

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

March 2008



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Trillium Charter School

LEARNING FOR CHANGE

From the Director By Stephanie Hinkle

Dear Trillium Families,

Wow, it feels kind of like spring. It is so great. Our sun-starved town really needs a dose of natural warmth and light to wake up. The school year seems to keep coming along at a rate faster than we want. Spring break is around the corner. Activity and adventure seems to be around many corners. A couple of weeks ago, all at the same time, we had students performing their music for others, a distinguished guest from Rethinking Schools here helping in a high school simulation, and Oregon's Secretary of State talking to a hundred or so very interested first through 12th graders about our environment. Our students were very respectful and engaged. They cared deeply about the issues, had a lot of combined and individual knowledge about the subjects, and shared their concerns, ideas, and frustrations with the issues. Our student population is poised to take big leaps in social justice and environmental issues. They want to be involved and make a difference. It is very exciting to see. I encourage you to find out what your children are passionate about and to help them find a voice and take action. Next year, we will be taking students to Salem to teach them how to give testimony about topics they feel strongly about, as well as finding other ways to get their voices heard in government and policy making.

While on the topic of getting one's voice heard, I am looking for adult and teen volunteers to help establish a charter school Stand for Children chapter. This group really focuses on grassroots concerns and has an agenda that is very much aligned with what we believe children need. If you are willing to help, please contact me. My email is Stephanie@trilliumcharterschool.org.

Sometimes when you talk to students you find out that they harbor fear around some very serious world or national issues. I am sure many of you had times when the thought of nuclear war or some other catastrophe made you feel helpless and scared. Help your children put things into perspective as much as possible. When people feel powerless, it can lead to loss of engagement, fear, depression, and hopelessness. Helping them find ways they can make a difference and see change happen will help them combat these feelings.

My perspective is that there are two major forces in the world. Those forces are love and fear. I generally find that nearly all of our responses can be traced to one or the other. Fear underlies rage, loss, resentment, envy, shame, and many other difficult emotions. It is very hard, in my opinion, to eliminate either fear or love as motivators, but if we can recognize which one drives us, we can accept it, confront it, embrace it, and address it. I believe that we are most successful when we can understand the fear in ourselves and others and respond with love and care. I believe it is important not to add to the unhealthy rage in the world with our own actions, even if we fundamentally disagree with another person's perspective or actions. Channeling healthy anger into positive action that doesn't perpetuate hate and misunderstanding is not common enough in our world. My personal goal for each of the students that comes to Trillium is that they each know how to spread positive change in the world through their awareness of themselves as well as awareness and understanding of others.



Get Involved, Enter to Win! Auction Donation Drawing Contest Extended. Open to Everyone, Including Students!!!

Every auction donation form turned in by Friday, March 21 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 Monday, March 24.

Donation forms are available in the front lobby near the office door. Please take some with you while you're shopping and out in your community. If you have any questions about donations, please contact Charity Chesnek at 503-997-1372 or email cchesnek@earthlink.net.

Please leave donations in the box below the donation forms, or if it's highly valuable, there is a small box in the office. We're in class Tuesdays and Thursdays to collect items, but Charity is actually the person storing them.

We've created an online spreadsheet on Google Docs and made it (hopefully!) simple for you to look at the list we've sent to and also a form for you to fill in to add the companies you visit. We'll be keeping that list updated and we have quite a few donations from a mailing that went out at the first of the term.

Thanks so much for your participation!

Google Docs form to enter new contacts:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pJXzDQTmkGCZP2iyMU0JsYg>

Google Docs spreadsheet to stay updated:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pJXzDQTmkGCZP2iyMU0JsYg>

DI Teams Rock Regional Tournament



Congratulations to the three Trillium teams that participated in the Destination Imagination regional tournament on March 1. The two primary teams did an excellent job and the intermediate team won first place! Great work!!!



Family Math Night at Trillium

Would you like to explore codes? Play games? Unravel mysteries? Learn about other cultures? Come to Family Math Night sponsored by Oregon State University's M.A.T. 2008 cohort.

Stations will be set up on many exciting activities—perfect for those who love math AND for those who never thought it could be fun and exciting. There will be activities for grades K-8.

When: March 13, 2008, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Where: At Trillium

For Parents/Families: This night will share games and at-home strategies to help support your child in math. If your student loves math, they will find activities of interest. For reluctant students, there will be new, fun, ways to look at math.

Host an Exchange Student, Learn First Hand About Another Culture, Make Lifelong Friends. Make a student's dream come true!

By Arianne Newton

Below please see instructions on how to view potential exchange students.

As many of you know, having high school foreign exchange students attend Trillium and live with Trillium host families has been a wonderful part of our school since our first year. Trillium has had almost 20 different students attend our school over the years and as anyone can tell you they have been a great addition to our school and community! We believe that this program helps our students become more culturally aware as well as gives the exchange students a very unique taste of America. And, as I can personally attest to, hosting a student can be one of the most rewarding things you will do. It quite literally can change how you look at life and create some lasting personal relationships.

If you have ever thought about hosting now is the time to get more information. Check out the profiles, contact me directly with questions and talk with your family about doing this today! Students stay for one year, arrive usually in late summer and return the following July. Host families can "select" their student (act early for best "selection") and are supported throughout the experience by myself (Trillium's exchange student liaison) as well as by the very reputable organization, Northwest Student Exchange.

Please consider being part of this fantastic program. I would be happy to share my experiences. Contact me with any questions at 503-327-5439 or by email arianne@e-z.net

How to View Available Students—

It is now possible for prospective host families to view available students on the NWSE student profiles page. The Web page address is <http://nwse.com/profiles/>

- Hosts should use for User Name: **nwsehost**
- Hosts should use for Password: **hosting**
- After logging in hosts will have to click on: **2008/2009 Students**

To see more information on each student, the user can click on the student's ID number, first name, or the person icon in the last column. The user can save and/or print a pdf version of the profile by clicking on the printer icon in the last column.

February Planting Brings New Trees

Cam Hilton joined his family along with a K-1-2 family and Zach Post to help plant four Ash trees at Trillium on February 16. The tree planting was done in conjunction with Friends of Trees and was a follow up project to the Intermediate's Climate Summit. Please visit the new trees on the Maryland Street side of the building. We'll need watering volunteers for the summer! Contact Zach for more information.



For more information about planting trees in the Portland area, including upcoming neighborhood and natural area planting volunteer opportunities, visit Friends of Trees online at www.friendsoftrees.org or call 503-282-8846.



Volunteer Thanks

Thanks to **Chenoa Philabaum** for volunteering to work our booth at the Portland Public School's Celebration Fair at the Expo Center. This Fair is an opportunity for all the district's schools and programs to present themselves to prospective students. Chenoa talked her ear off for four hours and we thank her for that!

Charlie Bott just completed work on our grant proposal to the city's Green Investment Fund. We are excited about the possibility of funding our roof garden should all of his hard work get rewarded. THANK YOU CHARLIE!

Anne Stark – Scrip lady extraordinaire, THANK YOU for your tireless efforts to promote this FREE MONEY program for our school. Also, thanks to **Anne** and **Janet Lageson** for organizing the swell coffees put on by TFT.

TESTING HELPERS! A big thank you goes out the parent volunteers who spent so much time helping our students get through the state testing. Two plus weeks of computer testing went smoothly in part due to your help. Thanks to **Beth Hilton, Michelle Hightower, Dana Smith, Dana McLees, and all the others** (you know who you are!) that helped.



Cut out & place in prominent location

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 listserve
- 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 listserve, go to <http://lists.trilliumcharterschool.org/mailman/listinfo/trillium-parent-lists.trilliumcharterschool.org>.



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)

Meet the Teachers Session for Prospective Parents

Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm
Multipurpose Room

TFT Coffee Klatch

Friday, March 7, 8 am for staff, 8:30 am
for parents. In the Garden Classroom.

TFT Meeting

Monday, March 10, 6:30 pm
Student rep to be elected.
Childcare provided.

Preschool Information Session

Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 pm

Family Math Night

March 13, 2008, 5:30 - 7:30 pm.
See page 3 of newsletter for details.

Movie Night

Friday, March 14, 6:30 pm

All School Project Night

Thursday, March 20, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

NO SCHOOL -Spring Break

Monday, March 24 through
Friday, April 4

