



Open Classroom Community News

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From Our Principal

As I reflect on a number of events and conversations that have transpired these past couple of months, I am reminded of the importance of stepping back, taking a breath, and remembering why we are here. While our roles may be different – my hope is that every adult in our community is ultimately here to nurture, support, and teach children.

Too often we get caught up in an emotional moment and lose the ability to see the bigger picture. If we recognize the precursors to these emotional exchanges or situations, I believe it is possible to avoid or diffuse the situation before it becomes heated or overwhelming. This is something

I am working on myself and as I talk with colleagues and parents, I find it is a pretty common and worthwhile goal. We teach best through the example we set for our children. When they see us conversing to solve a problem or process a difficult situation, they are more likely to do the same.

Reminding ourselves that we are here for children is often the easiest way to refocus our energy, reclaim our strength, and revitalize ourselves. When I have had a particularly difficult conversation or stressful exchange, a visit to a classroom or a conversation with some students is all it takes to remind me why I am here.

Chris Gesteland

Library Update

Thanks to the hard work of our committee, hundreds of new books have been catalogued and put on the shelves for kids to enjoy already this year. We continue to appreciate your book donations. If they are not right for the library they will be put on the red cart by the office and sold. The money raised from the red cart will go to purchase new titles.

Over the next month or two, our committee is hoping to move the shared reading section of the library into a back room where it can only be accessed by the

teachers and coopers, as it should be. This will free up some space for a quiet, comfortable place for kids to go and read. Stay tuned for more details.

We are hoping that your children are all bringing books home weekly to enjoy. Most classes now have a library rep that has been trained in the check-in, check-out process. A child can have 2 books checked out at a time, and for a limit of 2 weeks only please. Feel free to email Phoenix at phoenix@hotwax-media.com with any questions or concerns you may have about this.

Parent to Parent



Different

=

Amazing

Plan-B Theatre Company presents **DIFFERENT = AMAZING**

November 14, 2010 at 5pm

Jeanne Wagner Theatre

It's time to do something about bullying.

Join us for a celebration - in theatre, dance, and song - of what it means to be different. And amazing.

All proceeds benefit the Human Rights Education Center of Utah, a local non-profit providing anti-bias, anti-bullying and diversity education for people of all ages and backgrounds.

With special guest Carol Lynn Pearson

Run Time: 90 minutes

More information at <http://differentisamazing.com/>

Suitable for patrons ages 10 and up. All patrons must have a ticket. No late seating. Tickets are only \$10 - call 801.355.ARTS or go to <http://www.arttix.org/>

From the Philosophy Committee

One topic the Philosophy Committee has been discussing this year is self-reflection. Self-reflection is our capacity as humans to be introspective and our willingness to learn more about our own nature. Not only knowing the mechanics of how we got from point A to point B, but our motivations as well.

For parents it may seem that during our time in the classroom we are addressing issues such as "Where should you be?" or "What should you be doing?" However, equally important are the questions that facilitate self-evaluation and reflection. "Why do you think you made that choice?" or "Why do you think you felt that way?" are questions that open discussions and help a child evaluate their

feelings and behavior.

Another way to teach children is to model desired behavior. Self-reflection is useful for co-oping parents as well. If there is a certain situation during your co-op time that was troubling or didn't turn out the way you planned, taking a minute to reflect may allow for a more effective outcome the next time around.

Engaging our kids in this way helps them be an active participant in their own learning process. Allowing them to reflect on their motivations provides a better understanding of themselves. This is a tool that can aid them as they get older and the situations they find themselves in become more challenging.

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, November 29, December 13, January 3, January 17, and January 31.

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