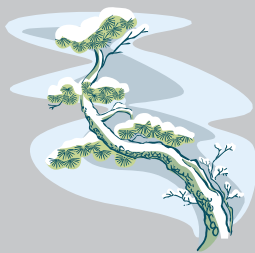


Trillium Charter School is a democratically-structured environment that fosters students' natural curiosity, creativity, and self-awareness. Students learn to take initiative and assume responsibility for their own learning, which supports constructive interaction with the local, regional, and global community.

# Newsletter

January 2008



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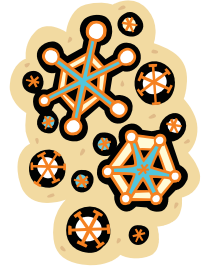
# Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

## From the Director By Stephanie Hinkle

Dear Trillium Families,

Welcome back for the New Year. I hope your holidays were wonderful and peaceful. With January comes new applicants for next year, information sessions, tours, another philosophy workshop, the end of the first semester, and other events. Just a reminder, if you have another child that does not go to Trillium this year, but will be coming next year, you must fill out an application. You get to bypass the lottery, but we must have an application. Please take care of this as soon as possible. April 1st is the deadline for applications, but knowing who the incoming siblings are beforehand is very useful. Also, if you have a child who will be joining the preschool next year, please fill out that application as soon as you can.



I want to thank you for supporting Humble Hearts, our sister school in Kenya through your purchases and donations. We were able to send them \$1,500 because of you. They are very thankful. I know in December you designated contributions for specific items. I do want to let you know that due to the current political situation in Kenya, we have told them that they can be use the money where it is most needed. Since the violence and demonstrations have happened, food prices have tripled. The money comes at a very critical time for them. The demand is also increasing, as people are seeking refuge at the orphanage. If you feel like you can do more to help during these difficult times, we will be accepting and forwarding donations to Humble Hearts throughout the year. It is difficult to tell how things will settle in the end, or how quickly it will happen. The reports are that everyone is safe at Humble Hearts, but it is an ever changing situation. You may drop off donations to Polly or the front desk.

The events in Kenya relating to elections come in stark contrast to our own elections that seem to dominate practically every media moment these days, except of course for updates on Britney Spears. I will never completely understand how our media triages stories. It is a good time to talk with your children about democracy and participation in it. My teenagers are pretty interested and passionate about the elections. The debates with them about what the country needs most have been interesting and well-reasoned. My oldest gets to vote this time, but my 16 year old really wants to and feels strongly that the voting age should be lowered to 16. Do you think that would bring young people into the process in a way that leads to more participation by people under 25? It is something to think about. I am sure that the election process will begin to show up in class content over the next several months. Please remind your children that there are respectful ways to discuss different opinions, and that we believe mutual respect is an important part of the

(Continued on Page 4)

# Community Support Pours Out for Sister School in Kenya

By Ken, Polly and The Kids for Kenya

Kids for Kenya is delighted to announce that the recent Shop Africa fund raiser was a tremendous success. Students established an area in the front display cases where people could purchase gift certificates for much needed items for our sister school, Humble Hearts, including school supply packs, blankets, beds, shoes, and food. Students also sold items brought back from Africa on our last trip. In ten days, the community helped raise \$1,600.

Trillium students founded the Kids for Kenya organization in 2005 to raise awareness and support our sister school and orphanage in Nairobi. Sixteen Kids for Kenya students traveled last June to Nairobi for a service learning experience. The Kids for Kenya class continued this year through a class taught by Polly and Ken which meets every Friday. We have worked to establish some ways to fund raise and keep people informed on our continued work such as putting on the Harvest Festival, creating a blog, putting together a scrapbook, and writing grants to expand the program.

At anytime during the year community members are invited to purchase gifts to support Humble Hearts. If you would like to purchase these, or have any questions about Kids for Kenya, please contact Ken, Polly, or any of the Kids for Kenya. Thanks again for all your generosity.

## Greetings from the Preschool By Jean Goodrow

An enthusiastic hello to the Trillium Community! We seem to be having a great time studying bread, restaurants, and their inherent subjects, including science, math and literacy. We have visited many establishments within our area and have learned much about public transportation and the supply and demand of comfort foods that require baking, percolating and frying. We have made cinnamon rolls at Madrona Hill, pizza at Eddie's Pizza, seen lattes made, tried decadent croissants at Sohbet, and were treated to lovely cupcakes at Di Prima Dolci. New Seasons also gave us a thorough and exciting tour! Needless to say, we had a lot of sugar in December.



We have had science experiments molding different kinds of bread products, i.e., pancakes, pretzels, white bread, and corn tortillas. We also made diverse breads such as Italian Raisin Bread, Indian (Native American) Fried Bread, Matzoh, and learned about tortillas and how we can dress them up. With such a general subject, we have much to learn. Thanks to all the establishments who hosted us: Madrona Hill, Sohbet, Eddie's Pizza, Di Prima Dolci and New Seasons. We also

want to thank all of the preschool parents and older students who assisted us on our walks.

**Come learn more about the preschool on January 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** We will have a slide show, explain our philosophy and answer questions about the program. We will be accepting applications for the next school year starting in January (available on Trillium preschool website). We accept applicants in the order received. Spaces are held for returning preschool families, families of students enrolled at Trillium Charter and children of Trillium staff.

# Staff Appreciation Gala Held in December: A Big Hit with the Staff!

By Mary Drinkhouse

To show our deepest gratitude to our teachers and staff, Together for Trillium threw a lovely dinner party, coordinated by Michelle Hightower and hosted at Ben Dyer's Simpatica Dining Hall.

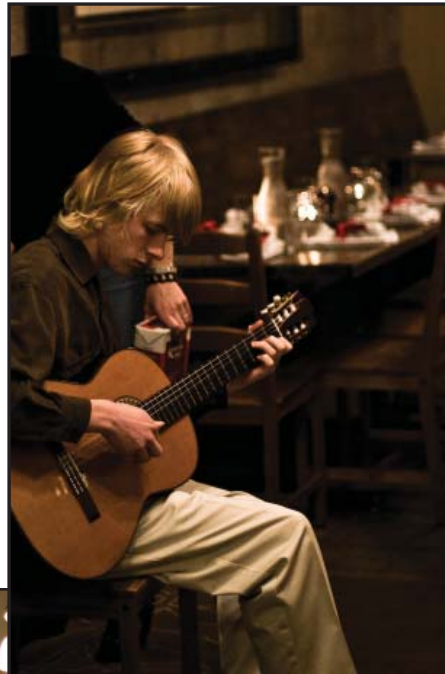
A fun and festive time was had by all, with delicious food prepared by Ben, and many bottles of wine generously donated by Trillium parents. Michelle prepared small gifts for everyone, as well as four larger bags that included shirts donated by Neil Hightower who works for Nike. Trillium's own Max Sergienko, HS student, performed beautifully on his guitar. Rebecca Bateman spent the evening taking the most enchanting photographs of our wonderful staff and their guests truly enjoying themselves.

Ken Gadbow made a sweet toast thanking the volunteers and Michelle teared up when she toasted the staff, expressing her thanks for all the staff does for our children.

Thank you Trillium staff for all you do!

TFT would also like to thank some of the others who helped make the event a huge success: Chenoa Philabaum, Ethan Sample, Justyn Hegreberg, Rhaine Clarke, Anne Stark, Ann Hargraves, Erik Esparza, Imma Lou Torgessen, and Marion Rice Galford.

If you would like to see more photos from the evening please visit: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/copia\\_kids/sets/72157603412791519/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/copia_kids/sets/72157603412791519/)



## Together for Trillium (TFT) News

**The next TFT meeting will be Monday, January 14th, at 6:30 pm at Trillium. Please join us and get involved in our school.**

Starting this month, we will change the meeting times of TFT to accommodate more parents. New times will alternate between the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm (January) and the 2nd Tuesday of the month (February) at 3:30 in the afternoon (childcare provided).

TFT will now allow all students to be members of the group as a student representative. We will elect one student representative, no age limit, to vote but students can hold no elected positions. The student position is defined to maintain communication between students and TFT. TFT hopes that students will use this position and/or the membership in TFT as a way to bring more of their voice forward by suggesting events, activities, or give feedback to the organization as to where interests lie.

The all school directory will be finished by January!

Anne Stark and Janet Lageson will organize First Friday Coffee once a month, with coffee/tea and donuts/scones at 8:30 (either in the garden room or other available classroom). Stephanie Hinkle will be available for questions and conversation at this time. This will begin in February 2008.

Anne Greenwood was elected to the secretary/communications specialist position. In addition to taking meeting minutes, she will write monthly articles for the newsletter.

### From the Director (Continued from Page 1)

political process. It is not appropriate at school to say mean things or intimidate others about their views. We are also in the process of reevaluating our school constitution. There is a constitutional convention class that is made up of students from different age groups.

On a completely different note, I have been spending a lot of time with students lately and have found a similar note in many of the discussions with students that I want to share with you, especially about teenagers. First, it is a myth that teenagers don't want to have anything to do with adults. They want and need adults in their lives more than ever. Second, parents need to choose what they want more – their kids to share what is going on in their lives or the illusion that their kids won't engage in risky behavior if they as parents just insist on it. The reality is often different. Most teens will engage in some behavior that parents don't want such as smoking, drinking, drug use, sex, hanging out in risky situations or other things. The degree to which students engage in these things can be influenced by parents however. Teens want communication with parents about these issues, but if the response they get from parents is punishment and lack of understanding, they will avoid telling parents. You can influence the degree of engagement in this kind of behavior by really being willing to hear anything your teen tells you, without over reacting. This supportive communication generally is more effective if it is practiced from a very young age with your children. If your kids understand that they can talk to you when they get into a tough situation, or make a mistake, they are more likely to do so when they get older.

Believing that statistical realities won't affect your kids is a disservice to them. They need guidance. They need to understand how to reduce the risks that they encounter. They need to know the potential problems that can come from risky behavior. They need to be able to be honest with the people who care about them the most. Teens do not typically think parents condone these types of behaviors just because the parents use supportive communication. It's a tough road through adolescence. Don't give away your ability to give travel advisories by thinking your kids are on a completely different highway than were they are actually traveling.

**The Trillium Board of Directors meets every third Thursday of the month from 6 to 8:30 pm. This month's meeting is January 17.** The agenda and previous meeting minutes are posted in the lobby. All meetings are open to the school community, and we welcome your participation. Please see the Trillium website for meeting details: [www.trilliumcharterschool.org](http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org).

# Help Make This Year's Auction a Huge Success

The 2008 Trillium Auction Class needs your help! Our class of thirteen upper school students has been hard at work to make the 2008 auction more successful than ever! We hope to make a significant financial contribution to our school fund and the great programs that make Trillium so unique.

You can help by becoming an ambassador for our school and for the auction. Talk to friends, employers and co-workers, business and trades people that you know. Ask for donations of goods and services or about sponsoring our event.

## *Get Involved Early, Enter to Win*

Every auction donation form turned in by Friday, February 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card to any merchant participating in the Trillium Scrip program. Each item donated needs a donation form filled out. A donation form is also needed for each advertiser and sponsor. Make sure to fill in the line "Solicited by" with your name. Drawing held and announced February 19.

Donation forms are now available in the front lobby area above the glass display cases. Please take some with you while you're shopping and out in your community over the next few weeks. If you have any questions about donations, please contact Charity Chesnek at 503-997-1372 or email [cchesnek@earthlink.net](mailto:cchesnek@earthlink.net).

Even if a company does not have a tangible item to donate, they may consider participating as an event sponsor or advertising in the Auction program. We have several sponsorship opportunities available ranging from just \$500 - \$5,000. Our event program has advertising opportunities available from \$50 - \$250 depending on the size. We have also created professional sponsorship packages to present to potential sponsors. Please email the Trillium auction class at [trilliumauktionclass@gmail.com](mailto:trilliumauktionclass@gmail.com) for more information and help in securing sponsorships.

Our theme this year is All About the Future. Our children are the next generation of employees, business owners and community leaders. We want to use this auction to introduce Trillium to a new audience of friends and supporters that appreciate and support the work we have begun here for our children, our school and our mission.

Our auction is scheduled for May 10, 2008 at Madeleine Hall. While our class is still working on numbers, based on feedback from last year, we're trying hard to bring the ticket cost down so everyone can attend. Plan early to invite your extended families and friends! We'll be preparing a packet with a few Save-the-Date cards, invitations, etc. So everyone has a chance to participate and contribute.

Over the next few months, we'll be looking for parent volunteers. To learn more, please contact Dawn Liljenquist, Auction Chair: 503.805.6147 or email [dawn.liljenquist@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.liljenquist@gmail.com).

Thank you!

## **Building Financing Update** By Arianne Newton, Community Development Director

Trillium received a great "gift" for the holidays! After many months of work (we started this process in May of 2007) we closed on a great school building refinancing package through the Oregon Facilities Authority. This group approved Trillium for a tax exempt bond loan package that will put us in a much stronger financial position.

In a nutshell, tax exempt bonds were issued and purchased by an investor which then allowed us to reduce our interest rate significantly, increase our cash flow, remove our balloon payments, release our six personal guarantors and provide us with funds to install our required ADA elevator, as well as get a much needed new roof. This type of financing was not available to us until recently and we are thankful for all the people who helped to make this happen for us as well as donate their professional services pro bono. We have many friends in the community! There will be much more information to come about our campaigns and fundraising in general after the first of the year.

## Volunteer Thanks

Thanks goes out to Anne Greenwood, Dawn Weaver, and Charlie Bott for spent time and energy assisting in researching and writing grants for the planned ecoroof and rooftop garden.

Thanks also goes out to Whitney Grubbs for her expert help with researching potential funders and serving on the financial committee of the board.

## New Email Announcements List for Parents

By Kerri Creager, parent and TFT-Board liaison

Thanks to middle school advisor Nick Fenger, we now have a new listserv for announcements from the staff and TFT at Trillium. This new email list replaces the current TrilliumCharterSchool Yahoo Group that has been so generously managed by parent Lyla Wolfenstein for the past few years (thank you, Lyla!). This new list is designed as an information sharing group, rather than a discussion group, as there is a need for an efficient, low-volume group that will not overwhelm the over 200 folks subscribed.

If you haven't already been receiving messages from the new Trillium-Parent listserv (the subject line always begins with "[Trillium-Parent]"), please go to the following web address to sign yourself up:

[http://lists.trilliumcharterschool.org/mailman/listinfo/trillium-parent\\_lists.trilliumcharterschool.org](http://lists.trilliumcharterschool.org/mailman/listinfo/trillium-parent_lists.trilliumcharterschool.org)

There is another discussion group called "TrilliumCommunityDiscussion" for networking, business promotion, resource sharing and discussion. Please consider joining that group (by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TrilliumCommunityDiscussion> and clicking on the "join this group" button toward the top of the page) if you have a business you'd like to promote to the Trillium community or enjoy discussing educational and community related issues and events and sharing casually with other Trillium families.

## Don't Forget...School Grounds Clean Up

**Help cleanup the grounds around Trillium every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 9 am.** You can spend as much time as you have picking up trash, sweeping, raking leaves, or tidying up the playground. Bring gloves; we have a few brooms and rakes. If anyone has extra leaf bags and/or wants to compost the leaves we collect that would be helpful.



*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!*

### **Mark These Important Dates On Your Calendar...**

*(All events at Trillium unless otherwise noted)*

#### **TFT Meeting**

Monday, January 14, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

#### **Trillium Board of Directors**

##### **Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, January 17,  
6:00 - 8:30 pm, Kirk's classroom  
All are welcome to attend.

#### **NO SCHOOL -**

##### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Monday, January 21

#### **Parent Workshop-System & Philosophy of Trillium's Upper School**

Thursday, January 24, 6:30 - 8 pm,  
Multipurpose Room

#### **Garden Fundraiser Berry Sale**

January 21 - February 1  
Order forms coming soon

#### **Next Month**

##### **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Planning**

Friday, February 1 &  
Monday, February 4

##### **NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day**

Monday, February 18

#### **Admissions Information Session for Prospective Students**

February 28, 6:30-8 pm,  
Multipurpose Room. Tell your friends!