

Director's Report

For the Board of Directors of Sherwood Montessori

December Meeting 12/07/2011

Community/Events

- Back to School Night was incredibly well attended. Next year we will schedule kindergarten earlier and have an extra staff person for child care in response to feedback that the youngest kids were tired and the playground was crowded.
- The Fall Festival on October 28th was well attended and great fun and the Feast of Gratitude was also a successful event.
- The middle school class went on a rafting trip on the Lower Yuba River with Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC). Kelli Kurth planned the trip and solicited a \$250 donation towards the cost from Build.com. The students observed salmon and their redds (nests) and now have a chiller aquarium in the science room where they can hatch salmon, also a result of Kelli's collaboration with a community member: Joel Rainey.
- Literary Share brought many parents and family members into the classrooms to give the students authentic audiences for their work.
- Teresa and I attended the Kindergarten Faire with current kindergarten parent Robyn Faraone.

Financial

- Annie B's raised \$7,277.64. This was less than last year's \$7,905.90, but we had 47 families participate this year compared to last year's 30. The SMPO rummage sale on October 8th earned over \$800, the *Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde* performance on November 9th earned over \$360, and the flower bulb sale earned over \$1,800.
- Expansion has led us to another unforeseen cost: the need to add three more rooms to the system (library, director's office, and the 6th/7th/8th math and science room. The cost was \$1,065. Under spending on other lines will balance this cost on the budget.
- More staff members are adding benefits this year, but the cost will remain under budget as the old plan was replaced with the choice of two less costly plans. Employees were also given an opportunity to purchase Aflac to supplement their benefits and some did.

- Enrollment is at 121, three students have left and three have enrolled since the last board meeting. We are expecting three more students after the winter break and I continue to give school tours to interested families.
- Mid-year cuts could be triggered by low state revenues from taxes. We will know in January if cuts are coming and how much they will be.

Staffing/Personnel

- We had two resignations since the last Board meeting: Nicole Lucente, child care worker, and Emily Armstrong, a.m. aide and Friday long term sub in Carin's room.
- New hires since the last Board meeting include Eilene Franco Brooks and Tanya Parish. Eilene worked at the Chico Montessori Children's House until she left to finish her degree at C.S.U. Eilene is a trained Montessorian and will be the new a.m. teacher's aide in Carin's class as well as the kindergarten child care provider. Tanya has Montessori training for ages 6-12 and will be the long term sub for Carin's Fridays as well as the Wednesday a.m. office aide. Having Tanya in the office on Wednesdays releases Julie to sub in Kelli's room.