

Hail, Farewell, and You Can Help Out?

By Wendy Peter
CoMP President



It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. It has been a pleasure to serve as President of CoMP's board of directors because doing so has allowed me to meet and work with some amazing people who care wholeheartedly about the success of our

Montessori program.

I would like to thank this year's outgoing board members – Jan Karel, Amalie Day and Donna Evenson, all from Jefferson. Jan has been instrumental in many projects including creating the CoMP Handbook, teacher recruitment initiatives and the expansion of our Montessori program. Amalie has served on the board in various capacities, including President, and, in the absence of a Treasurer, it was not unusual to find Amalie adding those duties to her plate as well. Donna has served as Secretary for the past 2 school years and her attention to detail was certainly impressive as she dutifully took notes at each meeting. I am thankful for all of their contributions to the board over the past years.

Thankfully, we will continue to have the experience and enthusiasm of the following board mem-

bers as they return next school year: from Jefferson, Karyn Woodard (CoMP-South Co-Chair), Sandra Bancroft-Billings (Parent at Large, Newsletter and Web Master Extraordinaire) and Kathryn Picanco (2010 – 2011 President); and from Balboa, Rhonda Clark (CoMP –North Chair), Lori Rodriguez (Parent at Large) and Meredith Lombardi (2010-2011 President-Elect).

We are looking forward to new members joining the board next year including: Sarah Bain – Jefferson Parent at Large, Dena Carr and Patty Grandos – Balboa Parents at Large, and Lori Raney – CoMP Secretary.

Our program will undoubtedly be in great hands as this group brings strong leadership and organizational qualities to the table along with a desire to see the Montessori program prosper.

In addition to the wonderful and devoted parents who volunteer on the board, we have also been fortunate to have dedicated teachers and principals who faithfully attended board meetings and contributed their knowledge and perspective to help guide the board. Thank you Colleen King (Balboa Montessori teacher), Gayle Waner (Jefferson Montessori teacher), Mary-Dean Wooley (Jefferson Principal) and Pat Lynass (Balboa Principal) for the wisdom and energy you devoted to the board and to our program.

We still need a couple of parents to serve on the board so please consider these volunteer opportunities: We need a Treasurer (from either Jefferson or Balboa), and a Parent at Large from Jefferson. If you would like more information, please contact me at thepeterfamily@yahoo.com. Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM in the Spokane Public Schools Administration Building downtown.

To all the families in our Montessori community, have a great summer!

Remembrance of Things Pluvial

Campouts for children, teachers, and parents from Balboa and Jefferson held rain and more rain but everyone soldiered on and appreciated the camp fires a little more this year. Below are some of the children's camp out memories.

- Sandra Billings

I am in love with this world. I have nestled lovingly in it. I have climbed its mountains, roamed its forests, sailed its waters, crossed its deserts, felt the sting of its frosts, the oppression of its heats, the drench of its rains, the fury of its winds, and always have beauty and joy waited upon my goings and comings.

-John Burroughs

Camp-Out

This year at camp-out was fun. I did watercolor painting and poems. I could finally get some sleep because at home my kitten would always keep me up. In the morning Anaiea, Ava, our cabin parent Jamie and I went down to the lodge, had tea, and played Uno. Jami won. Analea accidentally spilt her hot chocolate on Ava. I love camp-out. I went on a hike with some other kids. We saw a HUGE hunk of shelf fungus. Wednesday and Friday were rainy, but Thursday was gorgeous.

- Amy XXX

Campfire

I see burning red flame.

I see marshmallows meeting their fiery deaths.

I smell sweet s'mores mixed with swirly smoke.

I smell the melting chocolate on my hands.

I feel the heat warming my whole face.



Will Petro watches a snail slide up his slicker during a nature walk at Camp N-Sid-Sen.

I feel the cool air from around me.

I hear the fire's crackle with the wind.

I hear the coals burn.

- Tommy Kasimov

More campout memories inside.

Campout memories: continued

Trust

I see black darkness all around.
 I hear my friend Lilly’s voice urging me on.
 I taste courage, but also fright and trust.
 I touch Lilly’s sleeve, and am grabbing her arm so she can lead me.
 I walk frightened of what lies in front of me and behind me,
 but I am also laughing.
 I know where we are going, but I’m not sure of the route.

I hear Lilly say we are almost there.
 I feel the cabin door and happily take off the bandanna around my head.
 I can see.

I see Lilly now in a new light,
 for she knows that I really truly trust her and that I know the same about her.
 I shout,
 “Let’s do it again.”
 - Hannah Moss

Days 1 – 3

We arrived and set up.
 Day 1 (day): Mountains up so high in the air, so foggy I cannot see.
 Day 2 (night): Tonight we went on a night hike. I heard an owl and some frogs.
 Day 3 (morning): I went to the top of the butte. I could see Oregon, Idaho, and Washington.
 Then we left.
 - Ravyn Riffe

Campout Poem

I loved the sound
 of the trees rustling

and the crackling
 sound of the fire.

I felt right at home
 when I woke up in the morning and the birds were chirping inside my cabin.

Also, the tattering of the rain against our rain jackets was comforting to my ears as we began our hike to the top of the butte.
 - Alec Erb

In the Rain

In the rain, in the rain,
 foggy mist in the rain.

In the rain, in the rain,
 drops of water all the same.

In the rain, in the rain,
 painting pictures of the rain.

In the rain, in the rain.
 - Lilly Allison

Bear

Just outside my cabin, there was a bear looking for food at six o’clock in the morning. I was sleeping, but my eyes blinked awake because I saw something furry out my window. He was looking around people’s cabins and checking it out. I watched. I was a little bit excited. I didn’t want to go outside because it was too early. He left our home back to his home at seven o’clock. “It’s a bear,” I said. My cabin was then awake.
 - Adam Donnelly



First grader Tatum Getchell learns Korean words with the help of GU student Sr. Rosario, also known as Myung Jin Kim. Tatum was dressed for a play the children performed for their guests.

Make New Friends, But Keep the Old: Jefferson and GU Classrooms Meet

Students from the English Language Center at Gonzaga University once again visited Paula Gibson-Smith’s classroom. Jefferson students learned about camel races in Saudi Arabia, played a

Japanese game using animé characters, and learned about Spanish and Korean. The Gonzaga students were very interested in the Montessori classroom and got to enjoy an American school hot lunch.