



THE SCHOOL BULL

Informal news about The Clearwater School



We've Moved!

The Clearwater School Now Full-time in a New Location

This year, for the very first time, The Clearwater School is offering a full-time program, Monday through Friday, 9-5. The school has moved to a central location just a block from the south entrance to the Woodland Park Zoo. Our new home offers a light, home-like atmosphere with a small yard, plus all the added resources of Woodland Park just steps away! If you have been waiting anxiously for The Clearwater School to be available full time, now is the time to join! We invite you to call soon and schedule a visit.

This year is a landmark in our evolution as a school. In the five years since our founding group first began meeting, we have moved step by step towards our vision of a full-time Sudbury school in the Seattle area. This move feels like we are ready to "fledge the nest" and learn to really fly. How auspicious for our school to make this transition during the millenium year. We look forward to more growth this year, as more families are able to experience the Sudbury model by enrolling children as full-time students at The Clearwater School. We hope many of our long time supporters will join us at this exciting time.

Call to schedule a visit! Our new phone number is 633-1720.



More News Inside!

courtesy Sudbury Valley School



Sudbury Valley School Summer Workshop for Sudbury Schools

During the heat of July, three staff members of The Clearwater School attended a conference for Sudbury schools hosted by the Sudbury Valley School in Framingham, Massachusetts. Invitations to the conference were extended to staff members and their families of established Sudbury schools and some planning groups. The workshop had an international flavor—twenty different schools were represented, including schools in Israel, Denmark, and a planning group in Brazil. The Clearwater School was represented by staff members: Angeliq

McCaffree, Shawna Lee, Stephanie Sarantos, and family members: Tom, Corey and Lucas Campbell. All found the conference inspiring, practical and well worth braving an East Coast heat wave complete with dramatic thunder storms.

Shawna and Stephanie each wrote a report about their experiences at the conference. Much of what they learned will be shared throughout the year as they apply the insight and information gained from the staff members of other schools to the many complex issues encountered at The Clearwater School.

The Warmth of Sudbury Valley

by Stephanie Sarantos

My experience at The Sudbury Conference this summer filled me with new energy and inspiration. When I drove into the parking lot and took in the beauty of the SVS campus, I immediately felt infused with "warmth." The sense of warmth I felt at Sudbury Valley differed distinctly from the sticky, heavy, and clammy warmth I had grown accustomed to during the past three days spent with my family in Cape Cod and Boston. The time on Cape Cod tempered the oppressive weather pattern with the excitement of exploration in beautiful country, the joy of jumping ocean waves and exquisite swimming in warm fresh water ponds. Yet the humidity of those first three days of warmth evoked feelings of *home-sickness*—longing for the cool (even rainy) Pacific Northwest and conviction that I could never survive an entire summer in the northeast.

The Sudbury Valley warmth ironically evoked feelings of *home coming*. In spite of the humidity, in spite of the reality that I had only visited Sudbury Valley once three years ago, I felt I was returning to a deeply familiar place. And although my body continued to sweat and wilt throughout most of the daylight hours, I felt entirely at home, welcome and comfortable at the conference. Arriving at the Sudbury Valley parking lot is like entering the cover photo of the book of *Free at Last*—only better. Rolling green lawns, majestic, mature trees, swings, slides and basketball courts invite energetic games, adventurous climbing and welcome lounging in friendly shade. People of all ages roaming the campus add to the natural beauty with their energy and commitment to the Sudbury model of education.

I am so grateful to the staff at Sudbury Valley for providing the five days of the workshop. I felt infused with new energy, inspiration and indescribable support for and understanding of my values about schooling and parenting. My days were filled with hours of interactions with staff and children from Sudbury schools around the country and the world. In fact, as I left the parking lot I immediately greeted old friends—people I had met at my first Sudbury conference three years ago, as well as "on-line" friends I knew through a school list-serve. As I greeted old friends I felt the warmth of reunion and the anticipation of new conversations. As I greeted "on-line" friends I noticed whether these friends looked different or similar to my imaginings.

Time at the conference was spent talking, listening and playing—much like a day at school, except that the time spent in meetings was tremendously

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The School Bull - Volume 5.2

The School Bull is published on an as needed basis. You want something to go in? Let Bob Freeman know: 206-783-3161 hm 206-217-7030 wk; 111 NW 59th St., Seattle, WA 98107 bf@seanet.com. Thanks to Shawna Lee for her proofreading. Thanks to Amanda Luff for helping with graphics selection. All photos by Shawna Lee except where noted.

The Clearwater School

206-633-1720, 4918 Linden Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103-6537,
shawna@seanet.com
<http://snonet.org/clearwaterschool>

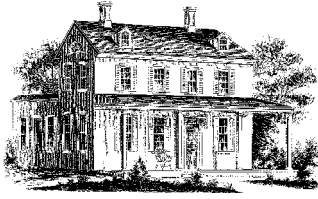
Welcomes racial, cultural, and religious diversity, and families of every composition.

President	David McCaffree
Treasurer	Stephanie Sarantos
Secretary	Angeliq McCaffree
Board of Directors	
Martha Hurwitz	Elizabeth Peckham
Trish Fabritz	Bob Freeman
Guy Peckham	Shawna Lee

Officially Clearwater: The Clearwater School Gains State Approval!



This summer The Clearwater School applied to the State of Washington for approval as an independent school. Our application was approved when the State Board of Education met in August. This means we are now an official school, recognized and approved by the State! We are delighted to take this step, and excited to be able to offer our school to full-time students! 🐾



Long-Range Site Search Continues

Site Report by Stephanie Sarantos

In the ongoing saga of finding a site for The Clearwater School, this year has definitely been the most dramatic. Most of you reading this newsletter are aware that we came very close to purchasing property on five acres in Kenmore this spring. Guy Peckham, Tom Campbell, Shawna Lee and myself engaged in an in-depth process involving, extensive research, developing site plans, meeting with neighbors, and preparing for and attending a pre-application conference with county and city officials. Unfortunately, through this process, we learned that the costs associated with meeting the zoning and safety requirements for a school were much higher than anticipated. The cost, coupled with the uncertainty of whether we could actually obtain a permit, led us to decide against purchasing the Kenmore property. Saying goodbye to such a beautiful location was very hard for those of us who have invested time and energy in this project.

The good news about site is that our fundraising appeal to friends of the school resulted in almost \$10,000 dollars for our building fund (see Mary de Rosa's article on fundraising for details). Plus we now have resident experts on site development and zoning requirements ready to act when we find a new perfect (or at least great) site. The search for property continues. We have investigated a few potential locations this summer and David and Angelique McCaffree have joined the hunt for property. Our goals for the school remain consistent:

- We want the school to survive and thrive.
- We want a location that is accessible and provides access to the natural environment.
- We want the school to continue to grow in the best way possible.

Thank you to all of you who have donated money to our fundraising drive. And thanks to those who have called with leads in the past. We always welcome suggestions, leads and help. Please call me, Stephanie Sarantos at 206.364.9711 if you have any ideas about a new home for The Clearwater School. 🐾



by Zelina

Sudbury Valley Workshop

Continued from page 2

multiplied from a typical day at school. I heard from several staff of different Sudbury schools that it was difficult for all of us to sit still for so long. The physical challenge of sitting still was well worth the information gained through sharing common problems and (thankfully!) creative solutions. Stories of the challenges each school faced helped bring us together. I learned that Sudbury schools of all ages and sizes share a common language and set of values. And although other schools clearly face unique experiences and challenges, many of the other schools also faced similar challenges. I learned a lot from how other schools addressed their challenges and gained vicarious wisdom from their experiences. I learned some new ideas to try at The Clearwater School. My understanding of the Sudbury philosophy and the application of the philosophy to real life experiences deepened.

I had some wonderful moments, during which I was struck with a new integration of my knowledge of the model—an "aha" feeling that something makes new sense in a profound way. I know I will remember those profound moments as I face the inevitable difficulties that come in a school run through a democratic process. Yet as wonderful as the "aha" moments are,—I also know that the more common moments—the time spent sweating, playing basketball, eating and talking with people will also sustain me. The connections to the staff at the Sudbury Valley School and the many different Sudbury sister schools were strengthened during the conference. I know that I will rely on those connections to guide and inspire my work at The

Deep Values

by Shawna Lee

Sudbury Valley School organized and hosted the third conference for Sudbury schools and startup groups against a backdrop of 90 degree temperatures, 100% humidity and wonderfully dramatic thunderstorms. I was surprised to mostly enjoy the heat and humidity—it was such a change from Seattle's cool and wetter-than-normal summer. This was my second conference and I experienced it profoundly differently from the conference three years ago. The most obvious difference was at the last conference The Clearwater School was still an idea in the minds of us founders. I had no knowledge of what a Sudbury school was on a day-to-day basis. Theory, while important, pales against the power and richness of the reality of daily life at a Sudbury school. This time I was attending as a staff member with three years of experience. I had a context for discussions about creating and maintaining a school culture, the role of the judicial committee, and role of staff, among many others.

Another important difference for me was that most of the people at the conference were people I had met and talked with during the last conference. Instead of feeling shy and awed by everyone as I had three years ago, I was an eager participant in fascinating and thoughtful conversations.

My conference notebook is full of valuable notes and specific ideas. But, this time, what influenced me the most was the depth of commitment to honesty, freedom and respect continually demonstrated by everyone at the conference. As one person described it when I told him how different this conference was for me, I discovered my passion for the questions and the process of exploring them was larger than my need for answers. Everyone generously expressed their strongly-held opinions and thoughts and provided space for others to do the same, no matter what the differences. I witnessed great courage, support and especially conviction. The honesty and conviction impressed me most of all. People who are involved in Sudbury schools are committed to telling the truth about themselves and what they see and experience. Strengthened by the conviction that Sudbury schools must be available to children, they work hard to nurture the growth and health of their schools.

I returned from the conference with renewed commitment and new conviction. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to Sudbury Valley and each person who attended for sharing themselves—their knowledge, struggles, uncertainties, wisdom—with me and everyone else. 🐾



Who Loves Mondays?

Reflections on beautiful parks, bunnies and educational freedom, by Stephanie Sarantos

Who loves Mondays? Students and staff at The Clearwater School!

As I enter my fourth year as a staff member at school, I feel entirely privileged and continually delighted to be able to work with students who love to go to school. The first week was marked by our great new location, unpacking boxes and setting up areas throughout the school. Yesterday, I ended my first week back at school with a long walk through Woodland Park with four students, Amanda, Zelina, Veronica, and Lucas. We explored our grand new neighboring park with great anticipation and excitement. Our first stop was the rabbit warren in the park.

The story, for those who did not know about the Woodland Park bunnies, is that someone released a couple of rabbits near a rockery in the park years ago, and the rabbits proceeded to create a very large family. Friends of the bunnies provide food and water that allows the rabbits to stay in their warren, rather than disperse through the park to forage for natural food sources. We followed a map to the the bunnies and were delighted to find them,—spotting a black rabbit resting on a rock. There were so many bunnies. We saw babies and moms hopping and walking all over the place. We lingered with the bunnies for quite some time before walking on to explore the park.

Our travels took us almost to Greenlake. We discovered a rock wall for climbing and hiding behind, the lawn bowling and horseshoe areas of the park, and encountered a large group of people picnicking and playing croquet. Finding these great lawn games turned our conversation to ideas of fun things to do at school. Horseshoes and croquet were on top of the list. This conversation moved naturally into questions about what we look forward to this year and what we hope to accomplish at school. Some of the ideas we talked about were visiting and volunteering at the zoo, getting reptiles for pets, studying massage, studying academic subjects and finding new students for the school. During the conversation I was reminded of the empowerment that comes when students are given freedom to determine their own agenda.

I know that many people believe that if students are given freedom in their education, they will never choose to pursue or master difficult and challenging activities. Yet, as a staff person, I find that the opposite is true—students who are given freedom tend to pursue the most difficult challenges. Based on my own observations I am willing to bet that eventually almost all students are driven to pursue those activities and subjects that are most challenging for them. Staff at other Sudbury schools have observed this phenomenon again and again. Students want to learn difficult things—whatever it may be that is difficult for them. Sometimes academically inclined students are driven to master sports, while “shy” students work hard to socialize and make new friends. I have observed students struggle to master reading, devote hours to sports activities, and spend hours on workbooks to learn grammar, math and geography. All of these activities are challenging, and pursued freely because students are following their internal motivation.

This year I learned first hand how personal motivation can work by watching as my own son, Corey, decided to learn to spell. Over the past few years, Corey has worried about his poor spelling and thought about learning how to spell, but resisted directing his energy towards the goal of improving his spelling. This year, he became interested in writing and consequently motivated to learn to spell. His motivation was so strong that he decided to learn. He began by trying to spell words he did not know. He wrote sentences, underlined the words he knew he had misspelled and handed the papers to me for corrections. From this technique he quickly moved to writing on the computer with the aid of the spell check program and increased his spelling vocabulary exponentially over the course of a month. He began to recognize and talk about spelling patterns and rules. I especially enjoy being able to reflect with him about the many strange, inconsistent

spellings in the English language. Through the process of writing Corey continues to improve his spelling and recently told me that the best way for him to learn spelling was by doing it. Corey's decision to master the spelling challenge, to work in his personal learning style and to propel himself to a higher level of literacy, reminds me of the best teaching technique of all—the secret of all Sudbury students' successes—motivation!

Motivation is essential to learning. All educators would agree. Our “technique” at The Clearwater School is to wait patiently (or at least *mostly* patiently) for students to find their internal motivation. And when we do, the reward is to see the whirlwinds of learning that happen when someone is ready and driven to learn! This is the magic—and the common sense—of a Sudbury school; students choose, students choose freely and students choose difficult challenges. 🐰



**ONE TWO THREE
WHO DO I SEE?
A BUMBLEBEE
UP IN A TREE,
MAKING SOME HONEY
JUST FOR ME**
by Cameron

Fund Raising Report

By Mary de Rosas



We were all pretty disappointed when the Kenmore site for the school fell through. I'm sure a lot of you know the Chinese saying "crisis as opportunity." Could it be that is where we are as a school? I think so.

Where's the opportunity in this setback? In several areas, actually. As a group we have more time to clarify our growth plan, strengthen our structure to support it, and raise some much needed money. The experience with Kenmore has shown us that the school will need significant cash to finance the costs of site development and zoning requirements. The fundraising committee has spent considerable time this summer pursuing different ways for us to raise money. I'd like to share with you our current plan.

First, I'd like to thank all of you who responded so generously to our mail appeal. We raised nearly \$10,000. It is heartening to hear from new and old supporters alike. Please see the next page for a list of all of our wonderful donors!

Shawna Lee and I attended a fundraising training on raising money from individuals in the community. We are planning an individual donor drive now. Please call us if you would like to help. We hope to raise \$50,000-100,000 through this drive. Other ideas we are pursuing include:

- 1) Grant requests: We've sent out a dozen letters of inquiry to different Northwest foundations to determine if our needs meet their criteria. We plan to submit grant proposals based on our findings.
- 2) Workplace giving: Many of you are familiar with making payroll deductions to charities and nonprofit organizations through your workplace. We are researching the possibility of having The Clearwater School listed as an option for giving in the workplace.
- 3) Employer matching funds: Another familiar fundraising tool for some of you. Many major employers in the Puget Sound region will match donations that their employees make to nonprofit organizations. We're taking this opportunity to remind you of this option. If you think your employer offers this matching program, please inquire. Look for a list of employers who participate in this plan in our next newsletter.
- 4) Annual garage sale: A Clearwater School institution now! It is held in early fall and we need your help with donations! This event usually raises \$1,000 for the school. Please consider saving great items you no longer use for our next sale. You can also volunteer on the day of the sale.
- 5) Small events: Big events like school auctions are too labor intensive to justify the proceeds at this stage in our growth. However, there are myriad small-scale events that can be fun and very profitable—both financially and in terms of public exposure. With these small events businesses in the community may be willing to donate a portion of a day or week's profits to the school. Other small scale events include car washes and plant sales. If you know of someone who owns a small business—restaurant, bar, hair salon, print shop or toy store—and who might be willing to help the school, let Shawna or myself know.

On a personal note, after the training I attended, I felt very excited about raising money for The Clearwater School. Our trainer, Valerie Reuther, approaches fundraising as "social change." What she means is that by asking for money we are publicly stating our enthusiasm and support for the school. The school offers the community a radical and fresh option in education. It's about social change from the ground up! We ask people to join us and help us change education for our children—we know that many care and want to help. Our fundraising campaign is about finding those folks and inviting them to be a part of this great venture. Who could say "no" to that? 🐾

Hair Cuts for The Clearwater School?



Last spring, hair stylist, Rico McPherson donated a portion of one day's profits to The Clearwater School. A special thanks to Rico for this creative way to support our building fund. If you own a business, please consider donating a day to The Clearwater School in this way. Call the school (206-633-1720) or Mary de Rosas (206-329-6182) to talk further about this idea.

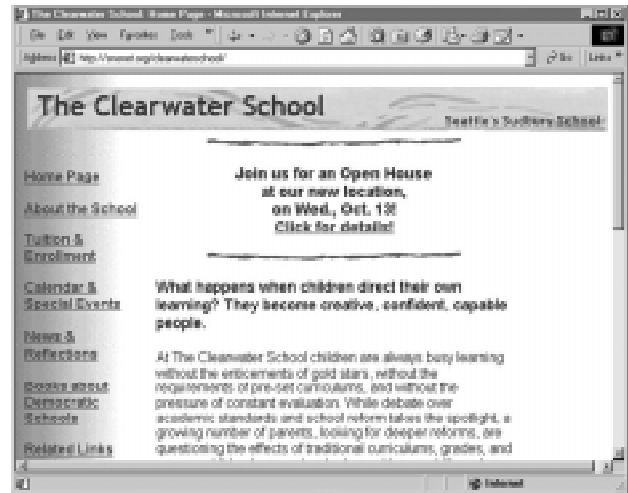
Please support Rico for his generosity to the school. You can reach him at Salon De Orfila, 206-441-0664. 🐾



Handwritten signature: BYZELINA
My name. CI rot it with the pen in my mouth

BYZELINA

HOW I found my
BENIE babies ^{swimming} POWDERS
by zellm...
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HAD A LITTLE PARTY FOR...
FROM THE ARTIC FOR GOOD THE...



<http://snet.org/clearwaterschool>

You can now visit our web site by accessing the URL above. Many thanks to Shelley Arenas, who also manages Northwest Parent Publishing's (Seattle's Child) web site, for designing an accessible and appealing site and maintaining it. Our web site contains general information about the school, from philosophy to enrollment details; news and reflections; the school calendar (to be posted soon) and special events; a list of books about the Sudbury philosophy and democratic education; links to sister schools, other democratic schools and organizations supportive of democratic education; and a form to contact us. The web site is updated on an as-needed basis, so be sure to visit <http://snet.org/clearwaterschool> every now and again and find out what's new at school. If you'd like to see more of Shelley's work and get great information about all kinds of events and resources for Puget Sound families, visit <http://www.nwparent.com>.

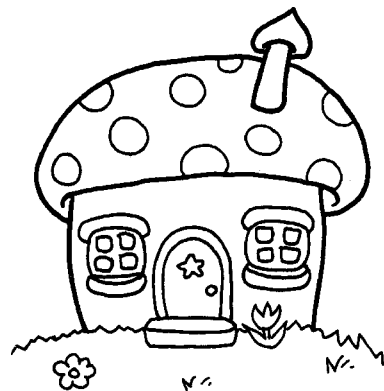


Thank you to Our Donors for 1998-1999

We extend a heart-full thank you to all of you who have donated to the school this past school year. Your donations will help us find a permanent home for the school.

- Pam Abas-Ross
- Vera & David Ackerman
- Naomi & Harvey Aldort
- Louanne Cole
- Lisa Dennison
- Mary deRosas & Paul Peterhaus
- Patricia Donohue & Kurt Meyer
- Helen & Sam Freeman
- Joel Harding
- Julia Henry
- Sue Ann Higgins
- Martha Hurwitz
- Marilea and Arnold Lee
- Cindy Kester
- Shawna Lee & Bob Freeman
- Vicki Logan

- Angelique & David McCaffree
- Mary Ellen & Ken McCaffree
- Rico McPherson
- Microsoft Corporation
- Walter Parker
- Elizabeth & Guy Peckham
- Dale R. Reed
- Natalie and Peter Sarantos
- Stephanie Sarantos and Tom Campbell
- Peter Shirley
- The Circle School
- Cindy & Jeff Thelen-Clemmons
- Les & Dylan Treall
- Elizabeth Uding & John Harris
- WRQ, Inc.
- Dominique & Lowell Walmsley



Come Visit Us at Our Open House

You are invited to an open house at The Clearwater School's wonderful new location, Wednesday, October 13, 1999, at 7pm. We are located at 4918 Linden Avenue North, Seattle, one block east of the south entrance to the Woodland Park Zoo. For the first time, the innovative Sudbury educational model—in which each student exercises self-determination at all times and every decision concerning the school is made democratically by students and staff—is available to both full-time and part-time students in the Puget Sound area. Children are welcome and refreshments will be provided. For information and directions, call (206) 633-1720.

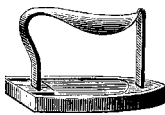
Wish List

Now that we are in a new space that doesn't also happen to be an established home, we find that we are in need of many supplies, equipment and furniture. Please consider giving one or more of these items as an in-kind donation.

futon or tumbling mats from a pet-free household
 extension cords
 silverware
 dishwasher (or someone to repair the existing one)
 wood chips
 towels
 rags
 duct tape
 outdoor broom

mops
 dustpans
 scotch tape
 iron
 ironing board
 tools: hammers, screwdrivers, wrench, pliers, wire cutters
 clock
 small step stool
 bookends for library

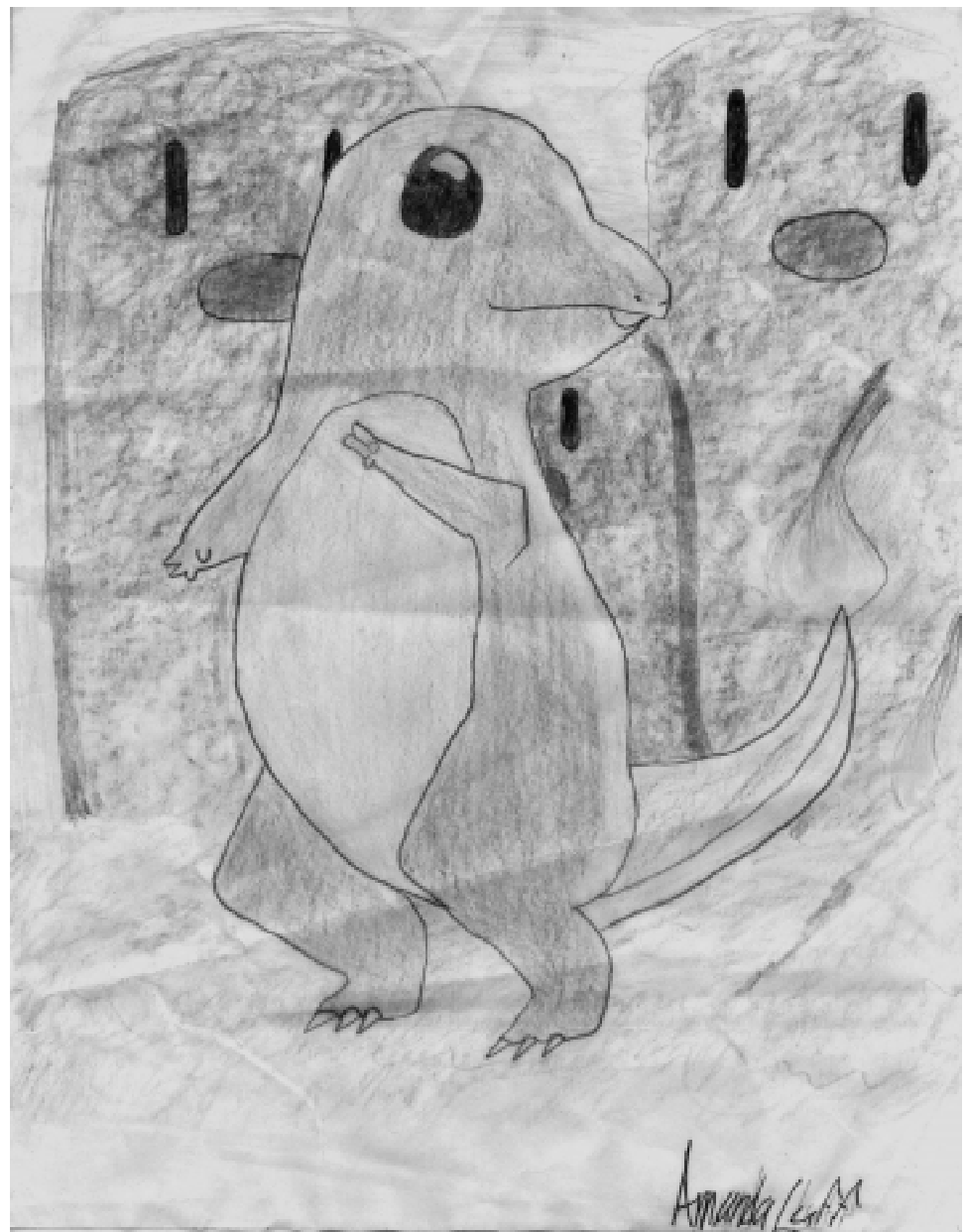
calendar
 horseshoes
 printer for a PC
 copy or fax/copy machine
 regular and sewing scissors
 CD rom drives for pcs (we need 3)
 big pillows
 blankets
 comfy couch
 comfy chair



Another successful Garage Sale!

We had our annual fundraising garage sale last Sunday, September 26th. We had it at the school and raised almost 900 smackers for the school! Many thanks to all who organized, sorted, priced, hauled, setup, baked, sold, haggled and cleaned up! We couldn't have done it without you! We even sold most of the "antique" computers!

And, of course, a big thank you goes to those folks who donated items for the sale. It is always a pleasure to see all the quality items that folks bring. It makes for a good sale every year. 🐾



The Clearwater School 1999-2000 School Year Calendar

September

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October

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31						

November

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28	29	30				

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30						

May

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June

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

hours of operation: 9am-5pm

Monday - Friday

September 8 – First day of school

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 25-26 – Thanksgiving

December 20-31 – Winter Break

January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 21-25 – Midwinter Break

April 10-14 – Spring Break

May 29 – Memorial Day

June 16 – Last day of school

Please send me enrollment information

Send this coupon to TCS Enrollment Info, 4918 Linden Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103-6537, if you would like information about enrolling your child at The Clearwater School

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: _____



The Clearwater School
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Seattle WA 98107-2032

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