

Open Classroom Community News



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Co-Oper Challenge: Sharing Your Interests and Talents



One of my favorite things about the Open Classroom is the opportunity my child has to experience many things that I have limited or no knowledge about.

All of us have talents and interests that we can bring to school and share with our children through Explorer and Mini Courses. Teaching these classes is something some of us shy away from because we don't think we are talented or have the knowledge and background to do it.

This is the first year I have made the plunge into this aspect of our school, and it has made me grow as a parent, cooper and lifelong learner. The first step for me was thinking about my interests and what I like doing instead of what I am talented at. Total kudos to those of you who are overflowing with talent and creativity (I'm just not one of them).

Secondly, I learned that all the time and effort you put into preparing a class is exactly what I would want from other coopers teaching my kid. This is helpful to keep in mind when the night before your class you are serving toast for dinner, in order to race

to the Library before it closes to get additional books and wondering how you got yourself into this.

Thirdly, we have an amazing community at our school. For a lot of families money and time is tight and our kids may not have the chance to have music lessons, art classes, cooking and sports programs. My daughter is a great singer, but anyone who has heard me sing knows that was not genetically inherited from me. Therefore, I give a huge "Thank You" to all the coopers and teachers who take the time to share this with my kid and help her find interest in new things or develop in the things she already loves.

If you have ever considered teaching an Explorer, I want to encourage you to try it. It has been a great and fun experience for me and I have learned so much in preparing for each class. It is also a great way to challenge yourself a bit!

If you haven't considered it, please think about how much your child learns from these as well and what a great opportunity it is to contribute to the whole child philosophy.

~Christina McWhinnie (Mom of Sadiki in Gaby's)

Counseling Corner

An Update from the OC Counseling Crew

Rose and I had a fantastic first half of the year. We enjoyed visiting every classroom at the beginning of the year to say hello and to talk about anti-harassment.

Then we spent about 9 weeks every Friday in the 1st, 1/2nd and 2/3rd grade classrooms teaching Emotional Wellness lessons on friendship-making skills, communication, and conversations. Just before the break, we began our new Friday lessons with the 3rd-5th graders, and we can't wait to spend more time with them on the same topics!

We have also been busy running a few small groups this school year. In these groups we have discussed how our life experiences have made us who we are, how to start and continue conversations, how to make and keep friends, which kinds of friends we want to have, how to have play dates/hang out with friends, how to use the resources we are given in life, and how to handle situations in which someone may bully us or others.

In one group we focused on our families and how they may change over time. Sometimes these changes bring us anger, sadness, or worry. We have been talking about what to do with these feelings when they come, and that it is ok and normal to have these emotions. It's always a treat for us to spend an hour or so in our groups. It was a little sad when two of our groups ended, but we look forward to continuing our changing families group and beginning a few more of these groups in the coming months.

Looking ahead in the year we are also excited for 7th and 8th grade Career and College Readiness meetings (formerly known as SEOP's). These meetings are a chance for us as counselors to meet with each 7th and 8th grade student and

their parents to discuss plans for high school, possible career interests, and future goals. These meetings are special times in which we are able to celebrate each child's strengths and interests and set some goals for the coming years.

REMINDER to 8th grade parents: High school orientation this Thursday, January 5, in the library from 9- 12:15. Come hear area HS representatives talk about their programs and get a chance to ask questions before the open enrollment window closes.

Also in January we are excited to welcome a guest presenter (and OC grandparent) Bob Hyman, to teach our 2nd - 5th grade classes Mindfulness

Based Stress Reduction. He will teach stress reduction techniques to the students twice a week for 3 weeks. He has taught these skills to all the elementary school kids in his district in Maryland. We are lucky and grateful that he will share these strategies with our students.

We will also be teaching the 6-8th graders on Fridays coming up in the spring; and continuing to be available to any student, parent, or teacher who needs/wants to chat.

As the OC counselors, we love spending time with every student and parent, whether it be in a classroom, in our office at lunchtime, on the playground, in the hallways, or in individual meetings. Every chance we get to know you better brightens our day and reminds us why we love being your school counselors at the OC so much!

Thanks for sharing your lives with us,

Carissa Davis & Rose Evans
Open Classroom School Counselors





Mad Science Class with After Care

Hi parents,

I am happy to let you know that registration for our next Mad Science class is open! The class begins January, 11th from 3:15-4:15. Slots fill up fast, and it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The class is 8 weeks, running through March 7th, with no class on February 8th. The cost is \$93.00 per student. This is one of our most popular After Care

enrichment classes. If you or your child haven't experienced what a fun, innovative, exciting and educational class this is, now is the time to sign up!

Hurry, class begins next Wednesday!

Please register online at www.madscience.org/locations/greatersaltlake/ or call 801-292-8646 for more information.

Bricks-4-Kidz After Care Demo Class



Hello Parents,

This Thursday, December 5th at 3PM we are having a **FREE** demonstration class for Bricks-4-Kidz, one of our new enrichment class through the After Care program. The class is about an hour long, and will give your kids a taste of what the

class will be like before you register.

You can register online for the **FREE** demo class at www.bricks4kidz.com.

The regular class will begin Thursday, January 19th and will last for 8 weeks, ending March 8th. The cost is \$80.00 per student.

This is a fun, educational class that teaches the basics of engineering and problem solving through team work, and architecture and scientific principals.

Hurry and register, class space is limited and will fill up fast!

**For more info about registering for these programs contact Jazairra Mathis,
Open Classroom After Care Director, 801-604-3483, jazairramathis@gmail.com**

The Library Shelf



From the Library Committee:

Is your Upper House student losing sleep at night? Are they constantly mumbling something that sounds like hypothesis and data?

Maybe it is because the Open Classroom Science Fair is in exactly ONE MONTH!

If your child still needs some inspiration or just some background information our school library can help.

On the non-fiction shelves you will find books on subjects such as:

- Environmental Science- *High Tech Trash* 363.72 Gro
- Basic Science- *Bill Nye* 507.8 Nye and *Bicycle Science Projects* 531 Gar
- Earth Science- *Elements, Compounds and Mixtures* 540 Pat
- Inventions- *Mistakes That Worked* 609 Jon
- Anatomy/Medicine- *What Happens To Your Body When You Run* 613.71 Pay
- Domesticated Animals/ pets- *A Guide To Raising Chickens* 636.5 Dam
- Biographies- *My Life With The Chimpanzees* 921 Goo, *Phineas Gage* 921 Gag and *Joseph Lister And The Story Of Antiseptics* 921 List

Tina and Claudia have many great books in their classrooms and they highly recommend www.sciencebuddies.org for ideas, too.

Ruth's class will have art work on display in the library next week: come in and take a look!

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 deadline is and Monday, January 16, 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

RECESS! RECESS! RECESS!

Beginning Monday, January 9th, in an effort to encourage healthy play during recess, there will be a common place on the playground where kids can access different equipment to play with during their recess time. By the picnic tables a large ball cage with tons-o-balls (playground balls, soccer balls, and basketballs) will be brought out along with a bucket of jump ropes and a pile of hula-hoops. This equipment will be available to kids at each recess block. They will be able to choose what they want to play with and strongly encouraged to put the equipment back when their recess time is over. This is a great opportunity to teach responsibility while at the same time increasing learning opportunities during play. We need teacher and co-oper support to make this a success. During your co-oping times please make an effort to get out on the playground and engage kids in play. And remember **Active Bodies = Active Minds**



WHAT'S HAPPENING? Your Open Classroom Community Connections Committee

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

MOVIE NIGHT - COME SEE THE ORIGINAL MUPPET MOVIE!

When: Friday, January 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: At school, in the gym

What: We'll be watching the 1979 Muppet Movie together – great for all ages!

What to bring: Bring a snack to share. If you don't want to sit on the gym chairs (!), we'll have a separate area for folks who want to sit on the floor.

Contact: Lisa Shaw at lisashaw99@gmail.com.



UPCOMING LET'S-GET-TOGETHER (PARENT INITIATED) EVENTS

These events are not school-sponsored, but have been organized or suggested by and for OC families.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD NIGHT

When: Friday, January 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: At school, room to be announced

What: A big pot luck!

What to bring:

- Bring a main dish or side dish from your own heritage, or one you want to explore.
- Bring plates, utensils, cups and drinks for your family

Contact: Kirsten and Rob MacIntyre at losmacintyres@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

35TH YEAR OPEN CLASSROOM CELEBRATION

When: Friday, April 20-Sunday April 22

Where: Locations still being scouted (call with ideas!)

What: A BIG celebration of the Open Classroom for our 35th year. This will be for anybody with a current or past OC Connection. More info to be announced soon!

Contact: Laura Lockhart at lauralofutah@yahoo.com or 801-363-0501.