

pen Classroom m



Dear Open Classroom Community,

I have accepted a position as Director of Transportation in the Salt Lake City School District. This change will take place on the first day of next school year, July 1, 2016.

Looking back on my time at the OC, I am full of gratitude for all of you and for the experiences I have had with you over the past four years.

To begin with, I have never worked with a more dedicated, creative, and passionate staff. In countless classes and meetings I have witnessed the great concern and care the staff has for our OC students. My experiences here have given me complete confidence in the OC staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, lunch employees, secretaries, custodians, and others). I have seen that as they work together, they are able to meet the individual needs of each student at this school.

In addition, it has been an eye opener to see the impact of a structured, systematic inclusion of parents in the day-to-day operations of a school. Parental involvement at the Open Classroom is without a doubt the single biggest factor setting it apart from other schools. Your weekly co-oping not only lowers the adult/student ratio, it also provides a safe and nurturing classroom environment in which students can interact with and be taught by parents and adults with whom they feel comfortable. Your contributions to the school outside of the classroom—committee work and parent meetings to name a couple—are noticed and appreciated.

Finally, I need to thank the wonderful students at the Open Classroom. This is the only time in my career when I have worked with elementary-aged kids and it has been a real treat. To have students regularly saying 'hi' to me each day in the halls and for the opportunity to call a student by name and say 'hi' back has felt like a privilege. If ever I have allowed the little stresses of my job to get me down, it has been my experience that, without exception, spending more time with kids in the classroom has given me the boost I needed. I have loved working with each and every student at the OC. I have confidence in their abilities and potential, and I look forward to seeing their future contributions to the community.

I will leave this place a better educator and a better person as a result of your examples and the enriching experiences I have had with you here at the Open Classroom.

In my few remaining months at the OC I am committed to continue serving in any way I can, including making myself available to help the new principal during this time of transition.

Thanks,
Martin



Robb "Little Owl" Martin



Robb "Little Owl" Martin will be sharing stories, music and information about the Jicarilla Apache and Southern Ute cultures with our 6th and 7th graders April 20 at 9am in the library.

We hope to reinforce what we have learned over the course of this year in Social Studies, Language Arts and Music Appreciation. Mr. Martin visited with the whole school last fall and has performed at many art and storytelling events and Salt Lake City's Living Traditions Festival.

Author and illustrator, Mark Pett is coming to the OC!

Known to some of our children as Clio's and Magnolia's dad, Mark has shared the stories of several very patient children in *The Girl and the Bicycle* and *The Boy and the Airplane*, a tale of young Leonard and his new friend Buster in *The Lizard From the Park* and one of perfect Beatrice in *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes*. Mark will share his talents with the K-5 graders on Thursday April 21 at 9am in the gym. Copies of his books will be available for sale. You are also welcome to check them out of our school's library.

Contact Karen in the library for details.





Instrument Petting Zoo



From the OC Music Committee

Happy April, OC Families!

I'm sure you all know that your children get music instruction every week in class. If you have a child in the lower grades, Dawn Levingston is their teacher. In case you haven't met Dawn, we thought we'd tell you a little bit about her, so you can see how lucky we are to have her.

Hi,

I am Dawn Levingston Music Teacher/Facilitator for the K-3 grade and mom to Henry and Ellary McCoun O.C. students since 2008. I am a certified Music Together Facilitator and Anti-Gravity Instructor at Imagination Place, where I have taught for over 14yrs. I grew up in Santa Maria Ca where I performed and graduated from an acting training school, The Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts before transferring to the U of U and receiving my B.F.A in Modern Dance. I am currently performing as a dancer, sometimes drummer with Samba Fogo, a Brazilian drum, dance and fire non-profit local performance group.

One of my favorite activities is walking my dog Autumn along the Jordan River daily, but most of all I love seeing the delight in your students eyes as they sing, dance and explore instruments together. Thank you Teachers and Co-ops for supporting music at the Open Classroom through your participation, classroom management and talent.



Music Committee Info Continued



Here's a list of some wonderful opportunities to experience live music performances with your children this April.

The concert on April 17th-Celtic Jazz Ensemble with SYNKOFA highlights our own OC music teacher Eric McKenna Spreng!

April 3rd: Grisha Krivchenia, Composer-

Pianist. All Saints Episcopal Church. Admission by donation. 7pm

April 3rd: Michael Lucarelli, Guitar soloist. Cathedral of the Madeleine. Free admission. 8pm

April 9th: Redfeather Acoustic Trio, Viridian Event Center, 7pm Free

April 7-9th: Samba Fogo at Rose Wagner Theatre. Dawn from the OC's Brazilian Drum and Dance Ensemble 7:30 \$18-\$20

April 10th: Kenshin Taiko "Dedicated Drums" Japanese Drum Ensemble. Cathedral of the Madeleine, 8pm. Free.

April 12th: Westminster Jazz ensemble Spring Concert, Vieve Gor Concert Hall, 7:30pm Free.

April 15th-May 15th: Peter and the Starcatcher at Hale Center Theatre. Mon-Fri 7:30pm, Sat 12:30, 4:00, 7:30 \$16 for 5-11, \$29 over 11

April 16th: Utopia Early Music - Cancionero, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 8pm, suggested donation

April 16th: Imagination Movers, Eccles Center for the performing arts, Park City, UT @ 2:00pm & 6:00pm, \$15

April 17th: Celtic Jazz ensemble SYNKOFA. Cathedral of the Madeleine, Free admission, 8pm

April 22nd: Cantante of the Cache Children's Choir, LDS Assembly Hall, 7:30 Free

April 23rd: The Life and Times of Beethoven, Abravental Hall 11:00, 12:30

April 24th: Utah Baroque Ensemble, Cathedral of the Madeleine, Free Admission, 8pm.

OPEN CLASSROOM ART STROLL

Dear Open Classroom Community,

The O.C. Art Committee would like to invite you to attend the 2016 Art Stroll! Mark your calendars for May 6th from 5:30-8:30. Enjoy the delicious food truck menus, fantastic talent show, silent auction and best of all, your kiddos art masterpieces.

This year we would like extended an invitation to host a craft booth to any local artist, parent or kid entrepreneur. This is a

parent sponsored activity. To be carefully supervised by the crafter's family (especially during set up @5 when food trucks and vehicles are pulling onto the playground).

All vendors are asked to contribute a portion of their sales to our

P.F.O.E. account in the office. To apply simply send an email to art@ocslc.org and be prepared to provide your own shelter/umbrella/canopy/ table / change, etc.

Thank you,

Nizhoni May



Class Galleries

Talent Show

The Animal World ART STROLL



Food trucks
Artist Booths

Silent Auction
And More!

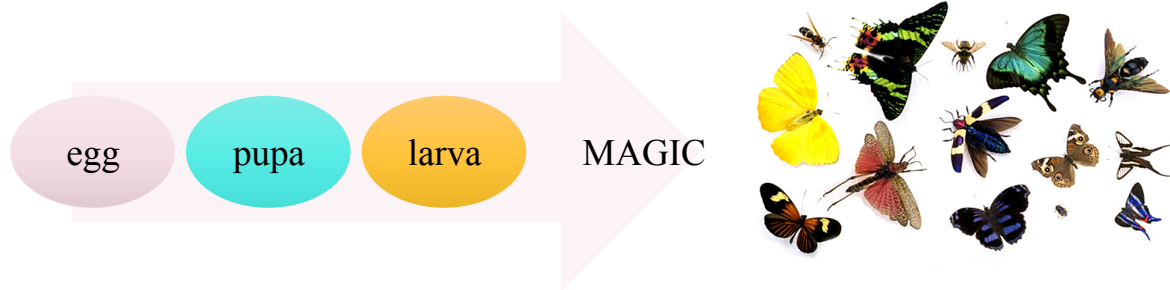
Friday May 6th 5:30-8:30pm

OPEN CLASSROOM COMMITTEE INFORMATION:

School wide sign-up's for next year's parent committees begins on May 2ND and will run through May 13th. Watch for an email with additional information and an online survey where you will complete your sign-ups. Sign-up assistance will also be available before and after school for approximately 15-20 minutes, (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) during the second week of the sign-up period. This will occur in the main hallway outside the office. When it comes time to sign-up, you will identify your top three choices and ultimately you will then be placed dependent on committee needs. Open Classroom requires a minimum of 30 hours of committee work per school year.



All committees have something to offer and make a huge difference in how the school runs and accomplishes its many goals. Make sure you review all of the committee descriptions. All of the committees have specific time and meeting requirements. Choose a committee that will fit your life style and your passions.



COORDINATION COMMITTEE:

- **Description:** The Coordination Committee ensures that all OC families are assigned to a perfect OC Committee. The members work closely with the Head Teachers, the Committee Chairs and Steering Leadership in ensuring that all committees run smoothly and members are supporting in ways that serve the Open Classroom. The committee provides on-going support to each committee, including Chair support and training, problem solving, mediation and positive reinforcement. Bring your organization skills, your positive attitude and your abilities to motivate others.
- **Time Commitments:** Must be willing to attend 4-6 meetings throughout the school year. Many tasks are accomplished at home and during the summer months in prep for the following school year.
- **Tasks:** Individual committee support, meeting attendance, Chair Training planning and participation, spreadsheet maintenance, mediation and Chair support and other misc. items.



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ART

- **Description:** Art is the soul of childhood. If you enjoy making, perceiving, expressing and contextualizing art, this committee needs your expertise. Work closely with Art Co-ops in creating age appropriate art in the classroom. This committee offers creative satisfaction and family and friend bonding during events.
- **Time Commitments:** The Art Committee is in charge of two events each year; The Art Stroll and the Holiday Bazaar. Members are expected to contribute to planning and running aspects of these events. Time commitments are heavy in the months these activities are held.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** There are several options including but not limited to; Event Planning, supply ordering and maintenance, hosting Bazaar tables, Art Meetings held monthly after school.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Description:** Members of this committee are chosen by the teachers. Teachers will ask specific parents to consider being a Community Support Rep for the next year. If you hear from teachers then it means they feel you could act as a positive influence on their classroom community. This is a committee of caring and community building. As the community support representative, you have the opportunity to help families get to know each other, solve problems in the classroom and provide much needed support for families in need.
- **Time Commitments:** Time commitments fluctuate depending on the needs of the individual classrooms. You may be setting up classroom events and activities, providing meals, carpooling or babysitting for families in need. You are also responsible for organizing teacher birthdays and teacher appreciation week.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** There are typically 2-3 meetings throughout the year, and much email conversation. You are also expected to attend the classroom parent meetings, bringing forward any community items to discuss in this venue. You also check-in often with the teacher and support them with any situations they feel deserve your attention.



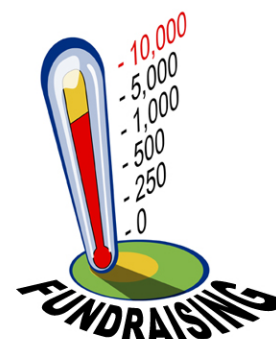
STEERING

- **Description:** The Steering Committee is the main governing board for our school. The committee is responsible for planning and approving the direction of the Open Classroom. Representatives from each classroom meet monthly to discuss and approve activities, policies, procedures and budgets. Steering also oversees committee activities and ensures that the OC philosophy is nurtured throughout the community.



FUNDRAISING

- **Description:** The Fundraising Committee helps ensure the success of some of the Open Classroom's most historically significant events, such as the Walk-A-Thon, Art Stroll and OC specific T-Shirt sales. This committee collaborates to create and raise funds to support OC programs and activities. These activities are some of the ways that an exceptional learning experience for students, parents, families and staff are created.
- **Time Commitments:** Three to four meetings are offered during the year that all committee members must attend. These meetings are typically offered on a weekday evening. Members also communicate frequently through email and less frequently in person during school hours. Committee members can work from home related to event planning and management and are expected to participate in person for some of the bigger fundraising events.
- **Tasks:** Specific tasks related to this committee could involve planning and management of the Walk-a-Thon, Art Stroll and T-Shirt sales. OCCN submission and bulletin board maintenance can be a unique member task. Coordination between other committees is also a necessary task for individual members.



LIBRARY

- **Description:** The Library Committee is a great source of information and inspiration for students, teachers and parents. Much satisfaction can come from creating a safe environment of learning from books, art, and peaceful activities. This committee is a great fit for those parents that require flexibility. It is essential that you are responsible, need few reminders and follow through with assigned tasks.
- **Time Commitments:** The Library Committee is in charge of two book fair events each year; Members are expected to participate in event planning, managing the book fairs, set-up and clean-up. There are also weekly expectations to shelve books and assist the Librarians with specialized tasks. Some individual tasks also occur during the year. Typical time commitments can be managed before/after school and on co-op days or days you are free.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** There are generally 1-2 meetings per year.



NEW FAMILIES

- **Description:** Remember how overwhelming it was to be a new family at the OC? This committee is for you if you are passionate about providing support, knowledge and information for the entering New Family Group. This is your opportunity to bring your ideas on “what would have assisted you” your first year at the OC.
- **Time Commitments:** Participate in all or several monthly New Family meetings. Involved in the planning and presenting related to these meetings. Two – four hours monthly. The event planning tasks can be accomplished from home. The meeting attendance is in the evenings generally at the school.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** There are generally 2-3 planning meetings for committee members throughout the year, starting in the summer.



TRAFFIC

- **Description:** Are you passionate about Child Safety? Then this is the committee for you. This is the ideal committee if you want to accomplish your 30-hour requirement by coming a few minutes early or staying after school a few minutes late. The non-project format of this committee makes it easy to support your committee commitment and keep our kids safe.
- **Time Commitments:** Be willing to monitor kid/parent car drop-off safety two shifts per week for the entire school year. Each shift is about 20-25 minutes. This is a very team oriented committee and members often help each other out regarding needs to miss shifts.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** Morning shifts involve setting up cones, signs and flags and keeping the flow of traffic moving. Afternoon shifts involve the safe pick-up of kids and putting equipment away for the nights. Many of these shifts can be accomplished on your co-op day with teacher approval. There is one meeting at the beginning of the school year, and miscellaneous communication via email.



CAFETERIA

- **Description:** Are you passionate about food? Then this is the committee for you. This is the ideal committee to assist in creating healthy lunches for the Open Classroom students, faculty and parents. The committee members report that this committee has excellent teamwork and fun together. The non-project format of this committee makes it easy to support your committee commitment. This is a task driven committee. Your hours are accomplished in the mornings and before and after lunch.
- **Time Commitments:** Be willing to volunteer for a kitchen shift. Times are variable and flexible depending on the needs in the cafeteria. Often times committee work can be accomplished before or after co-op shifts. A food handler's permit is required; this permit can be easily obtained on-line.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** One scheduled meeting in August prior to the school year. Additional communication is most often in-person or via email.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- **Description:** Do you love parties and connecting with new people? If so then join the Community Connections committee. The Community Connections committee is responsible for creating opportunities for OC families to connect and have fun at the OC and around town. If you bring passion and great ideas to make this happen then join this committee.
- **Time Commitments:** We begin having a meeting late summer and may occasionally meet during the school year to prep for the activities offered throughout the year.

Some work must be accomplished from home with planning and organizing. Other committee hours are accomplished through meetings and the committee activities.



Tasks/Meetings: There are opportunities for individuals to organize and provide Zip Code Parties, and the Back to School Picnic. There are also many opportunities for other parties and activities throughout the year

CO-OP

- **Description:** This committee member is chosen by the teacher. It is a fun opportunity to be very involved with your child's classroom and the classroom co-ops. As a classroom rep you coordinate the classroom co-op schedule. Help contact parents who miss their co-op times and may need additional support. You also work closely with the teacher regarding any classroom co-op strengths and weaknesses. Co-oping is the heart and soul of the Open Classroom and your enthusiasm and passion for the kids is essential.
- **Time Commitments:** This committee meets during the summer to prep for the upcoming school year. Much of the committee responsibilities can be accomplished from home, via email and in the classroom handling any scheduling issues.

Tasks/Meetings: There are opportunities for individuals to organize and provide education for Co-op Workshops typically held in the beginning of the year. Other tasks involve scheduling issues or creating coverage for parents having problems in covering co-op shifts.



GARDEN

- **Description:** The Garden Committee inspires students to know and understand gardening and its benefits. This committee works closely with the students in planning and the planting and harvesting the Garden Boxes. There are also many other ways to involve students in growing organic produce. New ideas and ways to incorporate these plans are welcomed bring your enthusiasm for gardening to this committee.
- **Time Commitments:** Much of this committee work is accomplished outside and during the spring and summer months. Committee members can take the lead in creating classroom curriculum that supports the outside work.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** Meetings are held to work in the garden areas. Tasks do involve watering during the summer months.



MUSIC

- **Description:** Support the whole child mentally, physically and emotionally through the power of music! This committee facilitates platforms for engaging every student and caregiver musically. By providing the opportunity to learn, make and create a tonal and rhythmic body, through a wide spectrum of experiences, the students and their families connect the past, present and future of our musical world. Bring your creativity and musical ideas or talent to this committee.
- **Time Commitments:** Committee members are involved with organizing and planning school wide music events, music field trips and community inspired musical events.



Other ways the committee members assist is with classroom musical activities, supporting teachers and staff.

- **Tasks/Meetings:** Three meetings held throughout the school year, meetings are for planning and organizing the above musical activities. Other tasks may involve equipment maintenance, and OCCN submissions.

PHILOSOPHY

- **Description:** What does whole-child learning look like? How can we teach our children accountability in a way that is in line with OC philosophy? Where do we really embody OC principles and where is there room for improvement? The Philosophy committee loves to talk about questions like these, and then to come up with solutions that bring the philosophy closer to our lives. Will you help us bring OC philosophy come to life? We provide support to the co-op committee and New Families committee in covering topics related to Philosophy.
- **Time Commitments:** We meet about four to six times over the course of the school year for about an hour and a half (in the evenings). Planning and organization of these events can occur over email and within smaller groups.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** Tasks include: attending our meetings; staying in touch with your subcommittee if you work on a special project (outlined at the beginning of the year); attending meetings of other committees (one or two of our members each time), such as Steering and New Families; writing articles for OCCN about philosophy; other tasks as they come up. Several meetings are held throughout the year, primarily in the evenings related to the tasks of this group.



PUBLICITY

- **Description:** The role of this committee is to get information out the community about the benefits of the Open Classroom. We build awareness and create interest about the OC and prospective families.
- **Time Commitments:** Attendance at several meetings is required plus attendance at the below functions. Some of the time commitment can be accomplished from home with planning and organizing.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** Our tasks involve creating awareness about the OC through the Avenues Fair, St Patrick's Day Parade, OC Open Houses, advertising in local papers and on-line. Committee members would be involved in the planning, organizing and advertising of these events. Meetings may occur several times throughout the year and much communication is done via email



SPORTS

- **Description:** This committee is for anyone invested in the physical development of children. If you like to recreate and understand the value of play, please join this



committee. We would love to have your energy and creativity to assist us in planning sports and athletic activities throughout the year.

- **Time Commitments:** Several monthly meetings will occur at the beginning of the school year. These meetings are for planning activities throughout the year. Extra time requirements around certain events, field days and sports field trips would be necessary from committee members. Many planning tasks can be accomplished from home; i.e. contacting venues, scheduling activities and updating the Sports Bulletin Board. If you are a sports or PE co-oper some of your work can be accomplished during these shifts.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** The committee members work closely with the Faculty PE and Sports Coordinator with contacting venues, arranging bus transportation, updating the Hallway Bulletin Board, submitting information to the OCCN, equipment maintenance and inventory, and planning and implementing end of year field days.

WEB

- **Description:** If you want to play an active part in contributing to a public-facing aspect of our school and community, you live and breathe the Net, you are detail oriented, and an excellent communicator both verbally and online, you are familiar with Google App, Google Groups for business and or Google lists and have experience with WordPress or an enthusiasm to learn, then this is the committee for you.
- **Time Commitments:** One or two meetings a year, with primary communication done via email. There is work done over the summer in preparing for the new class lists and committee lists. Checking email often is necessary as issues come up during the summer and the school year. Most work is accomplished from home when convenient with the committee member's schedule.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** The Web Committee manages and maintains the OC Website and mailing lists. We coordinate with other committees to make sure the content on the site is up-to-date and maintain a calendar of OC events.



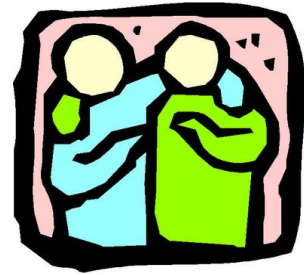
YEARBOOK

- **Description:** Assist in the process of creating a yearbook for the lower grades, middle grades and the Uppers. Work on a small team in creating beautiful year-long memories of your kids and the classes they participate in.
- **Time Commitments:** Two to three meetings a year, the biggest part of the work being accomplished in the early spring months in prep for publication. Some work needing to be accomplished during co-op shifts and some work completed at home.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** Photography, and collection of photos from events and activities, assistance with page lay-out and organization of parents/children participation.



SCHOOL SUPPORT AND TASKS

- **Description:** This committee is really two committees in one. There are several tasks that need to occur to ensure the OC is supported. Some involve office support, administration support and other tasks as they arise. Some examples may be:
 - Summer mailing
 - School photos
 - Eye screening
 - Sick room – supplies/cleaning
 - Multipurpose room and music room kitchen cleaning
 - Lost and found
 - Budget assistance
 - OCCN publication
 - OCCN directory publication
 - Misc. projects as approved by Head Teacher and Principal
- **Time Commitments:** Many of the school support and task projects are accomplished on your own time, before or after school, in the evenings, etc. You must be a self-starter and able to manage your time to accomplish your assigned support or task.
- **Tasks/Meetings:** Email communication is the preferred form of communication for this group. Some tasks have time constraints and you may volunteer several times throughout the year to meet you required 30 hours.



**WHICH COMMITTEE ARE YOU
INTERESTED IN?**

**SUPPORT OUR KIDS,
TEACHERS AND STAFF BY
BEING INVOLVED.**