

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

June 2008



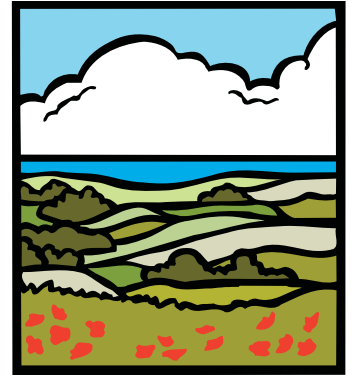
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From the Director By Stephanie Hinkle

Dear Trillium Families,

This is the last letter of the year. I can't believe it has gone so fast. It has been fabulous in so many ways. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful contributions to the school and community. Countless volunteer hours have been contributed to the school. Your financial support has been wonderful. Most of all, however, your commitment to your children's education is irreplaceable. When people in the outside world ask me about parent involvement, the point I



try to stress with them is that the most important aspect of parent involvement isn't volunteerism; it is that the student understands that the school and the parents are both invested in education and will talk to each other about struggles and successes. So, once again, thanks for your connection to the school and your support in the multitude of ways that you provide it.

I have spent the last couple of weeks entrenched in Senior Projects. I have written about Senior Projects before, but now I have seen the final products and want to share some of them with you.

Solomon built three ancient Chinese stringed instruments called Guqins. This project amazed us. He had to learn about a rare instrument, with no experts available. He then set out to build them in a very thoughtful process. The workmanship was outstanding. He really thought about his learning process and he put countless hours into it.

Emily made a Victorian picnic dress. If you have never seen a Victorian picnic dress, it is really quite a complex set of objects including a skirt, a train, and a corset. It was quite a production. She had to do lots of research on fabrics and methods in order to accomplish the whole outfit.

Fiona built a mini tall bike and wrote four bike 'zines. As part of her project, she took a bus to a national bike event. It was a fabulous experience for her. Thanks TFT for providing funding for that trip. Her bike is quite cute, and her 'zines are lots of fun.

I want to acknowledge the huge effort all the seniors put into their projects this year. I was very impressed. I got to watch as they struggled with workload, commitment, resources, time, energy, and completion issues. They came so far this year in their ability to overcome obstacles and push through inertia. I am very proud of them. Hopefully some will be available on our website soon.

At this time of year, parents wonder what they can do to help their children over the summer with their academics. My recommendation is to read with your children, to explore and talk about the world (I don't mean travel, although that is fabulous), and to have things for them to do with their hands, such as art, building, gardening, playing music, etc.

Have a great summer! We will see you in the not too distant future.

Goodbye Exchange Students!!!!

By Arianne Newton

Another year is complete and we are sadly sending this year's current exchange students home. We will miss them all and thank them so much for spending this year of their lives with us. They have added so much to our community and we have learned a lot from them. We wish them well and hope they can come back and visit. **Goodbye Eric, Chieko, Nina and Leila!**

And...if you want to know more about hosting a foreign student for a year (or less) there is still time! Please see Arianne.



Service Day Brings Community

By Billy Menz, K-1-2 Advisor

On Thursday, May 15 Trillium held their annual All-School Service Day. The event is one of the times students across age groups participate in meaningful experiences together. Service is something that Trillium cares about and the event attempts to celebrate our schools dedication to service. This year we had over 20 projects around the city and here at Trillium. Many students provided gardening service to local coops and food sources while others sorted art supplies for a low-income art group. One group volunteered at the Rebuilding Center and others worked downtown at local service agencies sorting clothes and cooking meals. Many others did service around our community by improving the playground and cleaning up our neighborhood.

With over 200 students being placed at different locales around the city it was no small task to get done, but thanks should go out to all the programs that helped make this event meaningful. We all know that meaningful service takes place over time and is not a one day a year commitment, but these agencies and groups needed the help and understand the value in teaching service to our youth. Thank you to all the groups who participated:

- Alberta Coop
- Oregon Food Bank
- Portland Impact
- Trillium Artisans
- Rebuilding Center
- Peninsula Learning Center
- Trillium Garden
- Union Gospel Mission
- Ariadne Garden
- Woodlawn Garden
- North Portland Library
- Store to Door
- Marie Smith Day Center
- Blanchet House
- Downtown Chapel
- Street Roots
- Salvation Army
- Free Expression Walls

Service Day is Trillium's way of celebrating the service we do in the community and help all students understand the value of helping the community. After the students returned to Trillium a lunch was provided for the entire school. Many times it is difficult to get the entire school in the same place at the same time. The lunch was a rare gathering of our entire community, which includes the volunteers who helped get the kids where they needed to go. In the coming year, Trillium will be looking to build its service program and make efforts to ensure service is a part of everyone's experience at Trillium. The school is founded on the basis of service and many classes and groups in the Trillium community are designed to help ensure opportunity already.

Thanks definitely go out to those who helped by driving or chaperoning or both. Teachers and volunteers were very flexible and the students had a positive experience.

Senior Spotlight By Ken Gadbow

Last week was a busy one for Trillium's 17 graduating seniors. On Wednesday, June 4, 14 seniors presented their senior projects. The exhibition projects represented over one thousand hours of work. We are proud and honored to have our seniors produce such thoughtful, engaging projects. Graduation was held on Saturday, June 7, in Hoffman Hall at PSU. *Congratulations Trillium grads!*

Cailie Madigan

Jeffrey Graham

Nolan Zane MacGregor

Chieko Kobayashi

Leila Nunn

Paige A. McCourt

Christopher Pearson

Luuk Aaberg

Riley Borne

Emily Shults

Maria Tannenbaum

Kyla Reynoso

Eric Tietz

Solomon Murphy

LoNisha Black

Fiona Rebecca Livingstone

Nina Ebbesen

Garden News By Arianne Newton

Thanks go out to:

Justyn Hegreberg – for helping with kids in the garden.

Rachael Torchia for continuing to volunteer for the garden program even after her AmeriCorps service was complete.

Jane Rosenstein for sharing pesto and pumpkin pie making with the garden kids.

Tara Elam for help in taming the weeds at the garden.

For all the others that have volunteered to help with the garden program – a million thanks!

And a special thanks to the Port City gardeners. Port City is a day center serving adults with developmental disabilities and we have partnered with them to share the Trillium garden this year.



Auction Success By Dawn Liljinquist

This year's auction is over and our class all had something to say about their experiences. Thanks to all of you for sticking with it! Make sure you all watch Dom Preciso's video interviewing students from the class. We had technical difficulties at the event.

Below are some really awesome photos from Victor Patravanich, an exchange student staying with the Murphys.



Thanks again everyone for coming, from the feedback we've received, you had a great time!

From the class and me, big huge thanks to Charity Chesnek who organized and stored all the donations. She came to our class to talk about some statistics with the donations. One cool thing we found out is that our class procured about 50% of the donations received. These were obtained from donors we had last year plus new donors we worked to meet this year.



At the May TFT meeting we talked about making this a bigger fundraiser. We hope you'll attend the next TFT meeting to discuss budget issues.

Without further ado, here's the breakdown:

Gross: \$25,383 " -" Expenses: \$6,270 = \$19,113

Collective bid for the rooftop garden: \$5,625 (way to go!!!)

Net Proceeds: \$13,488

You'll need to attend the budget meeting at TFT to see the break down of that net amount. This year's agreement was: 1. Fund TFT for the following year. This includes all the great things TFT does + seed money for next year's auction. 2. After the budget for TFT has been decided, the remainder is as follows: 25% to TFT and 75% to the school. When we started this year, the 75% for the school was to go to the Capital Campaign.



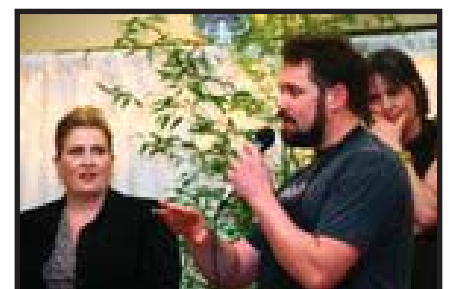
With no Capital Campaign (congratulations and fabulous job on refinancing!!!) the Board and Stephanie Hinkle, at the request of the TFT, have suggested 3 specific uses for this money: covering the cost of new windows for the building; putting the money toward sealing the outside of the building; putting it toward repairing the HVAC system in the building. **TFT will vote on these options at the June 10th meeting (Tuesday, June 10, 3:30 – 4:30 pm, childcare will be provided).**



Thanks for all the hard work from teachers with classroom projects (fabulous!), liaisons for classroom baskets (very popular!) and Mary Drinkhouse for all the enthusiastic reminders. Thanks to Ben & Megan Dyer for the fabulous dinner, and to our entertaining emcees Anne Stark & Neil Hightower. Thanks to all the parents and friends who donated, attended, or volunteered the night of the event to help support Trillium in every way!

See you next year!

Check out the auction blog at www.trilliumauctionclass.blogspot.com



Trillium Students Living Green

Zenger Farm Project

Students in Ryan's middle school Agroecology class designed a mural for Zenger Farm and painted it on their barn last month.

Summer Fun with Trash

By Fern Mullally, 3-4-5 Team Green member

Instead of throwing your trash away, rinse it out, clean it up, and use it for art. Here are three projects you can make from recycled trash. First, make a robot from cans. String the cans to make legs and arms. Put your art in the garden for a scarecrow. Second, use old canning lids to make a shopping bag so you won't need a paper or plastic bag from the store. Third, sew old t-shirts into ugly-dolls and decorate with old buttons and shoe laces. These are just three ideas that you can do. Use your imagination to use your trash to make something you want or need.



Class Baskets an Auction Hit By Mary Drinkhouse

The Trillium In Bloom Auction was a great success this year! Several of the Liaisons (room parents) helped in the last days before the lovely May 10 fundraiser to coordinate donations from their classrooms. The baskets were hot items during both the live and silent auction! Special thanks for coordinating baskets go to:

- Ann Hargraves for the Green Basket (Elizabeth)
- Valerie Day and John Ross for the Wine Basket (Kirk),
- Anne Stark for the Home Improvement Bucket (Rob),
- Michelle Hightower for the Cosmetics Basket (Zach),
- Susan Millhauser for the Sunday Brunch Basket (Beth),
- Courtney Dixon for the Summer Reading Basket (Polly),
- Megan Klepp and Courtney Dixon for the Mosaic Flower Pots (Billy), and
- Jennifer Sample for the Healing Basket (Brian).



These items were very popular and there was much active bidding on them. **Many parents contributed to these group donations and thank you to each and every one of you!**



Teachers Travel To Kenya Again

As many of you may know Trillium, through its Kids for Kenya program, has formed a partnership with the Humble Hearts School in Nairobi, Kenya. With this partnership we have been able to support programs for new construction, food aid, literacy, hygiene and clothing. More importantly we have learned a tremendous amount from our work with the school. We have been fortunate to have teachers and students travel to Nairobi and work directly with the school's students and faculty sharing ideas and culture. Last year, after an epic fundraising, we were able to take 21 members of the Trillium community to visit the Humble Hears School. The work we did and the time we spent impacted all of our lives.

At the end of the school year Polly and Ken will be returning to Kenya to work at Humble Hearts. The purpose of this trip is to prepare for next year's High School student trip to Kenya.

Our community has shown so much generosity and support for our program over the years. Last year our clothing drive brought in 42 bags which we were able to bring to the school and orphanage. For many of the children these cloths replaced the only set that they owned. Although we realize it is short notice, we would love to start our clothing drive again. Starting this week and running until the end of the school year, we will be collecting. A bin will be in the lobby marked Kids for Kenya. Clothing of all sizes, from infant through adults, in good condition, will be put to great use.

This year Humble Hearts is starting a soccer team to create some healthy after school activities. If you have any sports shorts you can part with, we would appreciate their donation. If you have any connections to getting group sets of soccer shorts, used or new, that would be a great help.

Next school year, thanks to grant writing and fundraising, we have raised much of the funds to bring a teacher and student from Humble Hears to Trillium for a three month exchange. This will allow us to share our culture with them as they have so kindly done with us. We are, of course, covering the cost of travel and living expenses. Donations of any size are appreciated to help us cover the remainder of the cost. Please make all checks payable to Trillium Charter School Kids for Kenya. All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be given to the front desk or to Polly or Ken directly. If you would rather mail them please make sure to write clearly that it is for Kids for Kenya.

Shortage in the world food supply, magnified by recent unrest in the Kenyan government, has created a dramatic need in the Humble Hearts community. Money we had raised for expanding programs in Nairobi has gone to cover basic food for the children there. In addition to our grant writing efforts, we are asking the Trillium community to financially support our sister school. Even small contributions will go a long way to provide for the basic necessities of Humble Hearts students, and 100% of all donations goes directly to the Humble Hearts community. Anyone interested in supporting some of our specific efforts such as building the orphanage or funding the start up of small sustainable businesses can find more information on our blog at <http://kidsforkenya.blogspot.com/>. Please consider supporting this noble effort, and many thanks to all of you have gotten us this far.

Warm Regards,

Kids for Kenya, Polly and Ken

Further Questions or Concerns? Email us: polly@trilliumcharterschool.org or ken@trilliumcharterschool.org

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found. Items not claimed will be donated.

Volunteer Thanks by Arianne Newton

Michele Hightower – for everything and for embodying the Trillium “spirit”

Dana Smith – for driving on field trips

Dana McLees – for knitting and sewing with the students

Kristen Purkapile – for knitting and sewing with the students

Amy Stuhr – for being an “unpaid classroom aid”

Chenoa Philabaum for classroom help and TFT volunteer coordination

Susan Schmitt for reading help

Melissa Crenshaw for classroom help

Yvonne Rodriguez for classroom help

Susan Millhauser for her organizational expertise

Ted Cruise for special Chinese New Year lesson

Mary Drinkhouse for everything

Megan Klepp for mosaic project and general support

Nephyr Jacobson for classroom snacks

Josh Larson - finishing tile table for Beth’s class

Mariah McNeice for classroom help

Renee Devereux – campout help, auction, etc.

Joy Preciso – TFT, etc.

Tim Drewes – TFT treasurer for 3 years

Theresa Turner – campout

Michele Kennedy – class liaison

Amy Burkhard – class liaison

Keith Livingstone – campout

Elizabeth and Robert McKinley – campout

Karla Bryan – campout

Kerri Creager – for too much to list!

Dawn and Zach Liljenquist – auction

Anne Greenwood – for grant writing, grounds clean-up and being TFT secretary

Dawn Weaver for Grant writing

Whitney Grubbs for grant writing

Marie Taylor – field day, etc.

Anne Stark – for scrip and coffee!

Lori Threlkeld - photography club

John Smith - donations and chaperone

Valerie Day – class liaison, donations, driving, voice classes

Taylor Watkins – campout

Dean Boudouris – campout

Ramona Fischer – campout and all-around daily support

Shelia Guardino – filed trips, campout, driving

Barb Griggs – chaperone, campout, donations

Jonathon Magnus – campout

Jon Romans – campout

Cheryl Greathouse – campout

Mike Edeen – campout

Matt Warren – campout – campout

Erin Quinton – campout

Mark Otto – campout

Melissa Kardon

Dave Baker for keeping the camp fire going!

Catherine Murphy – Graduation help and class liaison and campout

Rene Pearson – graduation help

Julie Yates – driving on field trips and campout help

Steve McCrea – campout

Andrew and Lori Preston – campout

Nancy Morgan – campout

Travis Burke - campout

Tom McCourt campout

Steve Purkapile – campout and lots of other things around school

Noah Greenwald

Quincy Chance - Concordia student teacher, boy’s group leader, volunteer PE and health teacher

Celeste Roberts - OSU student teacher

Genevieve White - Class liaison

Samantha Duncan - driver who always chips in at the last minute with her van

Melanya and Mark - Play after Play visit, Mark was camp chaperone

John Ross – class liaison, circle of friends, chaperone, field trips, etc, etc!

Jim Bernard – for being an unpaid building maintenance guy

Carrie Mae for TFT and so much more

Parents who serve on our board – Abby Boudouris, Jodie Throckmorton, Marie Taylor, James Hinds, Kerri Creager

The entire auction committee and volunteers who worked so hard and raised so much for the school

And last but not least, EVERY parent from Polly’s class!



***We know we probably have missed some names but just know that you are all appreciated.
We could not do it all without your support! Thank you from the entire Trillium Staff***

Summer Camp Spots Still Open By Rob van Nood

While I know that most families probably have made plans already for the summer, I did want to let everyone know that there are a few more days to sign up for Trillium Summer Camps. **Wednesday, June 11 is the last day of registration. All the camps still have some spaces.** If you need more information please contact me (rob@trilliumcharterschool.org) or get an information packet from the front office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES... TRILLIUM NEEDS YOU (YES, YOU!)

Here are some terrific opportunities to get involved at school next year.

Board Seats Open

The Trillium Board of Directors has open seats for the 2008-2009 school year. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining please contact us board@trilliumcharterschool.org for more information.

Looking for Liaisons (Room Parents) for 2008-2009 School Year By Mary Drinkhouse

I want to thank all the Liaisons for all their hard work this year! I appreciate the time and effort you all spent to help your advisors coordinate class gatherings, to send out information about TFT meetings and other school events, and to support your teachers. Thank you to: Ann Hargraves, Michelle and Dave Kennedy, Amy Burkhard, Catherine Murphy, Dana Smith, John Ross, Valerie Day, Genevieve White, Deborah Reed, Sea Cummings, Michelle Hightower, Lori Threlkeld, Ali Clark, Courtney Dixon, Megan Klepp, and Susan Millhauser.

Many of the Liaison positions will be open in the fall and we will be looking for new parents! If you are interested in helping build community from the classroom out, improving communication throughout the school, and providing support for your child's teacher, then the Liaison job is just right for you! This is a great way to be involved and provide direct support to your child's teacher and classroom.

Contact Mary at mdrink@yahoo.com if you would like more information about this fun and rewarding job! Have a great summer!



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)

Lower School (K-1-2-3-4-5) Picnic
Tuesday, June 10, 10:30 to 1 pm
Peninsula Park

TFT Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 3:30 to 4:30 pm
Childcare provided

**Middle School
Project Exhibition Fair**
Thursday, June 12, 11 am to 12 pm

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
Thursday, June 12, 1:15 to 3:00 pm
Multipurpose Room

Board Meeting
Thursday, June 12
6 to 8:30 pm. Kirk's room
All are welcome!

**Last Day of School,
Friday, June 13**

Happy summer!

And thinking ahead...
Home Visits
September 2 – 5, 2008

First Day of School
September 8, 2008