

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

October 2007



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



From the Director By Stephanie Hinkle

Greetings Trillium Community. It has been a great first month of school, probably our best ever. Thanks for all of your help and support. We had great camp-outs, a well attended back to school night, a fun ice cream social, and mostly focused, well-behaved students. Our new staff members are acclimating. We are making new friends with our students and parents.

I want to take this opportunity to remind people about a few things:

- **There is no school October 11 and 12.** We are closed for our annual staff retreat. There will be childcare available those two days. The forms will be available October 1st at the front desk.
- If students wish to skateboard at school, they must have a signed permission slip from their parent and wear a helmet. We will be taking skateboards and returning them to parents from students not meeting those requirements.
- We would love to have many more TFT active participants. Please get involved.
- If you applied for a scholarship for activity fees, you must turn in a Free/Reduced Lunch application form. If you have already done so, then thank you. If you did not apply for a scholarship, but qualify for free/reduced lunch, please fill out the form and return it even if you don't want the lunches. We become eligible for different types of funding based on our number of qualified students.
- We will have childcare available this year during breaks, except for holidays. We will have information available before each of these breaks.
- We will be sending out invoices in the next couple of weeks for those of you who chose to make payments for your activity fees.
- We are beginning a year long process of developing a new 5 year plan. If you are interested in being highly involved in this process, please contact a board member.
- We have sent home student drop off and pick up guidelines. Please follow them. Student safety is a big concern, and this issue has created lots of safety issues in the past and continues to this year.
- Bus passes are available at school for students. The cost this year is \$24.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to a few people who have helped in really big ways at school. Jim Bernard comes in on a regular basis to work on building needs. He has been and continues to be amazing. Kerri Creager has put in tremendous time and energy in getting our website updated, as well as working on many other system issues. Renee Deveraux held TFT together, ran work parties (often when no one else showed up), and took on pretty much anything anyone needed her to do during this last school year, which was probably our hardest year. Abby Boudouris was a great board chair and really produced a very effective and invested board. She is co-chairing this year. There are many other people to thank as well. I will try to highlight some every so often. Thank you all for making this school a community.

Safety & Appearance Committee

The Safety and Appearance Committee is currently working on three main goals:

1. **Renewing the school's Green School certification.** This includes increasing recycling efforts and increasing energy and water efficiency, as well as many other goals that we will be sharing with the community as we move along in the process.
2. **Increasing transportation safety.** Not only do we want to encourage a safe flow of vehicular traffic for our children as they head to school, but we are working to bring in a curriculum of safe transportation alternatives. This includes bicycling, walking, and public transportation.
3. **Maintaining general cleanliness and upkeep.** We are currently working on a school-wide cleaning program that will maintain the inside of the building, the school grounds, and the neighboring community.

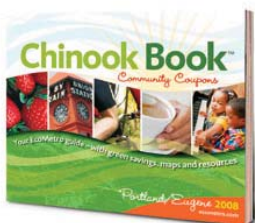
If you are interested in joining our committee, or if you have information, experience, or concerns in any of these areas, please contact Genevieve White at 503.453.6113 or gwhite@trilliumcharterschool.org. We are especially eager to work with some parents who are passionate about bicycling, and are happy to include anyone who would like to participate.

Preschool Update

The preschool is up and running! We are very pleased with the success of our new team led by Jean Goodrow, coordinated by Genevieve Bouwes and assisted by Terry Kegel and Reeva Wortel. Together we have created a wonderful space that you may have noticed as you pass through the lobby and if not, please feel free to peek in our windows. Not only have we improved the environment but we've also given the program new momentum. Our Reggio inspired curriculum is derived from Italy and is very much a constructivist and child-centered method of teaching. Our cooperative learning is evident through our documentation which includes photographs, anecdotes, reflections and observations.

Chinook Book Sale Continues

Orders for Chinook books are due Monday October 15th. And don't forget, the advising group that sells the most books gets \$100 for their class!



Right now we are studying the changing season as we adjust to the new school year. Other interests the students have shown include light and shadows, dinosaurs, and ocean life. We hope to see you at project night where we will unveil our new understandings and theories on these subjects.

Trillium Board News

The Board meets every third Thursday of the month from 6 to 8:30 pm., with the agenda and meeting minutes 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 at www.trilliumcharterschool.org.

Need to Know? Updated Trillium Website Is the Place to Go...

Check out Trillium's updated website: www.trilliumcharterschool.org. The main page of our website is where you will find copies of the monthly lunch menu, the latest newsletter, and view—at a glance—a list of upcoming events and days off. Click the calendar link to check out the great new calendar that teacher Nick Fenger has set up; this is the definitive calendar for days off, special activities, and events at Trillium.

Other things you can find include information and pictures about this past summer's trip to Kenya, aftercare forms, TFT and board meeting minutes, and much more.

We're continually working to add content and improve the information available. Keep in mind that web browsers often store a cached version of the page, so in order to be sure you're seeing the latest information, click the refresh/reload button on your browser.



Forms and Fees Due

If you haven't already done so... Please turn in all forms and activity fees to your child's advisor. We need these ASAP.

Welcome to Exchange Students

By Arianne Newton,

Please welcome our four new exchange students for the 07-08 school year! We are happy to have Eric, Nina, Emaa and Chieko studying with us. It is an important and exciting year for these students and we will all learn a lot from each other.

Thank you to the Joy Precisco and the Carla Pealer family for hosting Eric and Chieko and welcoming them into their families. Nina and Emaa are hosted by non-Trillium families.

The foreign exchange program at Trillium is an integral part of our global studies curriculum. It serves to enhance our focus on world connections and building cultural understanding. Please consider being part of this experience by hosting a student. I would be happy to speak with you about the program.



Hi. I'm Chieko Kobayashi. I'm from Japan. I like knitting, playing some tennis, watching sports, listening to music, learning about science, watching movies, shopping, reading manga and so on. Sometimes I read translated manga. It helps my English. I would like you to help me with my English.

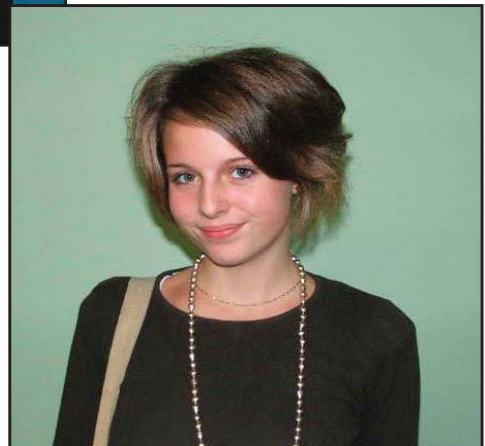
If you have any questions about me, Japan and so on please ask me anything. I will answer as possible. I hope this whole year will be good for you and me.



Hello! My name is Emaa Hornell. I'm 15 years old and I am an exchange student from Sweden. In Sweden I live in a town called Ostersund. Around 52,000 people live there. Ostersund is colder than Portland, we have a lot of snow in the winter.



Hi, my name is Eric Tietz. I am 16 years old and I come from Bautzen, a small town in the east of Germany. I will spend this school year at Trillium Charter School and I hope to make a lot of new friends and have a great time. Myself, I am open-minded, funny and very interested in the USA and my hobbies are playing chess, making friends, skiing, swimming, playing video games and lots more.



Hi Trillium, I'm Nina from Denmark and first I'd like to thank you all for the warm welcome. I'm looking forward to getting to know you during this year. I'm a curious and an outgoing person and I like acting, writing and music – no, I don't play an instrument though I really wish I did; that's probably my biggest regret I have of my life so far. Well, let's make this year the greatest! Peace.

Hello From New Teacher Jenny Shotts

Joining the 3-4-5 team this year is exciting and rewarding. I get to go to school each day with my own kids, Emma, Edgar and Elwin.

I am a native of the Pacific Northwest, born in Seattle, Washington. When I was in fourth grade, my family moved from the west side of the mountains to Central Oregon. I quickly became a 'junior naturalist' exploring the forests and rivers in my backyard. There, I learned to love skiing, mountain biking, fly-fishing and hiking.

I left Oregon for New York during college. I was bombarded with questions about Portland and the vast open spaces and forests that Oregon is known for. This must have planted a seed in my mind, and I was thrilled to return home after school.

As a teacher and parent I like to keep this quote close at hand as it reminds me of the joy children bring to learning and discovery:

When you walk, you might like to take the hand of a child. She will receive your concentration and stability, and you will receive her freshness and innocence. From time to time, she may want to run ahead and then wait for you to catch up. A child is a bell of mindfulness, reminding us how wonderful life is. – Thich Nhat Hanh, The Long Road Turns to Joy



Trillium Tourney Team and Try Outs

The Trillium Tourney Team is a Western Martial Arts team for ages 10 and up that will be competing in several dagger and longsword competitions in and outside of Trillium in October 2007 and throughout 2008.

We are holding open tryouts to students not in the Trillium Western Martial Arts classes on 9/25 and 9/27 from 3:30 until 5:00 pm in the multipurpose room. If you wish to tryout, please bring sweat pants, sport shoes (closed toe), a t-shirt, and a water bottle.

To be eligible for the team you must be 10 years old at a minimum, be ready to participate and determined to make at least one training session per week. If you make the team you will need to completed a Participation Waiver.

If you are accepted onto the team, training is held after school from 4 to 5 pm on Thursdays and noon to 1:30 pm on Fridays in the multipurpose room.

All students that are on the team need to purchase a Three Weapons Fencing mask or a caged hockey helmet and a 48" Wooden Waster made of oak or hickory. I am selling wooden wasters for \$30.00, fencing masks can be bought from any fencing store and run about \$40, hockey helmets are available at any local sporting goods store. I am trying to get the team a deal with a local supplier for a group discount on the fencing masks and/or hockey helmets details to come in October. Students will also need a fencing jacket. These are expensive. If we have a few parents that sew and are willing to donate some time to the team, we can modify large jeans jackets or even large sweat shirts with a moving blanket for padding. This option is much cheaper.



The team is also in need of any martial arts or boxing equipment that you might have laying around and wish to donate. A short list of needed items: punching bags, body shields, punch mits, medicine balls, head gear, etc.

Parents that are willing to help with a sewing effort or have times to donate please, or for more information, contact Trent at: Trent@trilliumcharterschool.org



TFT News By Renee Devereux, TFT President

The year is off and running! Homework, meetings, campouts! With all that happens at the beginning of the year the transition from summer to school feels very smooth this year! I hope you all have found that to be true also.

TFT (Together for Trillium) had our first meeting of the school year. We had a good turn out – it was great to meet some new parents and say hello to returning parents. The minutes from the meeting will be posted on the website shortly.

Our next meeting is set for Monday, October 8th at 6:30 pm. We will be voting on any requests for grant money and electing our new co-presidents, volunteer coordinator, and communication specialist. Open positions include:

- Co-Presidents (one parent from each lower and upper school) – Co-Presidents set schedule, create agenda and facilitate all TFT meetings; be an ex-officio member of all TFT committees; coordinate work of the Leadership Team and TFT committees in order that objectives may be achieved; and maintain communication with staff and Board.
- Communication Specialist – Responsibilities include: Record and publish all TFT meeting minutes; prepare materials to advertise TFT events; prepare monthly newsletter article for school newsletter.
- Volunteer Coordinator – Coordinate the efforts of the members at large in recruiting and organizing parents for TFT events and functions.

*The next TFT meeting
is October 8th at 6:30 at the school.
Childcare will be provided.
Attend, be heard, get active.*

To learn more about the TFT grant program please see the information sheet on the website (www.trilliumcharterschool.org) under the TFT menu option.

If you are interested in any of the open leadership positions or have other questions about what TFT is and does feel free to contact me for more information – Renee Devereux, Pdx01442@pdx.edu, 503.282.3667. Looking forward to a fabulous year!

Class Liaison Program Helps, and So Can You

This year the class liaison efforts are being lead by Joy Preciso for the upper school and Mary Drinkhouse for the lower school as class liaison coordinators.

Liaison Program Goals:

- Build community from the classroom out
- Improve communication
- Maintain volunteer offers and proactively align with volunteer needs
- Support teachers

Liaison Role Description:

- Review volunteer offers and align with volunteer needs
- Provide classroom support
- Maintain class phone tree

- Coordinate four community building gatherings per year for your classroom community
- Disseminate information from teacher, school, and TFT to parents monthly

Your class liaison will be contacting you in the near future and look for the Liaison contact list to be posted on the website (www.trilliumcharterschool.org).

The class Liaison program is a vital part of the Trillium community. Yet Liaisons can not do it alone, their success depends on the support and involvement of classroom parents. **Please let your liaison know where you are able to help.**

This program is where it is due to the efforts of Lyla Wolfenstein. Thank you Lyla for your hard work over the last few years.



Japan Day Festival at Trillium

The Japan Trip Program at Trillium Charter School presents the **Japan Festival on Saturday, October 20, from 11 am to 4 pm., at Trillium.**

The Japan Festival will include performances, exhibitions, cultural demonstrations, vendors and artisans, and Japanese children's games. This family-friendly festival presents you with a variety of fun and interesting cultural experiences from Japanese music and Ikebana (flower arrangements) to the martial arts and Kimono show and much more! Trillium students from the Japanese class will invite you at the end of the festival and teach you how to dance Bon Odori (Japanese Dance).

A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Japan Trip Program at Trillium which has been successfully carried out three years. The coming Japan trip in November will mark its fourth year at Trillium.

The Japan Festival is open to the public, and admission is free.

Japanese Film Festival

The Japan Trip Program at Trillium presents the Japanese Film Festival. Films will be shown on Friday, October 5 and Friday, October 19, 2007, starting at 1:30 pm to the film end (around 3:10 pm). Films include:

Friday, October 5th at 1:30 –

- Multi-purpose room: My Neighbor TOTORO (rated G)
- Eddie's Room: Howl's Moving Castle (rated PG)

Friday, October 19th at 1:30 –

- Multi-purpose room: Kiki's Delivery Service (rated G)
- Eddie's Room: TBA

The Japanese Film Festival is part of the fundraising for the Japan Trip Program at Trillium. The successfully carried out Japan Trip Program will be in its fourth year in November 2007.

Trillium students and their families are welcome. This event is for the Trillium community only. Donations from \$3-\$10 are expected. Please help our students for their incredible adventure in Japan!

Cross Country Team Takes Off

The Trillium Cross Country Team is up and running... **Practices are held on Mondays from 3:15 to 4:00 at school**, with weekly meets at Overlook Park on Thursday evenings starting at 5:00 pm thru October 11th. The team championship meet is Saturday, October 20th, 10 am at the Grant Park Track.

All ages are welcome. Meet events are scheduled as grades 3/4--1500 meters; grades 5/6--2000 meters; grades 7-8--3000 meters. High school students and adults are welcome to run in the 3000 meter open class events on Thursday evenings as well.

Come cheer on Team Trillium! For more info contact Jenny Shotts (jschotts@trilliumcharterschool.org) or Marie Taylor (Trillium board member and parent).

Mark These Important Dates On Your Calendar...

(All events at Trillium unless otherwise noted)

Japanese Film Festival

Friday, October 5 & Friday, October 19, 1:30 to 3:30 pm

TFT Meeting

Monday, October 8, 6:30 pm

NO SCHOOL - Staff Retreat

Thursday, October 11 & Friday, October 12

K-1-2 Sleepover

Thursday, October 18, 6 pm

Board Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 6 to 8:30 pm
Where: upstairs in Kirk's classroom

Japan Festival

Saturday, October 20, 11 am to 4 pm

Harvest Festival

Friday, October 26, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Lower School Project Fair

Thursday, November 8,
3:15 to 6:15 pm

NO SCHOOL - Teacher Planning

Friday, November 9 & Monday, November 12

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 6 to 8:30 pm
Where: upstairs in Kirk's classroom

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 19 to Friday, November 23