

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

March 2009



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Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

Dear Trillium Families

By Stephanie Hinkle, Director

Is anyone else ready for spring? I would be okay if we didn't get more snow for years. Spring Break is nearly here, and we will be dispersing for a couple of weeks. When we come back, it feels like time speeds up and the end of the year is upon us. I hope that we can make some time to enjoy our family and community. All-School Project Night will happen at the end of April. This is a very important event. All students should be presenting some of their work. This is a night to acknowledge and celebrate the effort that students have made this year. It can also be very inspiring. I am telling you early so that you plan for this important event. **All-School Project Night is scheduled for April 30th.**



Speaking of celebrating, I and the rest of the staff would like to thank all of you for the lovely party the parents threw for us in February. Ben and Megan Dyer once again cooked and hosted the wonderful event at their restaurant, and many parents came to help serve or take photos or some other useful things. Many of you also donated wine, which was very much appreciated and consumed. So, thanks to everyone who made this happen and for the wonderful support you give us all through the year.

As you all know by now, the economy has damaged our budget. How much it impacts our budget is a moving target. We have already lost about \$25,000 this

year that I told you about earlier, and we will lose probably another \$25,000-\$70,000 this year. I am thinking it will be more toward the lower end, but can't be sure. We may not make up the snow days in order to save money. We have slashed supplies budgets. We may have to cut additional days of school. We are looking at all of our options. I apologize for not being able to give you a clear answer yet. As soon as I can get solid budget numbers from Salem, we will finalize our plan and let you know.

One thing we are doing to try to bring in more money is to expand and promote our summer school and camp program. We will be sending out a catalogue in April. If you have particular wish for a certain skill or area that your child needs or wants, let me know right away so that I can get the most demanded areas covered. We want to make sure they are fun as well as a solid learning experience.

We haven't had the Director's Discussion meeting for a couple of months, so I want to do one in April. A parent suggested that we talk about the future of public education and the role of charter schools in that future. It sounds like a great idea to me, so that is what the topic will be. Please come so we can philosophize together. It will be April 16th, the day after tax day at 6:30 pm.

Have a great Spring Break!

Staff Loves The Appreciation Dinner! By Mary Drinkhouse

Together For Trillium happily sponsored our second annual Staff Appreciation Dinner this February, hosted generously by Ben and Megan Dyer of Simpatica Dining Hall and Trillium parents of Emma and Bjorn. Michelle Hightower, for her second year, coordinated the event with help from her husband Neal and a group of wonderful volunteers including servers: Marion Rice-Galford, Misty and Larry Reynolds, Hannah Peterson, and Marie Taylor. Childcare was headed up by Kandy Giles and Ethan Sample, with help from Lydia Giles, Rhaine Clarke and friends. Rebecca Bateman photographed the event.

The Staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves with a wonderful meal and an amazing dessert of rice pudding that was about the best food ever prepared! Ben visited with some of the teachers and guests to talk about the rice pudding. The wine was generously donated by Trillium parents, and, like last year, there was plenty which worked out very well. Thank you again to all the parents who donated wine.

TFT (which includes everyone in our school!) is deeply grateful our teachers and staff for all their work. Our children are receiving an educational experience that can only be found at our beloved Trillium Charter School.



Bee House for Trillium Garden By Torben

Why? I had been working on my Eagle Scout Badge, which requires me to organize and carry out a project that benefits society. Most of the scouts that choose to use the SOLV organization is an organization that uses volunteers healthy and clean. If I had used SOLV people to a predetermined site, and

Anyway, I wanted to do something exciting. My Dad had heard about me about them. After doing some recruiting local businesses to donate materials that I would be able to use to build ten of these Mason Bee Houses. After my friends and I built the houses, my Dad, brothers and I went around to each school that wanted one and put them in the ground in their gardens.

How does it benefit the community?

Each house will have about 18 to 22 larvae in them to begin with, and with 11 houses about 396,000 to 484,000 more flowers and blossoms will be pollinated per day this spring and summer. In addition to this, since one female Mason Bee lays 8 – 12 larvae in its lifetime, the yearly increase will be exponential. For Trillium's Bee House alone, it will house bees that will pollinate 36,000 to 44,000 flowers and blossoms a day.



I know that have done an Eagle Project as a resource for their project. SOLV from across Oregon to keep the state then I would only had to of gotten then have everyone work.

different, more original, and more Mason Bee Houses on NPR and told research I gained an interest and started



Nina's Advising Service Day By Nina

I wanted to let you know how amazing our group, Nina's Advising group, did on our community service day February 20th. We started our day with helping our buddies (the students in Billy's K-1-2 class) write words to go with their comic strips. Zoe is in the hat in the classroom picture below and did an AMAZING job of getting two hyper girls to get their comics done. What is neat to see is our middle school students teach the younger students how to spell or write a word. They are gentle, patient, and guiding.



We then went on a beach clean up. We learned about marine debris then went down to Swan Island's McCarthur Park. We collected 62 pounds of marine trash and a tire that was 45 pounds today!!!

Thanks so much to Polly for arranging our transportation. We will likely need help transporting students for our next trips. She plans to help us arrange these trips on the third Friday of the month. (March 20, April 17th).

Our tentative campout in the Salem area is May 13, 14, and 15th. If we have enough parent volunteers I was thinking of renting some kayaks or canoes. Please let me know if you have any interest in joining us and helping with that aspect. We're thinking of Champoeg State Park.



Two Weeks in Japan: A New Experience by Max Sergienko

I woke up on November 6, 2008 with a slight sense of apprehension. I was about to fly over the Pacific Ocean and stay in Japan for two weeks with two other Trillium students (Jessica Wilks and Shelby Spencer), Yoko sensei, and her son Kento. We had spent months planning this trip, we had done carwash fundraisers, sold ice cream, put on concerts, and even held a Japanese festival at our school to raise money for this trip. All in all I was worried, would the next two weeks be worth all the stress I had accrued over the past several months?

After checking bags and getting boarding passes we said goodbye to our families and stepped through security. Awaiting us on the other side was a twelve-hour flight over the Pacific Ocean. This did little to ease my apprehension. But as we touched down at Narita International Airport in Tokyo, it hit me. I was returning to a country that I had been learning about since I was five.

When I was old enough to be enrolled in elementary school, my parents thought it would be a good idea for me to be placed into the Japanese Magnet Program. This meant that I would spend half my time in elementary school, and about a fourth of my time in middle school studying the Japanese language, culture and traditions. Part of this program is two trips to Japan in the fifth and eighth grades. These trips were meant to be fun, cultural learning experiences, but for me there was a problem: I was one of thirty or forty other students on the trip. While I enjoyed my time in Japan, the simple fact that I was constantly surrounded by other Americans, kids I had known since kindergarten no less, made me a little uncomfortable.

This time however, our group was a total of five people. This meant that I had my own hotel room instead of sharing one with several other boys, I had my own home stay instead of having a home stay partner, and in general, it was far easier to adjust the schedule if necessary.

After we arrived in Tokyo, we had transfer to Nagoya, a brief flight of only 45 minutes or so. After that we had to take a train to Kyoto, at which point I realized I couldn't read the information printed on my train ticket. Fortunately we boarded the train with out any mishaps and were on our way to Kyoto, where we would spend the next day sightseeing. All in all

these first days were very relaxing. Kyoto had many historical wonders to show us, including ancient castles, temples built in the mountains, and even a pagoda covered in gold.

The historical sights however, could not stand up to the experience of staying with a host family for two weeks. After spending an additional day sight seeing in Nara, we took the highway bus to Tsuyama. At the bus station, our adoptive families greeted us. We exchanged greetings in awkward Japanese, and then were taken home for a meal and in my case, a futon bed.

The next day we met at the school for the first time. My host mother, Mrs. Zushi happens to be a part time English teacher at this school, so I was fortunate enough to be able to get a ride with her every morning. This ended up working to both of our advantages as we got to practice our conversation skills in our respective foreign languages. Once we got to school, we walked through the main gate where students from the Judo club were sweeping the hallways. They greeted us with a hardy "Osu!" (a very boyish way of saying "good morning"). After checking in at the office we were sent to wait in a room that had been specially reserved for us. We then greeted the faculty of the school during their morning meeting who applauded our mediocre attempts at Japanese.

Eventually it came time for us to participate in a welcome ceremony of sorts. This involved being paraded through the gym up to a stage in front of every student in the school (somewhere around 1200 people). I had been asked to play guitar for this occasion, and I soon realized it was probably the largest crowd I had ever played in front of. Despite that, I was only slightly nervous as I performed a flamenco guitar piece. The effect of playing in a large, resonant gymnasium was awesome. The guitar filled the space, impressing even the music teachers who were present. After my performance, the students applauded and I awkwardly bowed and put my guitar away. This first experience set the tone for the whole trip, I felt like I was a rock star, people called out to me from classroom windows, asked me to play guitar for them, and even in one case, I was spontaneously asked to perform at a performance being held for the school rock bands. All this left me feeling extremely

(Continued on Page 5)



All School Meeting

Come to the next ASM and get involved in making decisions at your school! 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), fill it out completely, and return it to the drop box in the common space three days prior to the meeting.

ASM Agenda

Meeting Date (upcoming meeting in bold)	Who's Bringing	Issue or Proposal	Time Needed	In Favor	Opposed	Passed or failed?
03/06/09	Melina, Anais, Charity, Danielle, Meghaan, Mirabai (Ken, Jess, Will, Kirk)	We, as the Trillium Yearbook Committee, propose that this year's spirit week be held March 16th-20th. Our proposed schedule is Monday-PJ Day, Tuesday-Gender Switch Day, Wednesday-Superhero Day, Thursday-Formal Day, Friday-School Spirit day..	5 minutes	86	1	passed
03/06/09	Brian	All fundraising or "drives" (food drive for instance) activities planned by students or classes need to have an advisor or teacher attached to them to help manage the money and the details of the activity.	10 minutes	55	10	passed
03/06/09	Mae, Joe, Deontay (Amy, Kirk)	Create a can food drive to help the homeless and the hungry.	15 minutes			dropped
03/06/09	James McKinley (Jess)	The fighting flowers team wishes to host an all night upper school gaming party to raise money for the new jerseys for the up coming Frisbee season. We would like this event to take place on the 20th and 21st (Friday and Saturday) of March between the times of 8:00 pm and 10:00 am.	10 minutes			tabled
03/06/09	Dolly & Hannah (Zach, Jeremy)	The community dance has a funky hat or an 80s day theme, with permission to have about 6 posters up around the school	10 minutes	27	2	passed
03/06/09	Reggi, Calvin, Adria, Elyssa (Amy, Kurt)	We would like to be able to run a penny drive for the Heifer Organization. We need permission to set up posters and penny bins.	5 minutes			dropped
02/27/09	Jeremy	Playground and PE equipment can only be used for its designed purpose during recess and aftercare.	15 minutes	28	35	failed
02/27/09	Arianne	The adult intensives meeting that was approved on March 14 to use the Multipurpose Room also needs to use the kitchen and common space.	3 minutes	65	2	passed
02/27/09	Arianne	The All School Meeting Budget will cover the expense of buying new forks for the lunch program. (Approximately \$20). The forks have to stay in the Multi-purpose room or in the lower school class rooms.	10 minutes	51	3	passed

Two Weeks in Japan

(Continued from Page 4)

fulfilled, I performed at least six times during the two weeks I was there, and each time I felt like I was bringing something genuine to these people who had shown me great hospitality and tolerance. Flamenco guitar is not exactly common in Japan, after all, and neither are the longhaired blonde boys like me who play it. In a country where being different often means

being ostracized, I felt blessed to be so well received.

Truly, this experience was unlike any other I had ever had. Even in previous trips to Japan, I had not been able to express myself, and be so well received as I was in Tsuyama those two weeks. Clearly, all my apprehension was for not.



Trillium has been selected to participate in the Safer Routes to School program and the City of Portland is looking at our area to identify situations that can and should be improved. **They are**

looking for input from the Trillium community and want to gather information on how to proceed.

There is a map of our area around Trillium located in the common space above the book shelves for you to mark your routes and any trouble spots you have on your commute to and from Trillium. Please feel free to mark this directly on the map.

You may also contact Scott Batson, Scott.Batson@pdxtrans.org, directly with any questions or concerns you may have. After some information has been collected there will be an opportunity to go on a walk about to see the most troublesome areas and assess what to propose should be done to improve the situation.

Intensives for Grownups March 14th at Trillium

An intensive for grownups is a three-hour class on a single topic. These are classes offered by members of our community for members of our community. Any necessary fees/materials will be covered by the participants and/or intensive teacher.

9:00-12:00

- Basic bicycle maintenance and repair (Nikos Tzetos)
- Format for establishing listening exchanges to enhance parenting effectiveness (Will Ganschow)
- Thai cooking (Korrutai Yujaroen; \$ 7-)

12:00 - 1:00 Potluck lunch

1:00 - 4:00

- Home brewing (Michael Klopfenstein)
- Astrology basics (Fern Capella)
- Knitting - all skill levels (Kerri Creager & Dawn Weaver)
- Home coffee roasting (Rick Burkard)

4:00 - 5:00 Socializing/networking

Childcare will be available. Questions? Contact Nikos at nikobeck2@dslnorthwest.net, 503 501 7846.



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!

Mark These Important Dates On Your Calendar...

(All events at Trillium unless otherwise noted)

Tours for Prospective Families

March 10, 11 & 17, 8:45 – 9:45am

Contact Arianne

Running Club

Fridays from 12:15 to 1:15

Run from Trillium to Peninsula Park.
Grab a quick nutritious snack after class and then meet us at Jenny's classroom.

IFG (Intensives for Grownups)

Saturday, March 14, 9am – 5pm.

See story on this page.

Board Meeting

Monday, March 16, 6:00 – 8:30pm

Kirk's Room. All are welcome!

All School Conferences

March 9 – 20, 2009

Kenya Trip

March 9 – 20, 2009

NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

March 23 – April 3, 2009

Spring Flower Sale

April 6 – 17, 2009

TFT Meeting

Monday, April 13, 6:30 – 8:00pm
Childcare provided; please, sign up ahead-of-time at the front desk.