

Open Classroom Community News



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Co-oper's Corner

As I was speaking on the phone with my sister the other day she was upset and telling me that she doesn't think her son's teacher is very well organized. She had signed up to help with art and she found out that the teacher wants her to come in for 45 minutes every other week and she wants her to prepare the art lesson. I just started laughing and said "You are co-oping!" When we come in we are making a sacrifice that many parents are not willing to make. We may have different reasons for doing this but for the most part we can all see the value of the parent being in the classroom. This is something that is so valuable to us that we are willing to twist work schedules, recruit friends and family members, use precious time off, and arrange for babysitters so we can come in and be with our kids. Let's make sure that our sacrifice is something worth making.



Here are some ideas to help:

- Be on time or a little early. When we are not frantic we are always better prepared to teach and to learn.

- Make sure you

are prepared. Knowing what you are doing in advance always helps. (kind of a no-brainer.) Have visual aids.

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- Turn off your cell phone. Try to limit distractions.
- Be prepared for whatever is happening after your shift. This way you are not thinking about what is going on later and you can focus on the kids.
- Relax. You don't have to be in control at all times. There is a lot of learning that can be done when you turn it over to the kids.
- Know what is important. Ask the teacher about the concepts the kids are learning. Be flexible and allow different means to accomplish the end result. Sometimes not following the rules can teach a principle better than sticking to a pre-determined script. If the kids are learning the concepts they need to and not disturbing others, let them do things a different way.
- Make sure the needs of all the children are being met as much as they can be, not just the loud or active kids.

Attention All Parents:

Starting October 17, 2011 from 6:00-7:30 we have parenting help for all of your parenting questions, concerns, and “What do I do now?!?” situations! Here’s a message from the facilitator, an OC mom...

Hello O.C. Parents,

Welcome back to parenting!!! All right I know all too well there is no such thing as a holiday from parenting, but wouldn't it be nice to make parenting more like a holiday? In this fall's parenting sessions, I will be presenting on fun topics from how and when to talk about drugs and sex with your families to what a healthy relationship with your child should look like, as well as what to do when you find out your child is bullying or how to support your child when they are being bullied. There will be only four sessions. It is ideal to come to all four, but life is hectic and maybe you need some support on only a few of these topics. Please come to the sessions you can but if you only show to one you will not be shunned away. The cost for the groups is FREE!!!



WHEN: Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14 – no class on 10/31)

WHERE: OC Library

CHILDCARE: available: from OC aftercare providers – suggested \$5.00 per child per class.

SESSION 1 (October 17, 2011): Appropriate parent child relationships and boundaries that should exist in a healthy parenting/child relationship.

SESSION 2 (October 24, 2011): Dealing with difficult situations such as Tantrums, Bulling, Being Bullied, as well as what group members would like this session to focus on.

SESSION 3 (November 7, 2011): Difficult conversations - how to talk with your children/preteens about drugs and sex, as well as how to have healthy appropriate communication with your children and why this is so important.

SESSION 4 (November 14, 2011): Appropriate discipline for children connected to their emotional and brain development stages. We also talk about how to care for yourself as a parent and a person, because hopefully you have learned you cannot fill others' cups when yours is empty. The trick is to know when and where to get your cup filled.

These groups are a forum where parents can come for support as well as more information that, in hope, will help support healthy parent/child relationships. In turn, the journey of parenting can be more of a great life experience and less of panic attack.

The parenting research used for the these classes will come from Parenting with Love and Logic, Barbara Colorosso's Winning at Parenting, as well as university research that supports healthy parenting child relationships.

If you have questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me through email at Almam@VMH.com or through my phone number (801)595-4235. I hope to offer another parenting class in the spring, but I'm not certain of my availability. I look forward to meeting all who come to this group as well as welcome any questions you may have!

Sincerely,

Patty Martinez



The Library Shelf



News From the Library,

If you have not gotten a chance to see Alex's class art in the library it will be up for the rest of this week.

Also our book sale will be the 12th thru the 14th! Please take this opportunity to come support our school library. October 12th thru the 14th from 1:15 to 6:00. It is sponsored by the story cupboard. <http://www.storycupboard.com/> There is also class book wish lists that your teacher will have. So please stop by after school or during your PTK's. See you there!



Larry, the OC Fundraising Fairy

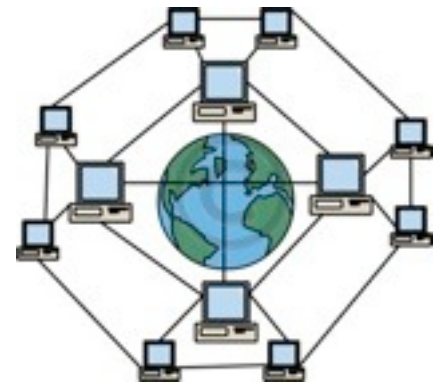
says, "Please be generous and help create the perfect learning experience for your children. It doesn't happen by magic you know!"

Money raised through Parent Donations (PFOE) and Fundraising events directly enrich our children's learning experiences. Here are some of the things these funds are used for:

- Supporting Art, Sports and Drama programs that go beyond the ordinary.
- Special events, including Language & Culture Day, Fall Picnic, and Graduation.
- Teacher Professional Development, to give teachers specialized training that will help our students' learning.
- Supplies, field trips and books for each classroom (your child's teacher can tell you how the funds were spent in his or her classroom).

OC On The Web

The Web Committee is trying to identify and iron out any lingering issues since successfully migrating the email lists over to Google Apps. Your help is appreciated! Please take a few minutes to fill out this quick survey about sending and receiving email by Sunday, October 9th.



<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GTCHXL9>

If you have any questions, let us know at postmaster@ocslc.org

Thanks!

Chris, Web Committee co-chair

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 <http://ocslc.org/community-news/> Please send submissions to oc.communitynews@gmail.com.

The next submission deadline is Monday, October 17 at 9 pm.

Get to Know the Teachers

The Philosophy Committee is planning on highlighting three teachers for each newsletter through the end of the calendar year.

Amanda Johnson 1 / 2 Blend

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

I was born and raised in Sandy, then I moved downtown when I started at the U. I have three brothers and a sister, and I'm very close with my family. I live with my partner, Sam; his son Max, who is almost 4; and our toy poodle named Millie.

What is your favorite color?

Blue!

Favorite animal?

I love all ocean animals; I'm an aquarium junkie.

Favorite treat?

Currently, I'm eating a lot of roasted pumpkin seeds.

Why are you a teacher?

I was originally a psychology major, but when I was almost finished with that degree, I realized I was bored in all my classes except child development and psychology. Instead of going into child psychology, I started to volunteer with a friend who was a teacher and I discovered that I loved teaching. I switched majors, but I still got a minor in psychology. I love teaching because every day is honestly different from the one before, so you can never get bored.

Where have you taught?

The OC is where I student taught, and I was lucky enough to get a job here right out of school, so I've only taught here.

Why are you at the OC?

I wanted to student teach at the OC because I wanted to work on teaching in small groups with hands-on activities, and that's all I really knew about the school. Over that year, I fell in love with the environment here; it was so collaborative, with kids and adults, and had such a great environment of respect. I



love seeing kids be themselves and how easily they communicate with people of all ages. This program allows for such a focus on the whole child, and I can't imagine teaching anywhere else.

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

When kids have problems with each other, we help them problem solve with each other. I always hated the idea of "tattling" and having the teacher fix it. In our school, the kids express for themselves what happened, how it made them feel and any requests they have. It's amazing how often the kids realize it was a misunderstanding, and they leave feeling better about each other. We're really teaching them how to stand up for themselves and be strong friends.

Get to Know the Teachers

Lena Foster

I / 2 Blend

Background - Family, where are you from, etc...

I was born in Tennessee, but moved six months later to California. I claim California as my origin because a lot of my extended family still lives there. My family moved to Utah in 1993, and I have mostly lived here since. I attended the University of Utah and graduated in 2004. In 2005, I married my husband Kenny and got two kids (Kendrick and Jonny) as part of the marriage package deal! In 2008, my youngest son Robbie was born. Jonny and Robbie attend the OC. We live together in Layton.

What is your favorite color?

I love RED!

Favorite animal?

I enjoy my dog Rex, most the time.

Favorite Treat?

I love [Kouing-aman](#)'s from Les Madeleines, things with sugar or chocolate, and Coke.

Why are you a teacher?

I have always wanted to be a teacher. I've worked many odd jobs since I was 14 to make sure this is what I wanted. I've worked as a waitress, receptionist, baker, retail, visual merchandiser, language lab assistant, shuttle driver, pizza delivery, floral delivery, teacher's aide, etc. Nothing, for me, compares to the awesomeness of teaching! Perhaps I am being idealistic, but I still believe that teachers can change the world one kid at a time. Even after seven years, I still love to come to work and teach! There are days that I joke with my husband, "Can you believe I get paid to do this?" I love to have fun and impact the future every day!

Where have you taught?

I was a student teacher with Christina in 2003-2004, and then worked in the Granite school district for one year until a position opened at the OC. My first year at the OC I taught a 5/6. The next three years, I taught a 3/4 blend. Last year, I joined the I/2 blend team and am able to be part-time until my youngest can go to school all day. I love sharing a classroom with Shelly. She has taught me so much -- and so has the rest of my team!



Why are you at the OC?

I drive 27 miles to school each day, each way. I am here because I want to be! Everyone needs to feel comfortable in a school community- and this is where I feel most at home. I am able to do all the research based teaching practices without the limits of "programs" and having only 1 adult to 25 kids. Working at the O. is a lot more work than what is required at a traditional school, but all of the effort pays off when a student learns more effectively, a child is met with compassion instead of punishment, and a kid feels safe at school to be themselves.

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

At morning circle, we have circle talk, where students connect socially to each other and share something about themselves or what they did the night before. One day, a student shared something scary that happened at his house. The student felt comfortable and safe enough to share this incident and ask questions to the class about this event. As a teacher, I could have brushed this incident to the side and moved on with the day, but I didn't. We took a few extra minutes that morning to discuss the event and how one could be safe if that event happened to anyone else. Philosophically, I believe that you must create community in your classroom for each student to feel safe at school. When students feel safe, they are able to learn more effectively. We all learned that morning in circle because students felt safe and secure in their classroom. So when you see teachers playing get-to-know-you games, team-building with their students, and taking that few extra seconds to listen, they are making the classroom a better place for kids.