

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

## December 2007



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# Trillium Charter School

## LEARNING FOR CHANGE

### From the Director By Stephanie Hinkle

Dear Trillium Families,

I hope your holidays are filled with love, peace, and comfort. It can be a frustrating, stressful time, so take opportunities to focus on the important things and don't get caught up in the "shoulds" of life. It is a good time to give your children a sense of perspective. Sometimes children feel like they are better or worse off than those around them and it can make them feel bad about their own experiences. Keeping holidays focused on enjoying time spent with each other and friends, and not on what gifts they did or didn't get will help them grow up with a stronger sense of the world and be okay, even if they don't have all the things they want. Build tradition into your life. Often those traditions become the foundation of children's enjoyment and appreciation for the season and their families. Traditions don't have to be expensive or time-consuming. It can be something as simple as baking cookies together to give to friends or a family pajama party. Help at a shelter or gather blankets and socks for the homeless.



This is a busy month at Trillium. Upper school conferences are the next couple of weeks. The primary classes have their festival on December 14th. The intermediate classes have their climate summit December 13th. Check the calendar on the website or the back of the newsletter for more events.

We are in the final stages of our building refinance. This will allow us to repair the roof, put in an elevator, and finish some miscellaneous building work. We will update you when we have timelines for the work.

We have some space available in the intermediate classrooms, so if you have friends with children who might be interested let them know. We stop taking new students after the first semester is over.

Some high school students are working on program development and are trying to gather resources. They are looking for tools, crafting supplies, good fabric, sewing machines, art tools and supplies, metal working tools, glass working tools, and other items that will make it easier to work on projects. They are also trying to develop a list of people who can teach certain skills that would be interesting. If you think you have a skill or an item of use, feel free to email me and I can forward the information to them. My email is [Stephanie@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:Stephanie@trilliumcharterschool.org).

If any of you have training and time to lead student support groups in areas such as divorce, please let me know. We would really like to get some groups going at school.

Thanks. Have a great month.

# What is Democratic Education?

An enhanced awareness of life in a democratic culture is a main goal in the field of education, and the application of democratic processes and the protection of human rights in schools are essential for the promotion and sustainability of a democratic culture.

Democratic Education prepares people to live successfully in a democratic society. A school or community based on democratic education may use the following tools:

- **Pluralistic Learning** that allows each person to choose areas of learning that are personally relevant and meaningful. Pluralistic learning acknowledges the uniqueness of the student and is based on the right of every person to express this uniqueness.
- **Equal relationships** between adults and children (or adult to adult, etc) that are based on trust, respect and responsibility.
- The use of **democratic processes** in discussions and decision-making (things like All School Meeting, judicial committee, student run committees and groups, student representatives on School Board, etc.).

## Trillium Board News

The Trillium Board of Directors would like to welcome three new members to the Board. High school students Kang O'Neil and Sarah Rosenthal have joined as student representatives. The Board also created, then filled, a position for a preschool representative. Genevieve Bouwes was unanimously approved for that role.

**The Board meets every third Thursday of the month from 6 to 8:30 pm. This month's meeting is December 20th.** The agenda and previous meeting minutes are 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:

[www.trilliumcharterschool.org](http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org).

## Greetings from the Preschool By Jean Goodrow

We are back from the November break and ready to go. Everyone seems rested and prepared to work hard. We have spent quite a bit of time working on community in our classroom and are ready to go out and explore the surrounding area. To accomplish this we have started an overarching study of bread.

Our general theme of 'bread' has us excited about the various subjects we will discover throughout. Such a wide-ranging study will allow us to learn about science, math, social studies, literacy, and art. In the course of this study we will be visiting local cafés, restaurants, bakeries, and one of our neighboring food banks.

We want to thank the Trillium community - parents, staff, students, and administration - for all of its support as we employ a new momentum within our budding and active program.

## New Crosswalks on Killingsworth By Genevieve White

You have probably noticed the construction on Killingsworth near the school, and have maybe wondered what they are doing and when they will be done. Well, your Board of Directors has done some research and found good news! The Portland Department of Transportation is installing new crosswalks at Missouri, Montana, Minnesota, and Maryland. This will include curb extensions at the corners, giving us a shorter distance to cross and slowing traffic. Also included in the project are pedestrian lighting and some fresh landscaping. The project is expected to be complete soon after the winter break.



## Intermediate News By Jenny Shotts

The Lower School learning plan exhibition was held Thursday November 8th. Students showcased projects and interests they have been working on for much of the first term.

In addition to writing personal reflections about their work, students in the Intermediate created a parent feedback form to gather words of encouragement and suggestions for future work. Each project exhibit was categorized by the Trillium Framework guide for 3-4-5 in order to demonstrate progress toward learning goals in each area. On the following school day, each child created business cards to help showcase their project to other students. Everyone rotated through the four classrooms to view projects and could take a card for any projects that interested them. During the week, learning plan time was devoted to trying out new and different activities, many inspired by the exhibition. This framed the beginning of goal setting for the second term, as students could craft a plan to include testing out new ideas and focusing more in-depth on projects they are passionate about.

Our next major exhibit will be on **Thursday, December 13th from 6:30-8:00 as we host the International Climate Summit in the Trillium Multipurpose room.** This fair is a culmination of our exploration of the effects of global warming on the world's biomes. Featuring student projects and community speakers coming together to offer solutions and suggestions for sustainability, this will prove to be a powerful learning experience for all of Trillium's students and families.

Here are some pictures from our first term learning plan exhibition. For more pictures of this or other 3-4-5 events (available to download from picasa) go to our blog at: <http://trillium345.blogspot.com/>



Regina Bailey knit a scarf for her mom's birthday



Ellie's drawings on display



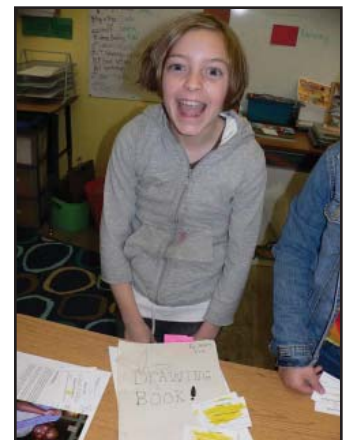
Never's clay word



Eli Boudouris studies Keith Haring's art



Matilda showcases her recycled-art animal



Mary Fink created a sketch book of animals

## Scholastic Book Club Orders Benefit Lower School Classes

When you order books through Scholastic Book Club, not only do you get access to a wide selection of books at great prices, your orders benefit Trillium classes.

We have exciting news for families in grades 3-4-5. You can now place your Scholastic Book Club orders online! There are always five Scholastic catalogs to choose from online, from Lucky (Grade 2-3) and Arrow (Grade 4-6) to Science, Kid, and Teacher picks (Grade K-6).

Browse all the great monthly Club selections at low prices and order online - all while helping 3-4-5 classrooms earn FREE books, software, and resources.

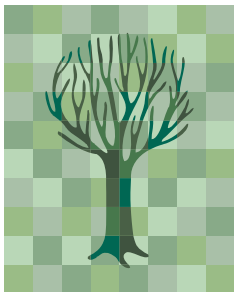
Here's how to order online:

1. Go to [www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering) to access the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site.  
Class User Name: **trillium345** ; Password: **books**
2. Browse the titles with your child, and place your order with your credit card.
3. Your order will come to Jenny Shotts, 3-4-5 teacher, and your credit card payment will go directly to Scholastic's secure server. There's no need to send money to school.
4. After an entire class's order to Scholastic has been submitted, your order will be delivered to our classroom for your child to take home.

Remember, placing your online credit card order is **completely safe and secure**. Ordering online is the **most convenient way** to use Scholastic Book Clubs. You can order anytime, right up until the online order due date. And this month, our class can **earn additional FREE books**, just for trying this online ordering service.

**Check the online site for the current order by deadline.** If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jenny Shotts, [jenny@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:jenny@trilliumcharterschool.org).

K-1-2 families should talk with their child's advisors to get more information on ordering through the Club, including order forms, deadlines, and more. K-1-2 sales will benefit individual classrooms.



## Help Clean Up The Grounds Around Trillium

Each **Tuesday morning at Trillium after drop off** it is the grounds maintenance or clean up. You can spend as much time as you have picking up trash, sweeping, raking leaves, or tidying up the playground, 15 minutes to an hour usually.

Bring gloves; we have a few brooms and rakes. If anyone has extra leaf bags and/or want to compost the leaves we collect, that would be helpful. Thanks! Anne Greenwood

## Martial Arts Needs

Attention All Sewers and Material-savvy Persons! Trent in the Upper School needs help sewing the gambesons (padded jackets) for Trillium's Western Martial Arts Class. This will protect students from injury during practice. He will supply the material and the pattern if you could supply the time to sew them together! If you can help out with this, please contact Chenoa at [chenoa.philabaum@gmail.com](mailto:chenoa.philabaum@gmail.com).

## Art At Trillium By Andrea Rosselle

The back splash behind the sink in the art classroom is starting to get more colorful with spatters and drips, and this is good. Good because with the mess comes creativity and with that comes art. These past nine weeks have started the pulse and rhythm of the classes taking art this semester: Kindergarten, Grade 3/4/5, and the Middle School.

The Kindergartners have spent the first quarter studying Modern Art focusing on Picasso, Stella and Leger. The 3/4/5 graders have been focusing on the Reuse and Repurposing of materials to create art, and the Middle School class has focused on the Elements and Principles of Design. In this next quarter, Kindergartners will focus on Ancient Cultures, 3/4/5 Grade on Modern Art, and the Middle School on Contemporary Art, as well as self projected projects. Please feel free to stop by the art room and see the art work in progress.



Picasso Cubist Portrait by Atticus, Kindergarten



Emmy Working on Picasso Project



Line Design by Diego,  
Middle School



Skylar with her Ceramic Portrait



Monochromatic Portrait in Painting  
by Elina, Middle School



Never and Isabella Painting Paper Maché  
Projects by Diego, Middle School

## Volunteer Thanks

Three cheers for the grounds clean-up crew! Thank you **Anne Greenwood** and **all the helpers** who have taken it upon themselves to help with this important task. Our budget does not allow for a maintenance or facilities person so this work falls on the staff to take care of. It is an enormous relief not to have to try to teach, run a school, and clean up the grounds. We appreciate this.

Ever wonder how the sign board gets changed? It is not some stranger with really long arms but our very own **Brent Clarke**. He has tirelessly kept us and the community updated and we thank him for this. This is an important communication tool that looks pretty bad if left unattended. Thanks Brent!

**Jim Bernard** has been at it again. He has built some fabulous workbenches in the student construction area. This will make it much safer and more usable. Thanks, Jim for all you do for Trillium.



### TRAFFIC REMINDER

For everyone's safety, please:

- No parking in the front lot
- No double parking
- Watch for pedestrians
- Do not use the IFCC driveway or parking lot



*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](mailto: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)*

#### Upper School Conferences

December 3 - December 14

#### TFT Meeting

Monday, December 10,

6:30 - 7:30 pm

#### International Climate Summit

Thursday, December 13,

6:30 - 8:00 pm

(see page 3 for more information)

#### K-1-2 Play Night

Friday, December 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

#### Lower School Intensives

December 17 - 20. Want to help?

Talk with your child's advisor.

#### Trillium Board of Directors

##### Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 20,

6:00 - 8:30 pm, Kirk's classroom

All are welcome to attend.

#### NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

December 24 - January 4

