



# Open Classroom Community News

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## Playground Work Party Oct. 23 & 24

One may not be able to put lipstick on a pig and gain; however, One can put paint on a playground and make it pretty darn nice. The OC is coming together, (psst, PLACE YOUR FAMILY'S NAME HERE) and a bunch of their friends are showing up on October 23-24, 2010 to spiff up the play ground and make it a more visually engaging space. Drop the old school look ala Alcatraz and bring a little Hip to the Hop Scotch. One can participate in a number of ways. **Here's How:**

### Saturday, October 23rd Noon-4 PM:

We need sweepers and some square mouth shovellers for the first couple of hours. The focus will be the kick ball area. Beverly Hill, the OC Art Chair, has designed a labrynth for that space. District policy stated that the labrynth be minotaur free. What fun is that? Anyway, the center of the labrynth has already been started. Each class has, or will have, an opportunity to paint their own section. Once we clean the area, the maze portion of the labrynth will be started. We will continue until the four.

**What should you bring?** Push broom if you have one, standard sort if not. We will have square mouth shovels available. Bring a three inch roller with a thick-ish nap. If we get to the painting part we will use it. If not, pass it to someone for Sunday or come again yourself. (Don't take it home. It's likely to send a message like ("yes, I do want to paint the hallway for you"). It's better that the OC benefit from it. Bring some water and snacks in case you and your crew need such items. Wear work/ paint clothes.

**Sunday, October 24th 10-4 PM:** Sweepers to the ready again. We

will sweep the Four Square, Hop Scotch and Basketball areas. Did you know we have some racing lanes? We do. The plan is to revive these as well. At this point, It is unknown if we will use templates to re-paint the lines or do it free hand. Someone(s) familiar with doing chalk lines would be helpful. Email me: gingeryid@yahoo.com. The earlier the better.

**What should you bring?** All the things listed above. You didn't leave the roller at home did you?

If sweeping, shoveling or painting isn't what calls to you, Kathleen Ferdon has designed a great project for all. Really all. Anyone can participate in this project. The fence surrounding the playground will become an art sculpture. Kathleen, took her inspiration for this project from Andy Goldsworthy (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy\\_Goldsworthy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Goldsworthy)). We get to weave natural material in the chain-link. WWTOCW? What would the OC Weave? Just about anything... as long as it isn't synthetic. Sunflower stalks, grape vines, seed pods, cotton cloth, hemp yarn, twigs..... see? Lots of stuff. Where to find such items. Remember the yard project at your house? Cut, bag and bring. No yard work or no yard? Take a walk in your neighborhood or around the OC. There is a cornucopia of items along the sidewalk and gutters. The best part of this project is that it will be on going even after the weekend. Bored at recess? Weave! Cool. Thanks, Kathleen.

So, where are you going to be October 23-24th? At the OC!

-submitted by Keri Sanders, Buildings and Grounds Committee

# From the Philosophy Committee

## Join a book group and learn more about OC Philosophy

Most of us who have chosen the Open Classroom as the learning environment for our children have done so with a specific reason in mind. We have taken a very active role in our children's lives and the way they learn. This was not a decision that happens quickly. We've put a lot of thought into this decision.

Whether or not we realize it, most of us are here because of the philosophy of the Open Classroom. But really how many of us understand it. To understand it, appreciate it and live it we need to study it and discuss it and accept it. Hopefully by understanding where we came from we can appreciate where we are and mold where we are going.

The Philosophy committee wants to provide an opportunity for the community to discuss the Open Classroom's learning philosophy. We are extremely lucky to have a study guide in the book Learning Together. Over the course of this school year, please consider joining us

in a book group where we will read and discuss this valuable tool.

Please contact Lori Gillespie at loriandjoegillespie@hotmail.com if you would like to join us. We will form groups based on interest and availability.

- submitted by Joseph Gillespie

## Philosophy Note - Model Leadership

As you may have noticed, there are times when the Teacher may be occupied and the kids need some direction at circle time. These times can offer an opportunity for Coopers to demonstrate some leadership. If you are uncertain weather or not to offer some help, check with the Teacher. I would like to recommend a few quick, attention getting activities.

**May I have your attention please?** For this one you raise your hand and say, "May I have your attention please?" Then you begin to count. Keep counting until everyone has quieted down. Have them see if they can get lower counts each

time.

**If you can hear me.....**Get creative with what they can do in return. Say, "If you can hear me, clap 3 times." (and you clap with them) Then think of a new motion like raise hands strait up, touch your toes or snap your fingers.

**Give me 5** - Hold up your hand and say, "Give me 5. Eyes, ears ready, mouth closed, hands still, feet still."

**Whisper** - Keep whispering even if the kids are not paying attention. Once a few kids 'tune in' it does not take long for the other kids join.

**Compliment the kids who are demonstrating the behavior you are looking for.** "I noticed that (name here) is looking at me, sitting so nicely and ready to listen. Thank you (name)"

-submitted by Drea Fisk

# News from Your Fundraising Committee

OC Families:

**Are you sad you didn't get last years T-shirt?** Well guess what? It's not too late. Soon we will have a second chance sale. You get another chance to grab the fantastic shirts made by last years fantastic kids!

Also while you are waiting to obtain the shirts, don't forget to renew your **Smith's Rewards Card Earn and Learn Program.** We have scanner sheets hanging on the notice board upstairs that make renewing or

signing up easy. We will also be emailing them out shortly so you can email them to family or print them out at home. Once registered, every time you shop at Smith's and use your rewards card, the OC earns a donation

We could also always use your **Box tops for Education** labels found on many grocery products and empty **Capri Sun pouches** as well. There are donation spots on the upstairs bulletin board for these items.

Thank you so much for all your support and the love that you put into this program. It would not be the school it is with out the help from our amazing families!!

-Your Fundraising Committee.

## School Briefs

\*All the 1st/2nd grade classes will be participating in a production called **The O.C. Halloween Camp-out**. This production was written by room 3. It will be performed on Oct. 28th @ 3PM in the gym!

\*Glee will be hosting a Halloween Sing-a-long after the Halloween parade on Oct. 29th!

\* If every OC family could do dishes just one time this year it would be a great help to our lovely lunch staff. Times: Monday - Thursday from 12:30 to appx 2 p.m. and Fridays from 11:00 to 1 p.m. Free lunch when you do dishes! The commercial dishwasher is super easy to run and the smiles from the kids dropping off empty trays are priceless. Please email, text, or call call TC Mohr at 801-673-8224 or mohrtc@yahoo.com to set up a day.

## Your Next Co-oper Challenge

The Co-op committee brings you the next "Co-ops Challenge".

During your co-oping block, find three things to do in the classroom to help the teacher without him/her asking you to do it.

Ideas:

Wipe down all the tables/ chairs, straighten books in the classroom reading library, pick up anything lying on the floor, straighten up an Art cupboard, etc.

Having a clean and healthy classroom "magically" happen is such a gift to our hard working, amazingly talented teachers! It also counts as keeping the school-wide agreement to "show care" for the learning environment. Double bonus!

*-submitted by Bill and Tara Barber from the Co-oping Committee*

## Want to be an OC Substitute?

Again this year, I am creating a master list of substitutes for teachers to have as a resource. If you are registered with the district or are planning to so that you can substitute, please email me the following information to cbills@umnh.utah.edu :

Name  
Childrens' names  
Childrens' classrooms  
Days you co-op, am or pm  
Phone #s  
Email  
Your sub # if you know it  
notes about availability (ex: only on Wednesdays, need notice, last minute ok, my own children's classrooms only, older grades only, Denise only)

Remember, even if you are signed up, you can always say no. It helps teachers enormously to

have a good sized pool to work with. It seems there are always a couple of weeks in the year where there is a lot of sickness and teachers are out.

If you are not signed up yet with the district, I can't say if they are accepting applications right now. Here's the link to get in touch with them. <http://www.slc.k12.ut.us/depts/hr/jobs/substitute/>

Also, if there is interest, we can have a one-time "Substitute Support" meeting to collaborate, share experiences and techniques and answer questions. Let me know if this something you'd be interested in.

*-Christy Bills*

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## Open Classroom Community News

The OCCN is a newsletter produced, approximately every two weeks, by and for the entire OC community of students, parents and teachers. Please consider submitting any written articles or artwork about OC life and happenings.

Submissions will be accepted at any time, but deadlines for each edition will be the Monday before publication at 7:00 PM

**The upcoming deadlines are Mondays, October 25, November 8, November 29, and December 13.**

Please send any submissions to [oc.communitynews@gmail.com](mailto:oc.communitynews@gmail.com)