

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

November 2007



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## From the Director By Stephanie Hinkle

Dear Trillium Families,

As October closes out and November begins, I would like us all to take a deep breath and try to slow down our lives a little. We often get so busy trying to get through the days that we forget to enjoy the moments. Then suddenly, your child is a year older, and you can't believe it. Fall is such a beautiful time of year. Take a walk with your family and enjoy it some. Winter will soon descend and we will be trapped in buildings, trying to avoid cascading streams of water.

This year we are in the process of a ramped up accreditation process. After the third year of accreditation, schools must do a self-study and have an accreditation team come do a site visit at our school. It is a good time for self-reflection, as well as putting some attention to fine tuning systems and programs. This happens to coincide with our five year planning process, started by the Board of Directors. Some of the areas will overlap.

In that vein of self-reflection and fine tuning, I would like to let you know some of the areas we focused on at our staff retreat. Our staff retreats have always been such an important time for us to build our programs, and I want to thank you for the support you give us during that time. This year we were really able to focus on solutions. We worked on integrating the whole school more fully, so that the school does not feel like we have two different programs of upper and lower school. We also spent a great deal of time on developing a school wide assessment plan. We want to be able to show growth in students in various ways, and we don't want it to be haphazard. This goal will go into our school improvement plan. Once that is written, it will be available on our website.

The other major issue we worked on was revamping our discipline system. We put OVVR in to place during a time when we were trying to establish some norms and reduce a great deal of disruption and inappropriate behavior. While we still have some disruption and inappropriate behavior, it is considerably less, and students have more understanding of expectations and their role in the community. We are not done with the overhaul yet, but when we are, we will let you know.

Finally, I want to remind people that if you want to be more involved in the five year planning process, please contact the Board (see page 2 for more information). We truly welcome your input and effort.

Have a great month, and as Thanksgiving approaches I want to thank you all for sharing your children with us and supporting the community.



# Trillium Board News

## *Five Year Plan Under Development*

The Trillium board of directors is working on developing a Five Year Plan for the school. We have had several discussions and have come up with four categories that we will begin to take a closer look at: Finance, Community, Infrastructure, and Student life. Each group will be clearly defining each category as well as prioritizing the pieces of these categories. We would like community members to be involved in this process. If you are interested in joining a group or getting more information please contact us at [board@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:board@trilliumcharterschool.org).

## *Fundraising Committee Up and Running*

The Fundraising Committee for the board is just getting started, with many plans to improve Trillium's fundraising over the coming year. A few of our major objectives include: develop a fundraising vision and mission in alignment with the Trillium vision and mission, develop a fundraising strategy, and improve communication and reduce confusion around all our current fundraising efforts. If you have interest or experience in non-profit fundraising, if you're good at organizing information (e.g., contribution data), or if you just want to offer some input, please contact James Hindes, [jhindes@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:jhindes@trilliumcharterschool.org), 503.282.1950.

**The Board meets every third Thursday of the month from 6 to 8:30 pm. This month's meeting is November 15th.** 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 at [www.trilliumcharterschool.org](http://www.trilliumcharterschool.org).

## Preschool Update By Jean Goodrow

Thanks to John and Megan Stephens, Nate and Jennifer Hemphill, Susan and Justin Rideout, Sam and Dawn Reese and Alissa Naylor for helping paint, install, and clean our beautiful preschool classroom. Also, thank you to all the parents who assisted in our transportation to Sauvie Islands Pumpkin Patch.

In the preschool we are studying fall, nature, plays, and storylines. At the end of October we visited the Sauvie Island Pumpkin Patch. We enjoyed an informative hayride, were able to pick our own pumpkins, and climbed a giant hay "pyramid". We were also able to see the country side and the livestock families there, and as we were standing in the field we watched almost 100 geese fly south.

In Reeva's small group they are studying gardening and the planning that it entails. In Terry and Jean's small groups we are working on storylines in hopes of writing plays. Our jobs will be to name our groups, plan our strategy, and create our props together (with the children).

Thanks to all the parents who have helped us make the beginning of this year such a success! We couldn't do it without the support of the families and the wonderful dispositions and flexibility of the students.

## High School Interns Get to Work By Jess Brooks

The High School Internship program is going well. Some of our students are interning through the SUN program, at a radio station, a nursing home, and at the Alberta Co-op. On October 19th a few students volunteered at the Luscher Farm where we helped put in two garden beds. Next we will be going out to get our state ID's and food handlers cards.

# Building Cross-Cultural Connections: High School Students Participate in Mercy Corps' "Why Not?" Program

By Elizabeth Johnson



We are off to a great start this year in our continuing relationship with Mercy Corps through participation in the "Why Not" Youth Internet Exchange Program. This program seeks to increase the cross-cultural understanding among Palestinian and American youth by nurturing dialogue that challenges stereotypes and prejudice while promoting global awareness. Our Palestinian counterparts are youth who live in Gaza, a territory occupied by Israel and facing current challenges after a summer of fighting between rival groups Hamas and Fatah.

Every Friday, in the Global Studies class, ten high school students log onto the website to post original poems they have written about themselves, their identities, and their communities. Across the world, in a small building, Palestinian youth write poems that wrestle with the oppression of occupation, the stress of violence, and the everyday joys and pains of being teenagers. The relationship building begins when the youth comment on each other's pieces by asking questions, sharing understanding, and seeking connections.

We have also been lucky to view several short films that Palestinian youth made over the summer and our Trillium students have been shocked to see images of "regular teenagers like them" living with checkpoints and soldiers and still being able to so poetically express their personal and collective strength and optimism. As part of the shared curriculum both groups of students also watch film from the others' culture that reflect "teen life" and talk about them

online. Our students are currently busy working with one of our new teachers, Will Watts, to create a Photo Essay about their lives to post on the website. We are also filled with excitement about an amazing opportunity Mercy Corps has provided us.

During Quarter 2, Film Trainers from the local nonprofit organization OlliTv will be working twice a week with our students to create three short films. This professional crew is all about youth and film and I am confident that it is going to be an empowering and creative experience. The films will be completed in December, up on the website, and hopefully presented in a viewing to the Trillium community. Right after, we will go downtown to the MercyCorps office early in the morning and participate in a video conference that allows the kids to actually talk with each other after the months of online communication. Being part of this program and facilitating our students' engagement in it is such a joy as a teacher... it's all about looking honestly at the world while staying connected to a sense of agency and hope about the future that our children will create.

These students are currently involved in the "Why Not" program: Deyalo Bennette, Alexandra Phillips, Zoe Bullock, Katerina Tannenbaum, Kang O'Neil, Nicole Bryan, Max Sergienko, Cortney Kennedy, Noah Bentley, Fabian Beltran-Sterling, and James McKinley. Below are some samples of youth writing from the website.

## I am From

I am from Saturday markets  
and downtown peace rallies.  
I am from busy streets  
where the people are strange,  
but wonderful.  
The neighborhood I grew up in  
The magical summers spent gamboling  
carelessly naive  
playing games outside in the grass  
hot and humid, pacifying  
The cold winters spent curled up in a blanket.  
sipping hot chocolate by a fire  
waking up on Christmas morning  
the rare snow fall blanketing the streets  
The brisk autumns, bathed in golden light  
eating fresh apples  
sitting with family at the Thanksgiving table  
Carving pumpkins for Halloween  
The spring, bringing life anew  
blossoms blooming, perfuming  
rain falling  
then ceasing  
the sun emerges from winter's oppression  
This is where I'm from  
This is what molds I

Posted By [Max Sergienko](#) On October 19, 2007

## Just because

just because i'm young  
doesn't mean i think no one has ever gone through

similar experiences like mine  
doesn't mean i don't respect others' personal beliefs and  
opinions  
and it doesn't mean i hate my parents

just because i have my own strange tastes in fashion  
doesn't mean i'm slutty  
doesn't mean i have low self-confidence  
doesn't mean i'm an unfaithful person.

just because i'm a girl  
doesn't mean i don't love longboarding and  
skateboarding  
doesn't mean i won't climb a tree as high as possible  
doesn't mean i can't be feminine and strong

just because we live in different countries  
when will men and women around the world be treated  
as equals?  
when will we all learn to accept each others  
perspectives?

Posted By [Nicole Bryan](#) On October 05, 2007

## A Letter, By Salam Ismail

My name is Salam Ismail, I am 14 years old, I study at  
the holy family school.

Recently I joined a Sharek Youth Forum, during one of  
the activities, I watched an American movie (Akeelah  
and the bee).

What impressed me in the movie was the strong will  
and determination that this little girl has.

Strong will and the determination are the solid ground  
that enabled the Palestinian people to continue their  
lives, and overcome the obstacles they always meet.  
Last May it was early in the afternoon when clashes  
erupted internally. We were at home watching the  
horrible fight on TV we could not move from our house  
for five days.

The second day we were supposed to have our final  
exams, it was very difficult to study because of shooting,  
we did not know how to reach the school because  
shooting was every where but we reached it, after 3  
lessons out of 8 my parents came to pick my brother  
and I from school, my father was driving under heavy  
exchange of fire. He tried to avoid blocked roads.  
Masked militants were every where, after one hour of  
driving he managed to get us safe at home.  
Anybody in the world in this situation will collapse.  
Only determination and the strong will helped me to  
continue my study.

My story is an example of what the Palestinian people  
might have in their daily lives, and the determination I  
had was inspired from these people lives.

This American teenager in the movie is another example  
for determination with different circumstances.  
We are here in Palestine like any teenager in the world  
even in the USA..

I admired the determination and the strong will of the  
girl, and then I realized how strong we are.

Posted By [Kareem el ashi](#) On October 07, 2007

## Meet David Ayer, Upper School Teacher By David Ayer

David grew up in Davis, California, but he moved to Oregon in 1982 so he should be getting his temporary residency permit any year now. He graduated from Reed College in 1987, majoring in literature and theater. After a stint at a fish cannery in Alaska and an extended post-college slouch through Western Europe, David returned to Portland and worked as a cook at the Bread and Ink Café for several years.

Inspired by his wife Elise, a Montessori elementary teacher, and his daughter, Virginia, David took his Montessori primary diploma in Portland in 1994 and taught 3 to 6 year olds for three years. Later David and Elise founded a Montessori middle school in Portland where students cooked lunch for each other (and the adults) and visited an organic farm once a week. Later, David and Elise lived and worked at the Hershey Montessori Farm School, a boarding and day Montessori school for 7th through 9th graders on a farm in rural northeastern Ohio.

David has been involved in curriculum and program development at several schools and was most recently working with a nonprofit to start a farm school for adolescents in the Portland area. Unfortunately the effort was not successful.

When he is not spreading his message of independence, responsibility, and the love of algebra, David enjoys playing guitar and harmonica, cooking, gardening, and his family. He is also making wine again this year in his friend Matt's basement.

## Holiday Time is the Right Time for Scrip! By Anne Stark

That's right, the holidays are right around the corner, and it couldn't be a better time to order Scrip. Scrip is a fun, easy and pain-free way to give money to Trillium.

Scrip is gift cards for local and national merchants that have discounted their cards to Trillium. You pay face value for the cards, and Trillium keeps the profits. That's right. There is no extra cost to you!

One look at the Scrip order form, and you'll find just the right gift card for everyone on your shopping list. We have grocery stores, car washes, department stores, restaurants, coffee shops and more. Also, new this year is a nice \$25 iTunes gift card for the music lover in your life.

Here's how it works:

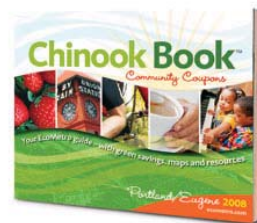
- Fill out a Scrip form with the gift cards you want to buy. The order forms are in the lobby, in the "Files" section of our Yahoo group site, and will be available from the Trillium website under "Scrip".
- Drop off your order form, with your check made out to TFT. Anne Stark will be on the scene Monday and Friday mornings to accept your orders. You may also drop your orders off in the Scrip Box in the lobby.
- Orders are processed after Monday mornings at 9:00am, and are ready for you to pick them up as soon as the following Thursday afternoons.

It's that easy! So, get your holiday shopping done early. Order Scrip, support Trillium, then relax and enjoy your holiday season.

Questions? Contact [annestark@comcast.net](mailto:annestark@comcast.net). Thanks!

### **Chinook Book Sale a Great Success!**

We raised over two thousand dollars for the TFT general fund! Thanks to everyone who participated.



Congratulations to Brian's advising group for selling the most books.

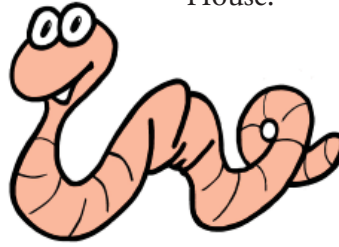
If you have not picked up your books please contact Jodie Throckmorton at [jodie@trilliumcharterschool.org](mailto:jodie@trilliumcharterschool.org). Thank You!

## As The Garden Grows By Arianne Newton

The Trillium Garden program is moving along nicely this year. The Kindergartners are once again experiencing garden once a week. We have been learning about how to take care of the classroom worm bin as well as winter care of song birds and how to classify living things.

The first and second grade students have been learning all about trees in the fall. In winter we will be working on the cycles of nature and ecology, and in spring we will be moving into propagation, pollination, and growing everything we can think of.

The third through fifth grade garden group is prepping the garden for winter by sheet mulching and cover cropping. We had a harvest feast using the last of the basil to make pesto and bruschetta, and we had a successful Nature's Baskets Herbal Farmer's market day at school a few weeks back. We are planning a final market day in



time for the holidays so please watch for announcements. Another big project in the works is a multi-year service project involving landscaping for the residents of Raphael House.

Before I forget, I want to welcome Adria Pujol as my garden T.A. for this year. Adria has been involved with garden group since coming to Trillium. He is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic gardener and I value his assistance with the younger garden group kids.

The ambitious roof garden project is moving forward. We are getting bids, writing grants, and arranging for financing.

And finally, thank you to all who purchased bulbs to support the garden program. We appreciate it so much as it allows us to do some really great, hands on projects.

## TFT News By Renee Devereux

Happy November! It's hard to believe that it is almost the end of the first quarter. At the October TFT meeting we held elections for open leadership positions. We are happy to announce our new Volunteer Coordinator is Chenoa Philabaum...she is already hard at work in her new position. Here's a note from Chenoa:

*My name is Chenoa Philabaum and I have been elected to the position of Volunteer Coordinator. I am the mother of two Trillium children—Cairo and Ares—who are both in the lower school. I am a volunteer coordinator for SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) at Boise-Eliot Elementary, so coordinating volunteers is currently one of my professions. (I can sometimes be found moonlighting as a cashier for New Seasons.) I have been happily and actively involved in public school districts for years, and I've loved every minute of it.*

We still have an open position for Communication Specialist. This person takes the meeting minutes at all TFT meetings and posts them to the website. If you are interested in this position let me know and we can vote you in at the November meeting.

We had a misunderstanding regarding the vote for president at the last meeting. Parents Joy Preciso and Dawn Liljenquist along with student Alex Liljenquist agreed to share the position as co-presidents, while the minutes show that Alex's role would be as student representative. Joy, Dawn and Alex have written a letter of explanation as an addendum to the minutes. (For more detail please read the meeting minutes and letter explaining the variance on the Trillium website.) Due to this misunderstanding, we will have another vote for president at the November meeting. If you are interested in this position please come to the meeting and let your voice be heard!

TFT is an important part of the Trillium community. Many of the events that take place during the year are sponsored by or put on by TFT. The fundraising that TFT does helps our community in many ways. Having an avenue to help parents be involved in the school is very important. **I invite you all to come to the meeting on Tuesday, November 13th, 6:30 at school. Childcare will be provided. Attend, be heard, get active.**

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact me by email ([pdx01442@pdx.edu](mailto:pdx01442@pdx.edu)), by phone (503.282.3667), or stop me in the hall. Thank you.

## Thank You Notes

Thanks to all who volunteer their time and energy to make Trillium the great place it is. This month, a special thanks to:

**Jane Rosenstein** – for sharing her “foodie” expertise and once again helping the garden group prepare a pesto feast using basil the kids grew from seed. Wren was overheard saying that she had the “best day ever” making and eating pesto.

**Dawn Weaver** – for helping out with the garden bulb fundraising sale. It takes time to tally and assemble the orders and I really appreciate the help.

**Rebecca Bateman** – for taking all new fabulous staff photos for the website and being so patient trying to corral our large staff and work with their busy schedules.

**Reneé Devereux** – for all her efforts as the TFT President for two years.

**Jim Bernard** – Volunteer extraordinaire, jack of all trades, Renaissance man Jim Bernard (Max Bernard’s dad) deserves a hearty thank you for his on-going volunteer efforts at Trillium. Jim has taken it upon himself to help make our facilities more livable, functional and beautiful. Jim is a “low maintenance” volunteer who can take a list, secure all the materials (often at his own expense), do the job, and clean up. Some of his projects have been hanging shelving, making the library more functional, finishing all the concrete floors and much, much more. He often works alone, but always could use some help. Watch for email notices about volunteer opportunities with Jim. THANK YOU, JIM!!!!!!



### 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 each month by Jodie Throckmorton and Susan Millhauser. Jodie coordinates newsletter submissions and Susan does the layout. 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)

#### Lower School Learning Plan Exhibition

Thursday, November 8, 3:15 to 7:15 pm  
Students & parents, come by anytime during this time so students can show parents what they've learned.

#### NO SCHOOL - Teacher Planning

Friday, November 9

#### NO SCHOOL - Veterans' Day

Monday, November 12

#### TFT Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 pm

#### Lower School Conferences

Tuesday, November 13 - Friday, November 16. Sign up at school.

#### Board Meeting

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

#### NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 19 -  
Friday, November 23

And planning ahead...

#### Upper School Conferences

December 3 - December 14

#### Lower School Intensives

December 17 - 21. Want to help?  
Talk with your child's advisor.

#### NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

December 24 - January 4