

Open Classroom Community News



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Sports Corner

As most of you are aware, our Friday "Sports Program" has gone through MAJOR changes this year! There are three components to the newly changed program: Sports, Physical Activities, and Healthy Living.



The Sports program is headed up by Jason Ball & Theresa Conway. They have been Sports co-chairs for the past 2 years and have been an integral part of the

new setup. Their son, Hunter, is in 3rd grade at The Open Classroom. Jason & Theresa are responsible for picking the sports options, finding the venues & instructors, setting up the transportation, and pretty much everything else related to the sports our kids get to do every Friday.

The Physical Activities program is co-chaired by Penny Davis & Dawn Levingston. Penny has been the PhyEd teacher at the Open Classroom for the past 2 years. She has 2 children at The OC, Elliot (3rd) & Grayson (1st). One of Dawn's many



responsibilities is coordinating the play stations for recesses. Dawn's daughter, Ellary, is in 3rd grade.

The Healthy Living program is being led by Tricia Davis & other Healthy Living committee members and Rose Evans (our school counselor) & her intern, Carissa Davis. Tricia was part of the Sports Program last year. Her daughter, Olivia, is a 6th grader at The OC. Tricia brings guest speakers & tutorials into the classrooms to teach things such as internet safety, eating healthy, fire safety, oral hygiene, and

Healthy
Living

other topics. Rose has two sons who attended The OC until last year. Rose & Carissa talk to kids about how to create and maintain friendships, feelings, and respect.

These three individual components form a SUPER EXCITING & ENERGIZING program that has been an instant hit with the kids & parents!! Let's show our appreciation for the amazing work these individuals have done getting this program going.

- Submitted by Chad Johnson

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

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 deadlines are
Monday, November 28, at 9 pm.
Monday, December 13, at 9 pm.
and Tuesday, January 3, at 9 pm.**

Community Connections Star Party

Friday, November 18 at 7pm.



We'll start with an indoor presentation about what you can observe through telescopes, then we'll go to the observatory on the top of the

University of Utah South Physics building. They have one very large telescope there, and about 7 pretty big ones - lots of viewing opportunities! We should have great looks at Jupiter, star clusters and more.



This Star Party has been set up for OC families only, but we still need to make sure we can accommodate everybody. Please RSVP by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StarParty>

OC Philosophy

A Community of Learners: Everyone at the OC is a learner: the teachers, the parents, and of course our children. Each person in the learning community has a role to play in maintaining a meaningful, purposeful learning environment. Collaboration between children and among children and adults is central to the learning that takes place at the OC.

The learning community works together to help students:

- Build on their interests, needs and prior understanding
- Develop skills in decision making, problem solving, and time management
- Provide opportunities for making authentic learning choices
- Learn how to be responsible for consequences.

Get to Know the Teachers

Deborah Candler

1 / 2 Blend

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

I was raised on a cattle ranch in Kissimmee, Florida. I ventured to Utah after reading Edward Abbey's, *Desert Solitaire* while attending the University of Georgia. I just had to see the amazing landscape he described in his book. Like many others, I never left. I live with my husband, Mark, my daughter, Ocean, and our two dogs, Hank and Gus.

What is your favorite color?

Black

Favorite animal?

Dogs

Favorite Treat?

A moment of silence

Why are you a teacher?

As a child, my favorite thing to play was school. My parents always encouraged me to be a teacher. After several years exploring other interests, I went back to school to get my teaching degree. I have always found great enjoyment from working with children. Initially, my focus was working with older children. However, after being given the opportunity to work with first graders; I was immediately hooked. This age group is full of energy, excited about learning, and gives lots of hugs.

Where have you taught?

I have taught at Hawthorne and the O.C.

Why are you at the OC?

When Ocean was in the second grade, we moved to Salt Lake City. I had heard about this school from many of my friends and I knew it was the type of education I wanted for my daughter. Her number came up in the third grade and we were ecstatic! As a teacher, I wanted the ability to work with children in the same capacity as teachers at the O.C. Although I taught in a traditional program, I often brought much of what I learned as a co-oper into



my classroom. Denny Jo and I made a deal that we would stick together. We were so excited when we were both offered positions on the same team.

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

Taking time to show students how their actions impact others in the community is one aspect of the school philosophy that is encouraged in my classroom. This year we are focusing on being aware of ourselves. Whenever an issue arises, we take the time to discuss the issue and how we could have changed the outcome if we were being more aware of ourselves. It is my hope that moments like these impact each child far beyond our classroom.

Get to Know the Teachers

Denise Nelson Mavor 3/4 Blend

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

I was born in Salt Lake City, November 7, 1951; the first of three children (oldest and only daughter). My four children graduated from the Open Classroom; Sarah, 34, lives in Portland, Oregon; and Billy, 31, Elizabeth, 28, and Andrew, 25, all live in Salt Lake.

Len and I just celebrated our 19th anniversary together. He's the lead singer in "The Smokin' Blues Band", and is stilling doing some legal work while opening up "Capt. Len's City Barbecue" in Alpine Utah. Never a dull moment at my home!

I am passionate about gardening here at my Avenues home in SLC and at my amended sand dune yard on the northern Oregon coast in Manzanita; two entirely different growing environments. Planting, tending, and watching my gardens grow brings me so much joy!

What is your favorite color(s)?

Greens, raspberry, and blues.

Favorite animal?

My two and a half year old Brittany, Taj Mahal, (and others).

Favorite treat?

Marzipan cake or warm goat cheese w/tapenade and yummy crackers or bread.

Why are you a teacher?

I became a teacher for the simple fact that "I have always loved children!"

Where have you taught?

I began my teaching career at the Open Classroom as a co-oper in the fall of 1985 for my then eight year old Sarah and five year old Billy. I was hired as the kindergarten teacher in 1987 and taught K for three years, a 1/2 for six years, a 1/2/3 for two years, 2/3 for eight years, and now in my 25th year as an OC

teacher I have been teaching 3/4 for six.

Why are you at the OC?

I have chosen to spend my teaching career here for so many reasons, but one very clear reason for me, has always been

that one teacher could not possibly meet the needs of twenty-five children on her own.

From my chapter in our book:

"I learned that as a teacher, I have things to learn from the co-ops, as I do from the children. In a community of learners, we all participate as valued partners in finding solutions together, knowing that each of us has a part to play." It seems like anything is possible in our learning environment. I don't know who coined this phrase, but going to the Open Classroom is like "coming home to school".

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

One of my favorite things to do in my class room is to have open-ended conversations; I set it up for the kids to have heartfelt discussions without my voice, unless I need to redirect or take the floor from someone who is dominating the conversation. No hands are raised, there are no names, and no put-downs. The children are simply beautiful young human beings communicating with heart, thought, and sensitivity. They are so capable.



Halloween at the OC

