

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

September-October 2009



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Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

Dear Trillium Families

By Stephanie Hinkle, Director

It has been a great start to the school year. It has been fun seeing old friends and making new ones. We are through with the fall campouts, and are looking forward to Trillium in Bloom on Friday and Saturday, October 9th and 10th. As you know, we closed off the parking lot in the front. This is a space that we are going to be transforming over this school year. Already students are safer and have more room to move around. It is a very positive experience already. We are working on the ideas for this space at Trillium in Bloom on Saturday. Please come participate. Bring friends and neighbors if you wish.



As we settle into the year, please remember that these transitions can be difficult for your children. This is especially true for students who are moving to a new level. Please help them by talking through their issues and letting them know that you think they are capable of handling problems. Sometimes we like to rescue our children from difficult things. Please consider that they become more competent when they are given the chance to find solutions themselves. Kids, even at a young age, have the need to feel needed and able. Don't take that away from them by solving their problems for them.

We are working on communication at Trillium. In that vein, teachers are required to send out letters or update blogs twice a month about what is happening in their classrooms. If you are not receiving these, please contact your child's teacher and let them know. If you still are not getting these communications, please contact me. Remember, though, that communication goes both ways. We need to know what is going on with your child that might have an impact on them. Also, please make sure you are picking up the information that we are sending out.

For those of you who haven't noticed, the garden room has moved upstairs. It is now in Kirk's old room, at the top of the west stairs.

We have some new staff members this year. Amanda is our new garden teacher. Lyndsey is our new intermediate teacher, Meg is our new aftercare teacher, and both of our new learning specialists (special ed teachers) are named Michele. Look for their bios on our website in the near future.

As our first support group for parents, we will have a single parent group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month. This group will not have a trained mental health leader, but is meant for parents to lend each other support. I will lead the first few and then we will see how we want to facilitate them. This group can talk about anything from struggles of discipline to anger with absent parents. I have been a single parent for 17 years and my youngest daughter turns 18 October 5th. We will meet at 6:30 pm. If you need childcare for this group, please email me by the Monday of the week we meet. My email is stephanie@trilliumcharterschool.org.

I want to thank the families who donated to the school so far this year. They are James Hindes and Mary Drinkhouse, Gesine Kratzner, the Meskimen Family, Melissa Kardon, Janice Janesky, James Frost, Amy Jo Rist, James and Jennifer Jardee-Borquist, Leora Troper, and Catherine and Eddie Murphy. Thanks so much for your support. We have raised \$3,710 so far.

Have a great year!

Together for Trillium (TFT) News By Kerri Creager

The new school year is off to a great start and TFT is already busy with providing grants, organizing social and fundraising activities, and connecting and informing families in various ways, including via the classroom liaisons.

What is TFT? TFT, or Together for Trillium, is our answer to a traditional PTA. Somewhat nontraditionally, since the fall of 2007, we include students as members of the TFT. So all students, parents, and staff at Trillium are automatically members and have a vote in all meetings. There are no forms to fill out to join, no dues to be paid; the only requirement is your willingness to participate in creating a wonderful educational community.

Please come and check us out and see how you can get involved! **Our meetings are monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, and are listed on the school calendar.** Childcare is provided at the meetings and you'll need to sign up ahead-of-time so we have enough caregivers available.

At our next meeting—Monday, October 12, 6:30 pm—we will be holding elections for the leadership positions within TFT: President, Co-President, Communications Specialist, Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Teacher Rep, Board Rep, Student Rep, and Liaison Coordinator. We encourage people to step up. Don't be shy. This is not competitive in any way. Most of us started out with very little experience and we'd love to get lots more people involved and feeling like they're really helping out at the school. If you are interested in any of these positions, please write a brief statement of intent—so people know your interest and anything relevant about your experience and skills—and submit this to kerri@trilliumcharterschool.org by October 5th.

We have several social events in the works this year, including swimming, skating, movie nights (one in October with a potluck and Halloween costumes as part of the fun), an adults-only karaoke night, and IFG (Intensives for Grownups) in the spring. We'll get the events on the calendar and announced via the parent listserv and newsletters as we get close to each one.

TFT has (deliberately) just a few fundraisers each year. We are continuing to sell Chinook Books in the fall. Parent Suzanne Scopes is organizing this for us this year and you'll find information about Chinook Books here in the newsletter. And we are continuing with the very successful Scrip sales. Parents Juli Maus and Chenoa Philabaum are handling the Scrip sales this year, which include regularly available Scrip-on-demand from New Seasons (our biggest seller for the past couple of years) and a huge variety of other Scrip that can be ordered once a month. Check the calendar on the website for the dates when the monthly Scrip orders are due.

Find more information about TFT, the grants, leadership positions, Scrip, etc. on the Trillium website: www.trilliumcharterschool.org/index.php?page=together-for-trillium. See you at the next meeting on October 12!

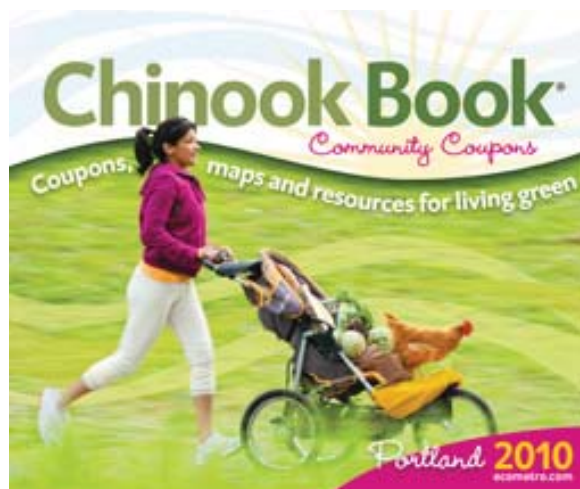
Kerri Creager, TFT President, mom to Curran Chapman (6th grade, Amy's advising) and Henry Chapman (Polly's kindergarten class)

It's Time for the Chinook Book Fundraiser

The annual Chinook Book fundraiser runs from October 1 to October 30. **Trillium receives \$10.00 for each book sold, so it is a great way to help the school.**

Chinook books have over 300 great coupons for many local businesses from New Seasons, Fred Meyer, and OMSI to Burgerville. A packet of information will be in each student's folder. You can pick up sample books to show family, friends and coworkers. Then just collect \$20.00 for each book you sell and deliver the books. It's easy, and if each family buys even just one book for themselves, we can help support the school in a significant way. I will have the books in the front lobby most Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Questions? Contact Suzanne Scopes at suzannescope@gmail.com or 503-753-6533.



Join Us for Trillium In Bloom, October 9 & 10!

By Kerri Creager & Melynda Retallack

Our new annual all-school, two-day community celebration is set to happen early this year so that we can harness the excitement and energy that came out of last year's event.

Like last year, we'll have an **upper school music program concert on Friday night, 7-9 pm**. Last year's performances were amazing and this year's should be even better!

On Saturday, October 10, 10am-3pm, we'll have a variety of workshops around sustainability and community building, with one particular focus being creating a plan for the conversion of the school's parking lot into a community-nourishing space. There will be bike-related workshops, rain barrel making, etc. At the same time, there will be childcare and a student-run carnival for our youngest community members. Great food will be available for lunch, too.

And on Saturday night, 7-10 pm, it's our adults-only Trillium in Bloom Bash: a fun party with great music, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks. And like last spring, **throughout the two-day Trillium in Bloom event we'll have an Art Sale**, selling wonderful arts and crafts from students, staff, families, and members of the broader community—all as a fundraiser for Trillium.



Event Schedule

Friday, October 9, 2009, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Trillium House Rock Show – performances by Trillium upper school students

- All ages welcome
- \$5 tickets for ages 13 and over
- Under 13: free; must be accompanied by adults
- Food and beverages will be available for purchase
 - Book Swap—bring a book; take a book
- Art Sale—entry to art sale is free—work by community members, including students

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 10:00am–3:00pm

Trillium Community Spaces

- Community members with City Repair Project to envision and transform Trillium's parking lot into a community-nourishing space
 - We need input from Trillium families and neighbors near and far
 - Hands-on work and discussions
- Tea and cookies from City Repair's T-Horse, a mobile tea house and instant community space
 - Come by bike and get bike maintenance provided for free!
 - Carnival and childcare—for children ages 3-10
 - Lunch: Greek-style chicken legs; veggie kebabs; lemonade
 - Lunchtime Performances
 - Book Swap—bring a book; take a book
- Art Sale—works by community members, including students

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 7:00–10:00pm

Bloom Bash—21 and Over

- \$10 tickets, at the door
- Live Music! Diego Murphy and Ginkgo; River City Pipe Band; the Golden Greats
 - Appetizers made by Trillium students
 - Cash bar: beer and wine

This is our time to celebrate much of what's great about our community—with our Trillium community members and with the broader local community! **Bring your friends, family members, and neighbors.** It's a chance for us to learn from one another, share our talents, and support the school. Be a part of it: donate artwork to the Art Sale; volunteer to help with events setup, cleanup, cashiering, bartending, etc. There are lots of big and small ways to get involved!

Check out more about Trillium in Bloom at: www.trilliumcharterschool.org/celebrate.

Contact Melynda Retallack (melynda@trilliumcharterschool.org) or Kerri Creager (kerri@trilliumcharterschool.org) if you'd like to volunteer or have questions or ideas. Thanks!

Melynda Retallack, mom to Chloe Retallack (9th grade, Jess' advising) and Never Retallack (6th grade, Kirk's advising), Board member, TFT-Board Liaison

Kerri Creager, mom to Curran Chapman (6th grade, Amy's advising) and Henry Chapman (Polly's kindergarten class), TFT President



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Trillium Need to Know Quick Reference Guide

Wonder where to turn for up-to-date information and news? Check out these resources to stay informed:

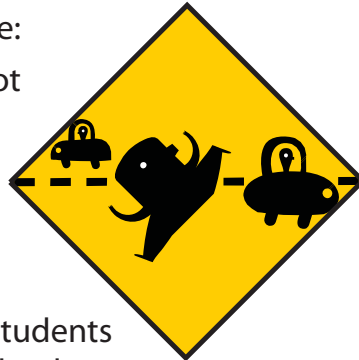
- Website – www.trilliumcharterschool.org
- The Lobby bulletin board
- Monthly Trillium newsletter
- Email listserv
- Your child’s advisor, class blog, or take-home folder (lower grades)

The website is the place to go for calendar updates, current events, and inclement weather and other information. To sign up for the Trillium email listserv, go to http://lists.trilliumcharterschool.org/mailman/listinfo/trillium-parent_lists.trilliumcharterschool.org.

TRAFFIC REMINDER

For everyone's safety, please:

- No parking in the front lot
- No double parking
- Watch for pedestrians
- Do not use the IFCC driveway or parking lot
- Please drop off/pick up students on the west side of Maryland (side closest to school) so they do not have to cross traffic!
- Remind your students to look both ways before crossing the street (this includes middle school and high schoolers, too!)



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. 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.)

Wednesday, September 30

– Friday, October 2

Upper School Campouts (off campus)

October 1 – October 30

Chinook Book Sales

Thursday, October 1, 6 pm

Grades 1-2 Sleep Under – Games & Fun!

Friday, October 2, 8 to 9:30 am

TFT Coffee Klatch – and pick up SCRIP orders
Garden Classroom

Friday, October 9

NO SCHOOL

Teacher Planning Day

Friday, October 9, 7 pm

Trillium in Bloom Music Program Concert

Saturday, October 10, 10 am-3 pm

Trillium in Bloom Sustainability &
Community Building Workshops

Saturday, October 10, 7-10 pm

Trillium in Bloom Bash!

See Page 3 to find out more about all the Trillium in Bloom Events.

Monday, October 12, 6:30 pm

TFT Meeting

Monday, October 19, 6-8:30 pm

Board Meeting, Kirk's Room
All are welcome

Friday, October 23, 8:45-9:15 am

Run For the Arts

Friday, November 6

NO SCHOOL

Midterm Planning Day