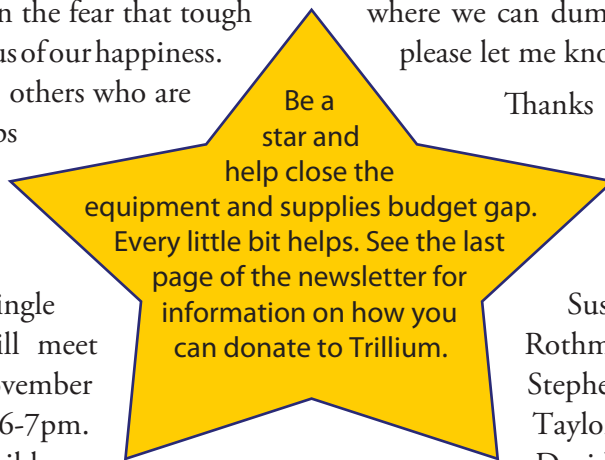
We are working to get a group going for parents of students with special needs. I will get back to you with information when it is available.

We are working on some initiatives this year to improve functionality. Our first one that we are tackling is communication to families, especially about academic progress of students. Please think about this area and any ways that this has been a challenge for you, and share it with your child's advisor during conferences.

We need to remove part of the berm on the Maryland side of the building. If any of you have access to heavy equipment that could help with that task, or know where we can dump the dirt for free, please let me know.

Thanks to our donors this month. They are Jodie Throckmorton & Brent Clark, Susan & Kris Voss-Rothmeier, Renee & Stephen Godish, Marie Taylor, Kitty Pritchett, David Herzfeld, Julie Brush, Sam Garrison & Debora Capper, Jonathan & Juli Maus, and the Mary Vance Trust. We raised another \$5,905. Awesome.

Stay well.



Sign Up For Trillium-Parent Email List

Stay updated on important announcements, meetings, and community events via email. **To sign up for the trillium-parent email list, go to the Trillium website and click on the link, or go to: <http://lists.trilliumcharterschool.org/mailman/listinfo/trillium-parent>.**

Help Re-Imagine Trillium's Front Space! November 17 By Rob van Nood

As you probably already know, a proposal was passed in the All School Meeting last year to close the front parking lot and work to convert it into a community space for the school. With the help of my elective class "Beautiful Trillium" and the wonderfully enthusiastic and well connected organization City Repair (cityrepair.org) we have begun this year long process. The Trillium in Bloom event devoted a whole afternoon to the sharing of ideas about transforming the space and we are now at a place where we would like to assemble a team of interested members of the Trillium community that would make up a "core" group to work on the vision for the space.

Members of my Beautiful Trillium class have been instrumental in getting the ball rolling and thinking about some of the smaller details, but we really need the support of a variety of people from the staff, parents, students and local neighborhood to truly re-imagine the space in its entirety. We have received a lot of feedback and ideas from a variety of people and the job of this core group would be to take these suggestions/ideas and create several proposals to present to the community for further review and discussion. Anyone who is interested or excited about the project may join us, but we are also looking for those who have building, architectural, design, artistic and "big picture" experience.

JOIN US for an evening of creativity and imagination on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30 in the lobby of Trillium. We'll look at and talk about the ideas so far and begin to come up with a larger vision.

If you are interested, have any questions or have ideas please let me know or just show up in two weeks. *This is your chance to have a major role in reshaping the physical space of the school*



Beautiful Trillium Survey NOW ON LINE: Take the Survey & Help Re-imagine Trillium's Front Space

Help us rethink our parking lot area and create a beautiful space. We are conducting a survey to get more ideas about how we can re-imagine the front space at Trillium. Visit the Trillium website, www.trilliumcharterschool.org, and find the survey link directly under the Mission Statement. There are 10 very short questions. Your response would be greatly appreciated by November 16th.

TRILLIUM *in* BLOOM

Trillium Charter School Community Showcase

This Fall's Trillium in Bloom celebration was a huge success!!! Thanks to everyone who helped out, we could not have pulled off this community event without you.

The Friday night House Rock Show was a fantastic showcase of the amazing student talent we have here. The Saturday workshops to help plan the transformation of the former parking lot into Trillium's new "front yard" was amazing. There was such a huge show of support and so many of you participated throughout the day. Thanks so much to City Repair for bringing the T-Horse and giving the placemaking presentations that helped to inspire us all.

This year's event culminated in the Bloom Bash where The River City Pipe Band, Diego Murphy & Ginkgo, and The Golden Greats (all bands containing Trillium parents and friends) let us dance happily into the night.

We did raise some money to go toward Trillium programs, but more importantly, we built on our great community here at Trillium Charter School.



Setting up the amazing tent!



Come to the Trillium in Bloom Wrap-Up Meeting & Plan for Next Year!

By Melynda Retallack & Kerri Creager

Please join us to discuss how this year's Trillium in Bloom event was a success, what we could have done better and how next year's event will be that much more fantastic.

Wrap-up meeting and discussion: Sunday November 15th at 6pm at Trillium

The success of Trillium in Bloom this year was due to participation by all members of our community including the staff, board members, parents and the extended community of neighbors and business owners.

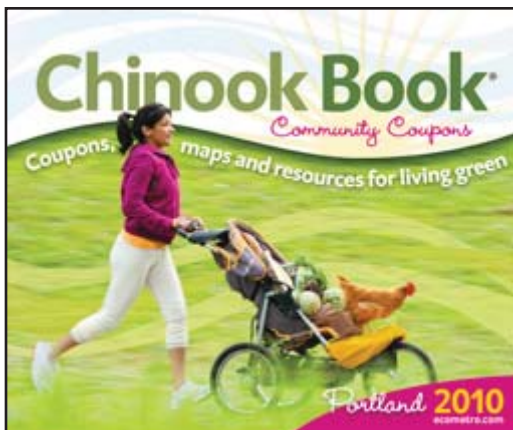
We need YOUR help and need YOUR input to continue to make this event a success next year! See you 11/15/09!

Spring Survey Response

Many of you responded thoughtfully to our annual online parent survey last Spring. Thank You! for taking the time and energy to respond. Your feedback is essential to Trillium's improvement. Stephanie Hinkle (our Director) and James Hindes (Chairman of the Board of Directors) want to let you know how the Board of Directors be using that feedback in 2009-2010.

There were four frequent topics in your comments:

- Trillium's Mission and academic performance: many of you are looking for clearer connections between the Mission and the academic performance of students, teachers, and the school overall. There were many requests for improved visibility of curriculum, learning plans, expected outcomes, and progress against those outcomes.
- Safety: overall, most of you feel your children are safe and that issues can be openly discussed and addressed with staff. This is a significant improvement over responses from a few years ago. Some of you still see opportunities where the school can improve in how it addresses aggressive behavior and bullying.
- Communication: you told us about some things that are working well, and many things that need improvement. Many of the comments encourage communicating sooner and more often. Other highlights include more communication on academics, and more on the role of the Board of Directors.
- Volunteerism: simply put, many of you provided us with some simple suggestions to improve volunteerism.



Briefly, here are the next steps we're planning in the topic areas above:

- Trillium's Mission and academic performance: members of the Board of Directors will lead a dialogue with staff on this topic in November and possibly into December to ensure that the connections do exist and support Trillium's ability to retain and renew its charter. If something more is needed, we'll pursue that. And at minimum, we'll work to improve communication and visibility of those connections and of the school's performance overall.
- Safety: Stephanie and the staff will continue to address safety issues as they arise. If you have specific concerns regarding the individual safety of your child, please discuss it immediately with their advisor or Stephanie (Stephanie@trilliumcharterschool.org).
- Communication: the Board of Directors has reinstated a Communications committee of the Board, effective in late October. More to come on this subject! If you want to be involved or serve on the committee, please check with Jodie Throckmorton (jodie@trilliumcharterschool.org).
- Volunteerism: the Board of Directors will share the collected feedback on this topic with the TFT and support the TFT in improving overall volunteerism.

Thanks again for your responses to the survey, and we look forward to working with as many of you as possible to make improvements (we can't do it on our own)! If you have any questions or concerns regarding our next steps, please contact Stephanie (Stephanie@trilliumcharterschool.org) or James (jhindes@trilliumcharterschool.org).

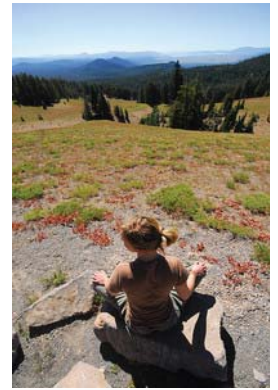
Thanks for Supporting Our School!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Chinook Book fundraiser successful. With your help, we sold almost 120 books, raising about \$1,200 for TFT (Together For Trillium).

Again, thanks for participating! Suzanne Scopes

AFTERCARE!! By Meg Neal

I arrive at Trillium with a degree in Early Childhood Education from Ohio University, a year of teaching 2nd/3rd grade and two years in a preschool classroom under my belt. I lived in my college town of Athens, Ohio for almost 8 years, teaching, baking, farming and delving into the glorious and nurturing community that Athens is. After a bittersweet good-bye, and some time traveling around our country in between, I moved to Eugene in the early spring of 2008. I spent the year creating yummy pastries for an organic bakery and nannying for a few delightful families along the way. Though I loved Eugene, I did not feel the cozy, gritty, and eccentric vibe I felt when I visited Portland. Summer of 2009, I traveled up and down the Pacific Northwest coast and Cascade range, took a Permaculture Design Course on Orcas Island and found myself moving to sweet, sweet Portland in August. I am more than eager to wiggle and giggle with the kids, staff and community of Trillium. I feel both honored and blessed at the thought of finding such a unique and interesting community.



Thus far, aftercare has been a wonderful experience. From 12-3:15 I am in Polly's Kindergarten classroom with 14 or so five and six year olds. I have structured the day such as an afternoon kindergarten may look. We have lunch, center time (with opportunities to read, write, practice math skills and play freely), outside/gross motor, snack, free choice and books. If you peek your head in you may find us dancing, singing, reading, writing, painting or drawing, baking, making observations and conducting science experiments. The focus on conflict management and non-violent communication is evident and as always, a work in progress.

From 3:15-6 the pace flip flops and I have 1st – 6th graders. We have really been taking advantage of the warm, rain-free weather and I have learned all about dodge ball, girl/boy adolescent dynamics and hilarious jokes, movies and games that entertain 7-12 year olds. I like to have one or two projects in mind for the afternoon, but have found this age to be unbelievably creative and I have taken to following their lead.

There are a few positions available in the early Kindergarten aftercare group and quite a few in the after school group from 3:15-6. Please feel free to email me with any questions to both my Trillium and personal email (meg@trilliumcharterschool.org and megscounty@gmail.com, 740-590-9141). Thank you kindly and I look forward to meeting more and more of the community as the school year progresses.

SCRIP on the Loose By Juli Maus

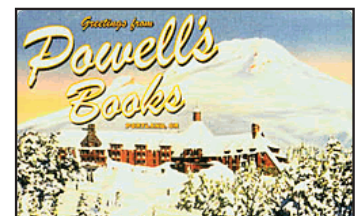
Since the holidays are coming up and we have Thanksgiving week off, we **will have an ADDITIONAL SCRIP order placed on Monday, November 16 for pick up Friday, November 20** before the break. Feel free to browse the SCRIP offerings. Remember Spielwerks, too, and put your order in.



A whole week off? I am sure we will all go out to eat at some point and start on our holiday shopping, right? How about a VISA prepaid card for that hard to shop for teen on your list.

Go to: <http://www.ttsd.k12.or.us/get-involved/scrip/11-01-09%20Personal%20Order%20Form.pdf> for the current order form or pick one up in the front lobby.

And you can recycle your used plastic SCRIP cards. The SCRIP office recycles them and I'd be happy to take them (or other expired/used up plastic gift cards you may have). Please place them in the SILVER box in the front lobby. I will not check balances so please make sure they are done.



Fundraising Update: October 2009

By James Hindes (who the heck is that?)

Greetings Trillium Community,

I'm writing to provide you an update on our fundraising efforts this year, and to ask for your continued financial support of Trillium.

Many of you missed our fundraising letter in the parent packets this fall. Some of you got the letter, but don't know who I am, so let's take care of that first: I'm James, a 4th year Trillium parent of two students, and Chairman of Trillium's Board of Directors. There's a little more information about me on the Trillium website, under the Board biographies. If you spend time at the school, you've probably met my wife Mary Drinkhouse, who volunteers a lot.

Here's the bottom line on why we need to raise more money this year: due to state budget cuts, we have over \$100,000 less to spend than normal. Stephanie Hinkle (the school's Director) and the staff have made a variety of sacrifices and cuts to the budget. We're asking for your help to close a \$30,000 gap in our supplies and facilities budget.

So far, eleven of you have donated anywhere from \$10 to \$5,000; we've collected over \$8,700 so far, which is fantastic! Thank you! Plus, many of you have made much-needed donations of copy paper, which also helps us close the supplies gap. Thanks again!

We still have over \$20,000 to raise. Can you help us? Any amount helps! Please write a check to "Trillium Charter School" and mail it or drop it off at school with the form below (we're still working on making credit card donations possible). Thanks, James Hindes (jhindes@trilliumcharterschool.org)

YES! I want to contribute to Trillium and help close the equipment and supplies budget gap.

Amount: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$1,000
Other Amount: \$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please include this form with your contribution, and drop at the front desk or mail to:

Trillium Charter School
5420 N. Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

Questions? Contact James Hindes, jhindes@trilliumcharterschool.org

Important Dates

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

Friday, November 6

NO SCHOOL

Midterm Planning Day

Monday, November 9

TFT Meeting

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Childcare provided. Please sign up ahead-of-time at the front desk

Wednesday, November 11

SCHOOL CLOSED

Veteran's Day

Sunday, November 15

Trillium in Bloom Wrap-up Meeting & Discussion, at 6pm

Monday, November 16

Board Meeting (All are welcome)

6:00pm – 8:30pm, Ken's room

November 16 – 20

Fall Conferences

Tuesday, November 17

Re-Imagine Trillium's Front Space, 6:30pm

Thursday, November 19

Single Parent's Group

6pm – 7pm

November 23 – 27

SCHOOL CLOSED

Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 4

TFT Coffee Klatch & pick up SCRIP orders
8:00am – 9:30am, Garden Classroom