

# pen Classroomm



## OC Committee Selection

Thank you to those of you that completed the Survey regarding OC Committee selection for next year.

If you still have not completed the survey, please contact Jamie at 801-860-4485 or email [jsecret320@gmail.com](mailto:jsecret320@gmail.com)

We really want all you wonderful parent involved next year and involved in something you are passionate about.

Thanks again  
Jamie



# A Message from Martin



Once again, this year has been a grand adventure in learning. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the OC community and to be one of those learners. Every day I notice teachers striving to learn, to connect and

teach each individual student with whom they work. I constantly see parents learning as they serve in co-opping roles, committees, and as they interact generally within the school. The curiosity to learn new things and the desire to continue to connect with others are qualities that I see in our students daily. The example of these youngsters is what motivates me to continue to strive to stretch and learn myself.

I compliment you all on each effort and contribution you made to help make this school year a success. I wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer. I hope you find new experiences that will keep you on your toes and learning.

As we go into the summer I would like to make you aware of the changes in staff for next school year that have happened so far. In just a few days we will be saying goodbye to our counselor Rose, our teachers Vanessa, Harmonie, Katy, and Gaby, and our learning support teachers Christina and Lisa. All of these educators have done an amazing job and they will be difficult to replace. I wish them the best.

While there are still some teachers to hire, committees consisting of parents, teachers, and me have interviewed and found some amazing new teachers for the Open Classroom. We have found two super learning support teachers in Rochelle Russell and Elizabeth Whittle. Rochelle

comes to us with nearly ten years teaching experience, and she will be relocating to Salt Lake City from Sierra Vista, Arizona. She will be the full-time learning support teacher. Elizabeth also has many years teaching experience. She and her family relocated here a few years ago from New York City, where she was a special education teacher. Elizabeth will be working half-time in the mornings. I am excited to get to know these two teachers better over the summer and as we prepare for next school year.

In addition to these two learning support teachers, we have offered the counseling position to Dan Sachse. Dan has been a counselor at Bryant Middle School for the past two years. Before that he was a counselor at North Davis Preparatory Academy in Layton. Prior to teaching, Dan was a case worker for the Division of Child and Family Services. I am looking forward to working with Dan.

I am currently working with different hiring committees to fill the half-time kindergarten position, the 1st/2nd grade job, and the vacant upper grade position.

In case you haven't heard, teaching assignment shifts for next year include: Tina Bond is moving from a full-day kindergarten class to a 1st/2nd grade class; Chantelle is moving from a 1st/2nd grade class to a 2nd/3rd grade class; Paige is moving from a 2nd/3rd grade class to the upper grades; Lena is moving from a 3rd/4th grade class to the upper grades; and Claudia and Tina Montoya are moving from the upper grades to a job share in a 3rd/4th grade class. Also, Kirsten will job share with Shelly in a 1st/2nd class in addition to continuing as our school's math specialist.

Wow – that's a lot of changes! I am excited for the moves and confident that these teachers will mesh into their new teams and that each child will continue to be taught and nurtured academically, socially, physically, and emotionally, and his or her unique needs met.

The 2015-16 school year starts on Monday, August 24. If I don't see you at summer parent meetings, I'll see you on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. Once again, I wish you a splendid summer.

Martin

Dear OC Community,

I am sad to say goodbye to so many wonderful people who have become my community since 2007. The feelings of grief are really hitting me when students ask me, "Why are you leaving me?" It's not my intention to leave anyone, it's my intention to keep learning and to try new things. Since I may not get to hug each of you and say a personal goodbye, I wanted to leave you with five thoughts and four resources that I want each of you to have.

Thoughts to remember:

1. Treat others the way you want to be treated and the way you think they might want to be treated. (cliché, I know, but so very helpful)
2. Don't take things personally.
3. The most important things in life aren't really things at all.
4. Just breathe! (Deep belly breaths)
5. Remember, no matter how old or young you are, you are always a teacher. Be sure you are teaching things you want others to learn and repeat.

Resources to check out:

1. The movie Pay it Forward with Kevin Spacey and then try it!
2. Check out <http://www.netsmartz.org/Presentations> – Educate Parents and Communities – because we didn't grow up with so much technology

and we need to know just what to be careful of with our children's digital life.

3. If you need affordable internet and qualify for free or reduced lunch – check out [internetessentials.com](http://internetessentials.com) for info about \$9.99/mo. Internet.
4. And last but definitely not least, watch the five minute YouTube video called, "Look up" by Gary Turk with your children. It's a great reminder for all of us and a valuable lesson for our children.

Link: <https://youtu.be/Z7dLU6fk9QY>

It has been my privilege and honor to get to know so many of you so well. I can only hope I get to know a fraction as many wonderful families at East as I have here.



Enjoy every day. Enjoy your children because they grow up way too fast.

With love and respect,

Rose Evans

OC School Counselor 2007-2015

OC parent of Grant and Jared

## "A Community of Learners"



Well, after eleven years of co-oping, committee duties, parent meetings, circle talks, field trips, attempts at inventive snack contributions, philosophical debates, worries and triumphs, setbacks and achievements, I am at the end of my OC career. Many thoughts come to mind. I've been here a quarter of my life! (or so!) I have truly learned much more than I ever anticipated here. I learned a lot about being part of a community, the importance of other caring, wise adults to me as a

parent and to my children as their mentors - and how great it felt to fill in some missing piece in a child's life, as other people did for my children. I learned to respectfully disagree, but still love, members of my community. I learned to work hard for the good of the whole. I learned to set aside what I thought was best when my ideas didn't match the consensus. I learned that the best way to get things done is usually to shoulder the responsibility yourself - but that one person can't do everything, so somethings have to be left undone. I learned from Denise that it's okay to just say when things aren't feeling right. I learned from Carolyn that almost any difficult person can be worked with, if you offer them assistance with a sincere smile. I learned from Shelly that if someone calls you a "poophead," ask yourself if you are one, and if you're not, don't worry about it. (Overheard conversation in the hall.) I learned from Gaby that kids' self respect grows in proportion to how hard they work in service to a greater good. I learned from Claudia what real love and dedication to the art of teaching looks like. And this doesn't even enumerate the lessons I've learned from other co-ops. As a single mom, being an OC parent was even more of a life saver for me. Maybe it meant doing all the co-oping and parent meetings - but it also meant I had so many other co-parents who really knew and cared for my children. I seriously could not have gotten through my kids' early childhood without this place.

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## “Community of Learners” Continued

What I mostly learned is what had been missing from my life, and what I've come to believe is the most important gift we can give our kids, is a place of community, a place like the OC where we work and learn and grow and love together.

Eleven years ago, I thought I came to the Open Classroom so my kids could learn — not me!

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful families over the years— families who've become MY family. I hope I've given back to the OC community as much as I've gotten.

And, as far as my children, I am astounded at the skills they have acquired because of the OC and their interactions with the caring adults here. For example, June is completely unintimidated by check registers, job interviews, striking up conversations with strangers and - most importantly, asking for what she needs, respecting other's differences, working hard and knowing how to have uncomfortable conversations with people she cares about. She can comfort distressed adults, playfully banter with small children, appropriately interact with adults in professional settings and express herself creatively and fearlessly. I am so proud of her - as a child that WE raised; and so proud of all the graduating 8th graders, that I feel like WE raised. I'm so grateful to have been a part of their experience, in relationships I hope will continue.

You know how you can never step into the same river twice? It's the same with the Open Classroom. It'll never be the same as it was in the past. But I imagine it can move into a bright, happy future with the smart, talented, dedicated families who are here now. I

wish you all the intensity, joyousness and sometimes the (rewarding) difficulties, of growing in the Open Classroom experience.



With love,

Christy Bills

Mom of June (teachers: Katie, Deborah,  
Denise, Pam, Gaby, Claudia)

& Grace an alum

# From the OC Library

There are so many free, easy and entertaining ways to keep kids reading this summer!

Story times, crafts, performances, prizes, workshops and BOOKS!

Public Library Reading Programs

<http://www.slcppl.lib.ut.us/events/view/3969/>

<http://www.slcolibrary.org/le/lesp/index.htm>

The Utah State Fair-

<http://www.utahstatefair.com/readandwin>

Scholastic Books-

<http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2015>

King's English and Barnes & Noble book stores

<http://www.kingsenglish.com/kids>

(they even offer writing workshops for kids!)

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/summer-reading/379003570/>

Use this map to find local Little Free Libraries (or create your own!)-

<http://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>

Some programs have already started  
so get going!

And don't forget to just  
\*D.E.A.R.! \*Drop Everything And  
Read



submitted by Karen Larson



# Recess in Our Library

