

# Newsletter

February 2009, Volume 9, Issue 4

McMinnville



## Note from the Board

Dear Families,

Wow, is it already February? We are well into 2009 and so far, it's been an eventful year. On January 16<sup>th</sup> the elementary thespians wowed us with their performance of "Cinder-Bob", a farcical interpretation of the classic "Cinderella", which the students themselves wrote, directed, acted and produced. Good Show!

Then on January 22<sup>nd</sup> Primary and Elementary joined forces to entertain us all at the delayed "Winter Celebration" at the first Christian Church. Thanks to our Music Teacher, Sue Windish, the pianist, Jo Windish, and Jenny Cleveland, our Spanish Teacher for helping to make the evening so special. Many thanks to and all our staff for coordinating the event, and thanks to those parents who brought refreshments and helped with set up and clean up after the event.

We're coming up on our biggest fundraising event of the year, our Valentine's Dinner and Dance hosted at the Evergreen Museum. The date is Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a silent auction and door prizes. Our Parent Organization has worked very hard over the past three years to develop a truly world class annual event to support the school. We appreciate the support of the local community, but we also want our own parents to support our efforts by attending. As you may know, many other schools have established events in the community as their large fundraisers. For example, St. James hosts an annual dinner and auction, as well as the Wine Classic each spring. We have been very fortunate to have several dedicated parents who have devoted considerable time to establishing our Valentine's event as a similar high caliber community event. In fact, we now have the Evergreen Museum reserved several years into the future for Valentines each year. The Parent Organization has also tried to focus our energy on one very large fundraiser, rather than a different fundraiser each month, with the belief that parents would rather support one major event, than continually fundraise throughout the year. Our fundraising directly supports the programs, building and enrichment of the school. Our previous fundraising has directly helped pay for the new wooden floors in the classrooms and the new heating system in the building. New materials are bought for the classrooms and spring science camp is supported as well. This year we are looking at replacing our playground structure. This year we tried something new with the fundraising or buy out option where each family was asked

## Calendar of Events:

Valentine's Dinner	Feb 14
No School	Feb 16
PO SOS Meeting	March 2
Board Meeting	March 4
Parent Night	March 12
Bowling	March 14
Spring Break	March 23-27

at the beginning of the year to either pay a sum up front or commit to purchasing 2 tickets to the Valentine's event *and* bring in \$300 dollars to the school (\$110 of which is the price of the 2 tickets). Those of you who donated wine or other items for the auction will be credited for your fundraising commitment. We hope that our parents will participate because they hope to enhance their child's school and programs, AND have a fantastically fun time as well. Let me say that if you didn't have a chance to attend previous Valentine events, they are truly a wonderful event with great food, music and ambiance. The Parent organization has worked even harder this year and I know it will be even more spectacular. Please plan to come. If you are unable to attend, please consider buying tickets and giving them to a friend who would like to support the school.

Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 the school will be hosting our Spring Parent Night. Parent Night gives parents an opportunity to learn about Montessori education. Please be sure to mark your calendars.

Last but not least, I would like to introduce our newest board member, Jan Cook. Please feel free to attend any of our board meetings, held on the first Wednesday of every month. We welcome you to come by and meet our new board member.

Thank you parents for your help and support, and I look forward to seeing you at the annual Valentine's Dinner, Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Amanda Marshall,  
Board Vice President

### Positive Points from Primary

Lately, there is an increasing energy in the classroom. I believe it has increased with our growing glimpses of the sun. Even physically, children are appearing to out grow their clothes. (This is also a good time to check the size of extra clothing kept at school).

With this physical growth, there is often an emotional and maturity growth. It might be a good time to check the freedoms, responsibilities, and boundaries surrounding your child. Sometimes, behavior difficulties come from a child being incased by rules that they have out grown. The child will often check or push at the established limits which in turn can appear to be 'behavior' issues.

Observing your child's routines and responsibilities, while internally questioning their activities and behaviors, might give you insight into ways that you can expand their freedoms and responsibilities.

If you are able to implement changes before the trouble begins, it will help in smoother growth transitions and calmer life experiences for the whole family.

--Leslie

### \*\*FRIENDLY REMINDER\*\*

Don't forget, if you choose to exchange valentine cards, please do so outside of school.

### IMMUNIZATIONS!!!

Please update your child's immunization records every time your child receives shots. All children five and under, and first grade should have received their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the Hepatitis A vaccination. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

### Letter from Elementary

Greetings from Elementary!

We would like to welcome two new students to the Elementary classroom. Max Mason and McKenzie Plummer have recently joined our class. Welcome!

We are busy learning about the continent of Oceania during the month of February. If anyone has anything from this continent at home and would like to share it with us, please let me know.

The children are also learning about the history of our Earth, focusing on early mammals. Many early mammals roamed here in Oregon.

Thank you to the parents who help make pizza Friday a healthier meal by bringing in salad. Let me know if you want to bring the salad fixings for a Friday. It would be greatly appreciated.

Swimming starts back up on February 17. Remember to include your children in the daily chores around your house. They can pack their lunch, fold the laundry, load and unload the dishwasher to name a few. It's important for a child to have responsibilities and a role in the day to day functions in your family.

Maria

“If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children, for the children are the makers of men.” -- Dr. Maria Montessori

## News from the Parent Organization

Dear Parents,

**GOOD NEWS!** We have raised \$1,750 so far this year towards our fundraising goal. We are on our way in providing the school with a NEW PLAY STRUCTURE. It is important that we put every effort into our fundraising to ensure the success of reaching our goal. It will be a fantastic reward for our children to return next school year to enjoy a beautiful new play structure.

We would like to thank the following companies and individuals in their donations towards our goal.

**R&J Metal Fabricators, Inc. – Portland, OR**  
**Walmart Foundation – McMinnville, OR**

We have had two fundraisers since school started. As we wrap-up our Downtown Fundraiser, so far we have brought in \$350. Special thanks to the following Merchants who participated in our fundraiser.

**Hopscotch Toys**  
**Third Street Books**  
**Mes Amies**  
**Red Fox Bakery**  
**La Bella Casa**

Our calendar fundraiser brought in approximately \$560. The PO wants to give many thanks to those who helped in coordinating these fundraisers as well as those who supported them.

Our next fundraiser is our **Valentine’s Dinner & Dance, Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a fun-filled evening with wine, dinner, dancing and silent auction. You can also have your picture taken with your sweetheart or your family and friends. If you haven’t already done so, please contact the school to purchase tickets.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We need volunteers to work the night of the event. This is a great way to meet any SOS hours needed for the school year. Jobs have been broken down into one hour increments so that you volunteer for a short amount of time and enjoy most of the evening as well. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the foyer for your convenience.

Our next social event is bowling. It will be at Walnut City Lanes here in Mac on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>; more information to come at as we get closer to the date.

Please be sure to record any completed SOS hours in the green binder located in the foyer.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your SOS job or fundraising commitment, please contact anyone of the P.O. Officers.

I look forward to seeing you at the Valentine’s Dinner & Dance.

Thanks,  
PO Officers



**Many Thanks!!**

**Intel**

The school has received a \$150 matching grant for volunteer hours from Intel Corporation, due to the hours donated by Julie Donnelly. Intel matches volunteer hours when their employees volunteer in schools. We are grateful for the involvement Julie has in our school. Thank you!

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**Cultivating the Desire  
to Learn**

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*Please contribute to future newsletter issues.  
Contact Kim Sapunar with your ideas and  
articles.*

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