

Open Classroom Community News



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Co-Oper Challenge: One of those days...

We come to the Open Classroom for many reasons: Excellent teachers, first-rate lunchroom, sense of community, collaborative learning, and more. The thing that makes all of this work, the thing that is at the center of every classroom is co-oping. The Open Classroom gives us the opportunity to learn together with our children, to participate in an inclusive learning environment, and to teach and to be taught. We enjoy our time in the classroom. We are committed to being totally present and engaged with the kids we get to work with.

But, we all have those co-oping days. Days when there is a deadline looming at work. Days when you've just found out that a family member is sick. Days that have every minute booked from 6am to 10pm. In short, days when you are distracted. We all have a commitment to "be present" while we are in the classroom, but some days, that is easier said than done. Often, walking into the school, chatting with a few kids, meeting with the teacher about the day's activities, and a deep breath is all it takes to get into a 'co-oping' frame of mind (and put the rest of the stuff on hold). For those days when that doesn't work, here are some ideas:

1. Communicate with your teacher:

Sometimes just a short conversation with the teacher will be enough to bring your hectic schedule into focus. If you know that your father just went to the doctor and you may need to answer your phone or make a call, let the teacher know at the beginning of your shift. If you have to answer a text about a huge project at work, with a deadline that is out of your control, tell your teacher about it. Of course, wait to return the call or text until you're out of the classroom, take as little time as possible, and don't make this a regular thing.

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The Open Classroom
Art Committee presents

ART & CRAFT BAZAAR

December 2nd 5-9pm
Auditorium

Bring the whole family!
Make a project for yourself
or to give as a gift
Fun for all ages!

**Origami, Decoupage,
Holiday cards, Bird feeders,
Paper Bead Necklaces, Sand Painting
and more...**

**Do you and your child have a Project they'd
like to share? Join in!**

We'll make room for any Volunteers

Please contact
Beverly Hill 801-556-7205

Food Drive - What A Success!



The first and second grade classes have been doing some service learning! We gathered 350 pounds of food for the Utah Food Bank, Colored 25 boxes for Senior Citizens who get the food, and made 6 blankets for the Road Home! We were practicing having an attitude of gratitude in November!

The picture is of Shelly and Lena's Class

Open Classroom Community News

The Open Classroom Community News (OCCN) is our school newsletter, published approximately every 2 weeks during the school year by a volunteer parent. We will accept any articles, announcements, artwork, or fliers from school committees, staff, parents and students. We can accept word documents, email text, jpgs, and pdfs. If you do not have an article but you know of something that you would like to see included let me know and I will see if we can research it.

Past OCCN issues are available at at
<http://ocslc.org/community-news/>

Please send submissions to
oc.communitynews@gmail.com.

**The next submission deadlines are
Monday, December 12, at 9 pm.
and Tuesday, January 3, at 9 pm.**

New Families Come shopping for the perfect committee

**Committee Fair
Jan. 9th at 6:30 PM
in the OC Cafeteria**

**Come see what makes the school go round and
figure out what you want to be a part of next year!**



**THIS YOUR CHANCE TO FIND THE BEST
COMMITTEE FOR YOUR TALENTS**

Changes at the OC After Care Program!

Hello Community,

I have some exciting new changes to announce about the Open Classroom After Care Program! We are restructuring our program to make it a more enriching and activity based program for your children.

We will now have a weekly schedule that will have a theme for each week, and a daily activity that fits that theme. Some examples of upcoming themes will be recycled newspaper crafts, pressed leaf art, holidays from around the globe, world culture week, service projects, Egypt, and exploring space. We will also be going on some field trips to help support some of the themes we have coming up. There will be no additional fee for these activities.

Children in the After Care Program will check in, get a snack, enjoy some outdoor play time, then participate in a guided activity with our amazing staff.

It is important that the children in our program get lots of physical activity and imaginative play, so we still set aside time every week for kids to do what they do best; be kids!

As always if you need our Before Care or After Care Program, but aren't sure you can afford it, please come and see me about some different options we have available. This program is here to serve our community, and we want to make it available to anyone who needs it.

Registration and drop in forms are now available on the Ocslc.org website under the After Care program info page. Just print them and turn them in at the office or the library.

Also look forward to a new round of enrichment classes beginning in January. We'll have some favorites, and some

new offerings as well. Look for the registration forms in the office and library before the winter break.

Thanks for all the community support for our program. I love having your kids here and love working here at the Open Classroom.

Sincerely,

Jazairra Mathis
Open Classroom After Care Director
jazairramathis@gmail.com

The Giving Tree



Hello OC Community,
We're excited to announce that the OC is teaming up with another nearby school to do a Giving Tree this holiday season!

Starting on Friday, December 5, you will see this lovely "tree"

displayed on a board in the hallway across from the main office. Written on the leaves of the Giving Tree will be items that would greatly help some local families this season. The OC will be sponsoring families from a different school, and this other school will in turn be sponsoring some of our families. This is a huge community effort, and you can be a part of it!

All you have to do is pick a leaf off the Giving Tree, sign your name next to the item, go shopping for the item(s) listed, and return them to the OC any time between December 5 and December 16. All items must be returned by December 16 so we can distribute them to the families.

We're so fortunate to have such a supportive and giving school community. Thank you for all your past, present, and future support and giving. Happy Holidays!

With gratitude, Rose Evans, OC School Counselor



Sports Corner

Our school year is divided into three trimesters. The first term (September 2nd until December 2nd), the 3/4 and 5/6 classes are participating in the sports program. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes get sports for the second term, which runs from December 9th through March 9th. The 1, 1/2, and 2/3 grade classes get the last semester of sports from March 16th until May 18th.

Some of the sports are held on The Open Classroom campus while others take place at other venues. The on-campus sports which are being offered now are: kickball, hiking, jumping, fencing, karate, hip-hop dance, capoeira, and yoga. The sports which are held at other locations are: ice hockey, floor hockey, tennis, and Frisbee golf. Each student gets to participate in one hour of an on-campus sport & one hour of an off-campus sport each Friday. Some of the venues are close to school so the kids & instructors walk, while other sports are further away and require shuttling the students.

As you can see, there are MANY different sports options for our kids to enjoy. Whether they select a sport which they already love or whether they opt to try something new, the choice is theirs! When it's your child's turn to participate in sports, review the choices with them, discuss their options with them, then let them decide what they would like to try. Encourage them to try something new...you never know when they might find a new favorite!

I will highlight a couple of the sports choices in each of the upcoming issues. I'll introduce you to the sports, the instructors, and tell you where you can get further instructions & take lessons.

Submitted by Chad Johnson
chad33johnson@gmail.com

2011-2012 Second trimester sports choices

6th through 8th grade classes

Hi Everyone,

It is time for the second trimester of sports to begin. This session will be for those students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Please take time to look over them with your children. They will be making their choices in class toward the end of the week.

Thank you,
Jason Ball, Sports Co-chair

****The classes will be divided up into 2 groups. The first group A will have sports off campus while the second group B is on campus on the following Fridays:**

Dec 9th, Dec 16th, Jan 6th, Jan 13th, Jan 20th

*****Both groups will then rotate-group A will be on campus and group B will go off campus on the following dates:**

Jan 27th, Feb 3rd, Feb 17th, Feb 24th, March 9th

Sports choices:

Off campus sports (EACH student will make a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice from this list) will all be held at the Northwest Recreation Center. Participants will travel together by bus.

WATER OPTION: Varying activities in the water will be experienced. Weekly activities will rotate through water polo, lap swimming, deep water x-training, guard start (beginning water safety). All levels of swimmers are welcome.



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Get to Know the Teachers

Gaby Desvaux-Saxton

6/ 7 Blend...

BUT I teach to all Upper Grade kids 6-8 for Social Studies and Social Studies Literature and then 6th grade math. I also teach 4 explores: Improve your Improv, Building and Grounds, Rants with Gaby, and Tech Theatre AND I do the OC Drama productions for all kids in 5th-8th (including Pammy and O'lynn's kids) grade who want to perform in the show.

Background - Family, where are you from, married, children, pets etc. ...

I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nev. I am the youngest of a family of seven, and I was adopted when I was only 4 days old. I grew up in a house where education was very important. I am lucky that my parents always supported learning.

I went to college for undergraduate school in Cedar City, Utah. I received my B.S. in theatre and communications. I loved doing plays, and that is how I met my husband.

I married my college sweetheart, Willy, and we now have two boys. Both boys went to school at the Open Classroom. My oldest, Shelby, is 16, and my youngest, Kirby, is a current eighth-grader. We will be one of the first families to have both of our children graduate from the OC with a K-8 grade education! I am so glad my boys had the amazing opportunity to go to school here and were able to become friends with their teachers!

After both of my boys were born, I became very concerned about our current education system here in America. I decided to get my master's degree in education, with an emphasis on education and cultural studies. After I received my MEd. from the University of Utah, I decided to get my history minor, too. I am now endorsed to teach in elementary education, history, theatre, and ESL. I am a lifelong learner!



What is your favorite color?

Blue...but I wear lots of neutrals and pinks.

Favorite animal?

Dogs. I have two. One is a "Chiweenie" (a Chihuahua and Dachshund mix) named Buddy, the other is a Dachshund named Baby. They snuggle with me when I sleep.

Favorite treat?

Movie theater popcorn! I LOVE going to the movies with my family!!!!

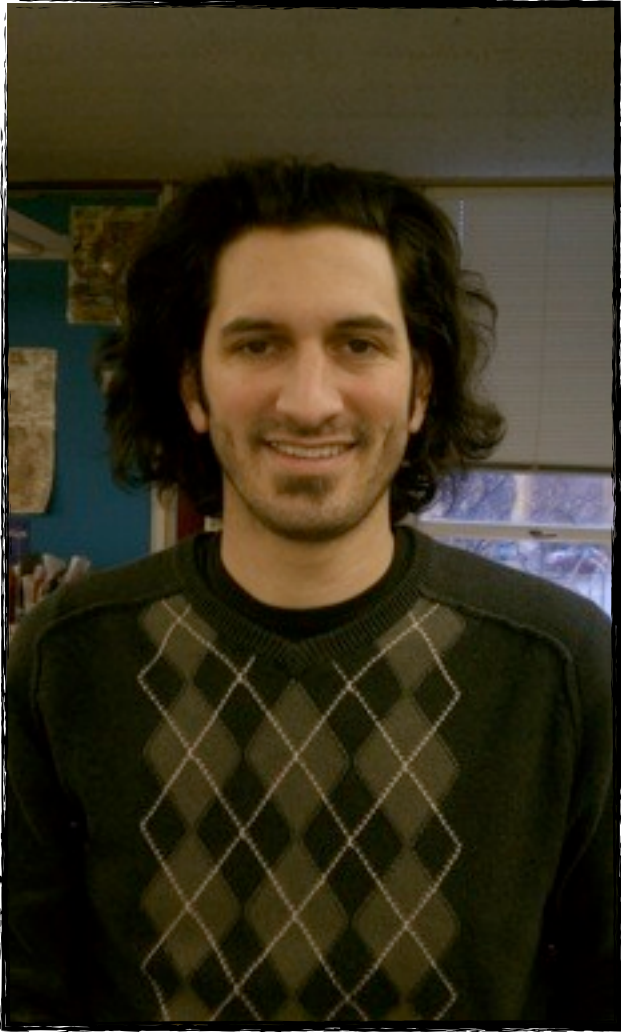
Why are you a teacher?

Here is the long answer: I learned about the Open Classroom in one of my master's classes at the U. Shelby was getting ready to start kindergarten and I was VERY nervous about him going to a traditional school. I came to a school tour and I knew in about

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Get to Know the Teachers

Alex Rowe
3 / 4 Blend



Background - Family, where are you from, married, children, pets etc. ...

I come from a family of 5 (one brother and one sister). I am the youngest kid. I have lived in Davis county, Utah my whole life. I met my wife in high school. We have been friends, a couple and finally married all in 13 years. We have two kids and one on the way. Oliver is 3 years old, Miles is 1 year old and Greta will be born in February. We have had many pets. Right now, I have two dogs, one cat, 14 chickens, and 6 goats. Oh yeah, and I'm a musician too.

What is your favorite color?

Green

Favorite animal?

Sloth

Favorite treat?

Artichokes

Why are you a teacher?

I am passionate about learning and I had a really influential 4th grade teacher in my life. I always wanted to teach 4th grade because of him. I wanted to make a difference in kids lives like he did in mine.

Where have you taught?

I taught at Washington Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Edison Elementary, Westminster College and the OC.

Why are you at the OC?

I called Chris 3 summers ago to see if there was a possibility of me being the OC's music teacher. He called me back and asked if I wanted to come in and interview for a 5/6 grade position. I checked into the school and was excited to come to work for the OC. I tried my best in the interview and something worked because they offered me the position. I work here because I believe in the relationship between kids, parents, teachers and the administration working together for the best interest of every kid.

Can you share an example of the OC philosophy in action in your classroom?

My classroom is an open community of learners. It's not just a teacher and students. I learn from the students and parents all the time. I think this fits well with my personal philosophy of education.

Get to Know the Teachers

Leslee Bartlett

2/3 Blend

Background - Family, where are you from, married, children, pets etc. ...

I was born in Salt Lake City but spent most of my childhood in Sandy, which at the time was very rural, full of beautiful fields and orchards and ponds. It was a great place to be a child! I've been in the city ever since, except for the few years I spent in Rhode Island when I was first married. I live with my husband Howard and next month we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our first date (I was very young when we met). We have two children, Bart, who is in Austin getting his elementary education degree at the University of Texas, and May, who is a sophomore at the University of Utah. We also have a sweet, somewhat crazy cat named Jack.

What is your favorite color?

This changes frequently, but right now I'm liking green.

Favorite animal?

I love all animals, especially big cats.

Favorite treat?

Fruit tarts and almond M&Ms.

Why are you a teacher?

When I was in college I had an epiphany that if I was a teacher I could continue to learn about all the things that interested me. It was a great choice. I learn new things all the time and I get to do it while hanging out with the kids, who make it all so much fun!

Where have you taught?

I started teaching in the OC in the fall of 1980 and have taught here since then, except for a seven year "break" when I taught part time at Highland Park Elementary.

Why are you at the OC?

The Open Classroom is the perfect fit for me. I love the way we all learn as a community and support each other on many levels. Getting to know the families of my children and having parents in the classroom allows me to be the best possible teacher I can be,

providing many more learning opportunities for kids than I would be able to do on my own.

Can you share an example of the OC philosophy in action in your classroom?

One of the things I love about our school is the way kids are not only allowed, but encouraged and expected, to participate in their learning in meaningful ways. My students are often asked to make decisions about what we're learning, to give input and suggestions about how we approach our studies. The kids are also given opportunities to teach each other (and me). A popular example of this is Kid Co-oping, where the kids bring in activities to teach their classmates. Each Kid Co-oper is responsible to bring (or gather) the materials needed, to explain the directions, to provide assistance and management to the group and to be sure everything is cleaned up at the end. Before and after each Kid Co-oping session the class as a whole discusses the expectations for the participants and evaluates the experience. Always a great learning time!



Gabby - continued from page 5

five minutes that the Open Classroom was the PERFECT school for my family.

When Shelby started second grade, I started to substitute for Shelly and Christina. Then I became the sports committee chair. I was a very active and involved parent. Pam was going to go half-time so she could build her dream home, and she asked me if I would like to be her teaching partner. I said, "Yes!" and went into the Alternative Route to Licensure program with the Utah State Board of Education. I was the luckiest person EVER. I had the best teaching job in the whole world, worked with one of my best friends, and I got to work where my kids went to school, plus I got paid to hang out with some of the coolest kids on the planet! BEST JOB EVER! Thank you, Pammy!

Here is the short answer: I have always been a teacher ... I just did not know it until I came here as a co-oper.

Where have you taught?

My whole teaching experience has been at the OC.

Why are you at the OC?

It took me four years to get hired here full-time. It is the only job I have ever wanted. I had a career in business as a manager and I was miserable. When the chance to become an OC teacher was given to me, I jumped at the most amazing gift offered to me.

The Open Classroom's teaching and learning philosophy is a perfect match to my educational beliefs. The OC's community is by extension my family. And the school and its inhabitants (the students) are my life. I am at the OC because I am the OC and the OC is me!

Can you share an example of the OC philosophy in action in your classroom?

There is nothing I love more than hands-on, project-based learning! I feel kids learn best through participating, actively, in their own

Co-Opers Challenge - continued from page 1

2. Talk to your co-oping rep.: Your co-oping representative is always available to help you talk through issues with co-oping. Sometimes a call to him or her will give you the space you need to talk through a solution, while reassuring you that we all have these days. If you have the same or a similar problem each week, maybe a change in co-oping schedule is the solution.

3. Find a substitute: In extreme situations—those weeks that you know are going to be stressful and will interrupt your ability to be your best co-oper—it makes sense to ask someone to cover your shift. Plan ahead, or looking for a substitute will add to your stress, rather than relieve it.

We are members of the Open Classroom community because we value collaborative learning, so we do our best to be present when we co-op. Keeping open lines of communication with the teacher and those you co-op with will help you deal with life outside of school, while being engaged co-opers inside of school.

learning. Today, for example, we learned more about the Great Depression by building our own "Hoovervilles" than we could have learned just by listening to direct instruction, plus we had to do it while working cooperatively! It was great seeing the kids figure out how to build a "home" for four with only one plastic bag, four boxes, and half a roll of masking tape.

The whole upper-grade team designs most of our learning around as many hands-on activities as possible! We also love to see what the kids want to learn. Our whole "Explore" program is developed around the desired learning of the students and is supported by our amazing parents!

Lastly, I believe in a partnership with my parents and students. We design, implement, and produce curriculum together so all of us can be on a learning journey together! AND we still have daily circle talk!

SPORT OPTION: Participation in a number of different sports-basketball, volleyball, and sand soccer, along with agility and reflex reaction activities will be experienced.

FITNESS OPTION: Participants will improve overall fitness by taking part in circuit training, interval training, cardio and strength training activities throughout the session.

On Campus sports (*there are two groups of on campus sports. First hour and Second hour. EACH student will make a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice in EACH group.*)

FIRST HOUR SPORTS



1. HIP-HOP DANCE – DF Dance Studio is coming in again to help you get your funk on. This class was a huge hit last year and a whole bunch of fun. Check out your styley moves.

2. WINTER HIKING/OUTDOOR FITNESS – Sometimes a good afternoon walk is exactly what you need. Explore your neighborhood, map the best route to Hatches. Always a good time checking out the surroundings, and learn how to use the outdoors to improve fitness (is that a parking curb or an aerobics step I see?)

3. FENCING – (*scene opens, two men on a rocky outcropping involved in a sword duel.*)



Inigo Montoya: I admit it, you are better than I am.

Man in Black: Then why are you smiling?

Inigo Montoya: Because I know something you don't know.

Man in Black: And what is that?

Inigo Montoya: I... am not left-handed.

[*Moves his sword to his right hand and gains an advantage*]

Sergei will be back again to teach us the art of thrust... parry... riposte. This is a fantastic class from a great teacher.

SECOND HOUR SPORTS

1. YOGA – All that hip-hop, hiking, and fencing got you tied up in knots? Come and enjoy an incredible hour of zen and stretching with Amy Conn. Your chi will thank you.



2. CAPPOIERA – Is it martial arts? Is it dancing? Is it a lot of fun? Well, if you answered yes to all three, then you are right. Jamaica is coming again to teach us all some Cappeliera. Come and learn what this incredibly fluid movement style is all about.



3. KARATE – Tired of your friends putting the Wushu finger hold on you? Well I have a solution. A very special treat, Miss Maroudas, a 3rd level black belt in Taekwondo is coming in to give us some lessons in self defense. She is a regular teacher at the ATA Karate for Kids school and is excited to bring that experience to us.