

# Arbor Schools

## Newsletter

Mary O'Brien, Director

Newsletter Date:  
October 16, 2006

### Attention Skiers and Borders

Arbor Snow Sports Club is moving to Wednesdays to take advantage of our early release time! This means that Arbor students will now be riding and skiing on the slopes starting at 3:30 in the afternoon. As usual, the program will last six weeks—this year starting Wednesday, January 10th and continuing through February 14th.

Why join the Arbor Snow Sports Club?

- It's a great way for students and parent chaperones to get outside exercising and enjoying the beauty of the Northwest.
- Students will gain and improve their skills in either skiing or snowboarding during their 2 1/2 hour weekly lessons.
- Students learn mountain safety and to appreciate the outdoors.
- The Snow Sports Club is a great way for both students and parent chaperones to socialize in an active way with other Arbor parents and students.
- Parent chaperones will receive volunteer hours for their time.

### Holiday Wreath and Poinsettia Sale

The Middle School kicks off their annual fundraiser with a wreath and poinsettia sale today. Your child will be bringing home an order form. Wreath orders are due on November 1st, and the poinsettia orders are due on November 8th to your child's classroom. Look at our special new items!!

So now is the time to get moving on this! Fall is the time to sign up for our program, attend our information night and start shopping those Ski Swaps for great buys on equipment and clothing.

All families are encouraged to attend our ARBOR SNOW SPORTS INFORMATION NIGHT on Wednesday, October 25th at 6pm in the Cypress classroom. We'll provide all the details of the program, hand out the registration forms, Summit Pass applications and take chaperone sign ups.

If you have any questions or want to get on our Snow Sports email list for updated information, please email [susan.horst@verizon.net](mailto:susan.horst@verizon.net). You may also call Susan at 425-868-2118.



Please support us by decorating your home with these beautiful wreaths, swags, centerpieces, and colorful poinsettias! The proceeds fund the Middle School's end of the year trip.

Thank you for your support,  
The Middle School

### Upcoming Events

- **October 17**  
Upper Elementary Field Trip to The Elegant Gourmet, Woodinville
- **October 19**  
Lower Elementary (3rd's) Field Trip to Seattle Children's Theatre, "Jason and the Golden Fleece"
- **October 21**  
Middle School Babysitting Event 5pm-10pm
- **October 25**  
Arbor Snow Sports Club Meeting 6pm
- **October 26**  
Middle School Field Trip to Seattle Children's Theatre, "Jason and the Golden Fleece"
- **October 27**  
Harvest Festival 1:00pm-2:30pm at Arbor
- **October 27**  
Primary Field Trip to Jubilee Farms, Carnation

## Staff Spotlight

“There is nothing in the intellect which was not first in some way in the senses, and senses being explorers of the world, opens the way to knowledge.”

*Maria Montessori*

### Scarecrow Fun!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make our Scarecrow Building Saturday a wonderful event. Thank you for the delicious cookies, time spent sewing heads, collecting cloths, helping families build their scarecrows, and the clean up crew! It was a great experience for community building, making new friends and enjoying the company of family and friends. Thank you to all who participated.



**Berton Herrlinger**, lead teacher in the Juniper classroom, is new both to the Northwest and to Arbor Schools. He recently moved to Washington from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he completed his Masters in Education in Early Childhood Montessori Education at Xavier University. Prior to becoming a teacher, Bert worked for many years as an Arts Manager for various professional performing and musical arts organizations, and he looks forward to bringing his love of music into his classroom through pitch and rhythm training, music appreciation and frequent singing.

**Bergitta Scott**, is the lead teacher in the Maple classroom and is a certified Montessori teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in Art History. She has six years experience in Primary Montessori classrooms and two years in elementary. Bergitta was both a Primary teacher and an art specialist at Arbor Schools prior to leaving to have her own children. She returns this year with her son in Primary and her daughter in the new Arbor Toddler program. Bergitta's classroom is filled with lots of artist's extensions to the Montessori curriculum.

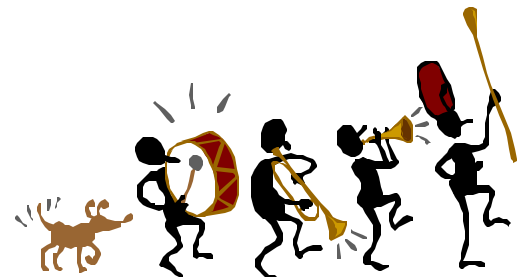
## Parking Lot Safety

Please SLOW DOWN when you enter the parking lot. With the weather starting to turn wet and foggy, it is imperative to drive with extreme caution.



## Skyline High School's Homecoming Parade

Skyline High Schools will be having its homecoming parade on Friday, October 27th. The parade will start at Discovery Elementary and will end at Skyline High School. Therefore, the northbound lanes of 228th between Discovery and Skyline **will be closed** from approximately 4:30pm to 6pm. There will be an advertisement in the local newspaper closer to this date to announce this to the public, but we wanted to inform you earlier so you could be aware that this will cause an inconvenience.



# Parent Association Meeting Notes

## October 10, 2006

**Cultural Lesson - The Big Bang** Chelle Downey-Magee and Elma Rios presented the Big Bang lesson just as the lower and upper elementary classes experience it. Primary classes start with "the world" and take it down to continents, countries, states, etc. In elementary, the lesson turns towards cosmic education - "how everything came to be" and that everything is interconnected. Lessons are presented for the parents to experience a flavor of the Montessori curriculum as our children do. This was the third in a series we started last year.

**CPT4 Test Results** - Mary discussed Arbor's test results from last spring. Overall, our children tested very well. The CPT4 is given in place of the WASL because the results are easier to understand and are returned faster. The CPT4 is a harder exam than the WASL and compares with the ISEE. Mary reviewed the results by grade level and national, suburban and independent norms. Arbor staff use the test results as one indicator of how children are progressing. At Arbor, we don't "teach to the test" but we do review any obvious holes in the curriculum and make adjustments as appropriate. Arbor uses this test as an opportunity to teach children how to take a test.

**Parent Connection** - Mary spoke about the goal of the Parent Connection meetings. Our kids are at Arbor from 9am-3pm and what happens from 3pm-9pm should compliment the lessons learned at school. The discussions will focus on how to bring Montessori into the home. They are broken into six week sessions by level. Parents can come to one or all six. Questions or comments should be directed to Susan Todd. A toddler session is being planned. Mary would like feedback on what time and day work the best for these parents. Email your feedback directly to her at [mary@arborschools.com](mailto:mary@arborschools.com).

**Academic Committee** - Sandy Teper (chairperson) explained the work of the Academic Committee. The goal is to give parents an opportunity to communicate with Administration about issues around academics. Last year this committee focused on progress reports, elective type offerings like Spanish, computer curriculum, requirements for children to move from level to level (K to 1, 3 to 4, 6 to 7). The committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at 10am in the Cypress Room. All are welcome.

**Fundraising/Finance Committee** - Esadeta Atic (chairperson) spoke about the two major fundraisers for Arbor - the Auction and the Triathlon. She

explained the committee implemented new ideas last year for the Auction around sponsorship levels, increasing the cost of tickets and ads in the Auction catalogue. The 2006 Auction generated \$76,000 net revenue. This year's Auction is set for March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Newcastle Golf Club. If you'd like to help, contact Carol Bevil at [carol@arborschools.com](mailto:carol@arborschools.com).

The Triathlon is June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Esadeta encouraged everyone to plan to help on the Tri. It's not only fun, but a great way to bring in community dollars to Arbor. We have 850 adults and 200 children athletes participate. In 2006, the Tri generated \$29,000 net revenue. The committee is hoping to up that by looking at a fee increase this year.

The committee focuses on how to leverage more dollars for Arbor. This year we will be discussing escrip and Montessori Rewards Programs. If you have other ideas for raising money for Arbor, email Esadeta directly at [esadeta@comcast.net](mailto:esadeta@comcast.net). Watch the newsletter for announcements of future meetings.

**Toddler Program Update** - The Toddler Program is going well. We have 2-3 spots for 3 days a week. If you know of any families who might be interested have them contact Leslie Chambers.

**Library Coverage** - Krista Hutley (our Librarian from 2005-2006) will be returning on Fridays. Kindergarten kids are using a parent volunteer to go to the library. Lower elementary children visit with teachers on Tuesday.

**Extracurricular Music Teacher** - Mary has had no luck in finding a music teacher for private lessons. Teachers felt that the program used in the past was disruptive to the classroom (kids being pulled out for 20-30 minutes from class time). If a parent knows of a music teacher interested in teaching private lessons on Wednesday afternoons, Mary is willing to provide space.

**Calendar Information** - The most up-to-date calendar was attached to the newsletter dated September 6<sup>th</sup>. If you don't have one, email Leslie Chambers at [leslie@arborschools.com](mailto:leslie@arborschools.com). The latest calendar is on the web at [www.arborschools.com](http://www.arborschools.com).

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## Parent Association Meeting Notes Continued....

Winter break was moved to accommodate the 100 year Montessori Celebration (Feb. 26 to March 2). Next year this week long break will go back to Presidents' birthday week.

The change in conferences and progress reports was made for parents and teachers to have an earlier opportunity to give input. If parents feel a conference is needed after the progress reports are distributed (mailed out November 17<sup>th</sup>), contact your teacher directly.

The All School Performance and Cultural Night were swapped this year. It was difficult to find a theater to have our performance in December. Look for more information on the date in the newsletter. Cultural Night is December 8<sup>th</sup> - watch for more information on that as well.

**Spanish Class Updates** - Parents asked if vocabulary lists with pronunciations can be sent home so parents can help practice with their children. Mary will follow up.

**Snow Sports Change** - Question was asked about the Snow Sports club being moved to Wednesday afternoons from Friday. Mary explained that having it on Friday was interfering with precious class time. The activity can happen on Fridays provided the kids leave after 3:30pm. Parents should contact Susan Horst for more information or feedback.

**Drop Off Concerns** - Concerns were raised about the back-up of cars at drop off time. An additional staff member will be outside from 8:15 to 8:30am to help with the sibling drop off starting 10-11-06. Mary will monitor situation and either add additional help if needed or consider adjusting drop off times. A suggestion was made that Primary families have a windshield sticker to easily identify them as needing assistance. Mary will follow up.

**Parent Association** - Next PA Meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

*Please submit newsletter items to [Kristina@arborschools.com](mailto:Kristina@arborschools.com). The deadline for Monday's newsletter is noon the preceding Thursday. It will be placed in the next available newsletter and may be edited for length and content.*

## Expert from The Discovery of the Child, Maria Montessori

If teaching is to be effective with young children, it must assist them to advance on the way to independence. It must initiate them into those kinds of activities which they can perform themselves and which keep them from being a burden to others because of their inabilities. We must help them to learn how to walk without assistance, to run, to go up and down the stairs, to pick up fallen objects, to dress and undress, to wash themselves, to express their needs in a way that is clearly understood, an to attempt to satisfy their desires through their own



efforts. All this is part of an education for independence."

*Maria Montessori*