

Director's Report
 Serendipity Center
 January 2020

Enrollment Update

2019-2020 Projections Reflecting 1/13/20	
Currently enrolled	97
Start date set	2
Admissions in process	6
Possible referrals (districts in discussion with Serendipity Admissions or parents requesting a tour)	3
Wait List	1
Placements at risk	4
Likely Enrollment	104
Budgeted annual average enrollment:	101

Program Update:

Most noteworthy is our unexpected decline in enrollment, which occurred for several reasons. Some placements were ended because we were unable to support a few students in beginning to make progress in critical goals. Some families relocated. Several of the at-risk students are successfully transitioning back to public school programs. The Likely Enrollment projection is lower than I suggested to the Finance Committee. As our Intake Manager began contacting districts who had students on our Wait List, five of the eight had been placed in other settings. There are three potential referrals under discussion, so we are hopeful we will be able to rebuild enrollment to a level slightly above our annual target.

Much of December was spent working to handle a personnel issue carefully and with integrity. One of our teachers expressed concerns about being understaffed in her classroom and safety risks related to some of her students. There were some listening meetings and resulting problem solving meetings. At the end of November, this teacher was injured by a student, as was another member of her team. Not long afterwards, Serendipity was notified that this teacher had reached out to attorneys to voice her concerns. Jelena then received notification an anonymous complaint made to OSHA in November. It is not known or knowable who initiated the complaint. The complaint stated that students are violent and that staff have been injured by students. Jelena launched an investigation and systems review. She also reached out for guidance from Mike Porter, who reviewed the agency response before its submission. Krista (our SAIF rep), who knows Serendipity well and has experience working in a residential setting, advised that Serendipity goes above and beyond to train and equip staff especially in comparison to similar programs. Penny, our OSHA contact, advised that behavioral classrooms have typically responded that staff injuries are to be expected due to the nature of the

students, but that such a response is not adequate. She also advised that OSHA will be understanding if Serendipity shows a sincere effort at self-reflection and take pertinent steps to implement changes. Jelena met with CPI instructors and has identified some areas of concern regarding Serendipity’s response to violent students; the discussion also addressed continuing anxiety over SB 963 Restraint & Seclusion changes. She facilitated follow up meetings with the Treatment Director, Principal and Program Manager to discuss the concerns raised by CPI instructors. Matty, HR, the Tier I coaches, and supervisors all assisted in providing policies and documentation. Jelena drafted a comprehensive response and attached well-organized documentation totaling over 50 pages. OSHA accepted the response without conducting their own investigation, although did indicate that additional complaints could lead to that outcome.

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee met on January 8th to review and accept the November 2019 financial statements. These are summarized below:

Net earnings for November 2019	\$93,672
Net earnings for November 2018	\$99,854
Budgeted net earnings for November 2019	\$26,888
Net earnings year-to-date 2019	(\$174,152)
Net earnings year-to-date 2018	(\$172,276)
Budgeted net earnings year-to-date 2019	(\$281,620)

The variances are directly related to a smaller than expected ESY and budgeted higher wages. In the last cash status report, reflecting 11/5/19, excess working capital stood at \$680,367, even after we retire the yellow house mortgage, if we elect to do so.

The field work for our 2018-2019 Pension audit is complete. No audit report has been provided yet. Stay tuned.

Fundraising Update

See Caron’s Development update and the attached grant update.

Program Advisory Committee

YO Breakfast is shaping up to a meaningful offering back to our stakeholders. While it is a professional development day at Serendipity (no students), this is most likely not the case in many districts. I see the topic of therapeutic gardens as most relevant for school districts seeking strategies to maximize their ability to implement inclusion. Sadly, I suspect few district representatives will attend. We may include this topic in the district open house so that it can be shared with this audience. The video for the YO Breakfast was produced by the same videographer who created the POH video last year. It is short, interesting, and complements the content of the address well. We have until next week to give the caterer a final headcount. Kim, representing the Event Committee, will report at greater length on this event and on the importance of bringing guests. It is the perfect opportunity to acquaint a friend or associate

you intend to invite to the year-end fundraiser with Serendipity's mission is a non-threatening setting.

Capital Committee

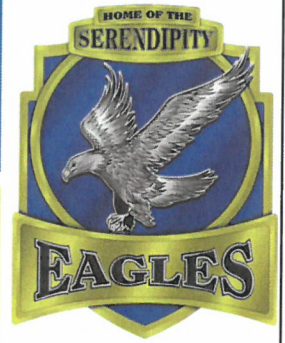
As I shared, the lottery proposal was well-received, at least by the fiscal analyst within the Legislative Fiscal Office. We are now organizing our offers to assist is gaining legislative support.

Tri-Met had set a meeting with Belinda and Matty to present their purchase offer for our corner, but cancelled at the very last minute. The representative who cancelled explained that Tri-Met had withdrawn their approval of our offer without explanation. He will reschedule when approval is restored. No idea what his means.

Attachments

- 2019-2020 Grant Report is included with November financials
- December edition of the Eagles' Scream

the eagles scream



MISSION

Provide the best environment for our students to heal and become educated, productive community members.



CAMPUS ADDRESS:
14815 SE Division St.
Portland, OR 97236

MAILING ADDRESS:
PO Box 33350
Portland, OR 97292

www.serendipitycenter.org



Join our reporting team!

Everyone is encouraged to submit art or writing! By contributing to the school newsletter you get to have your voice heard school-wide!

Guidelines for submissions:

- 5-7 sentences
- Typed or handwritten
- School Appropriate
- Follows school expectations of being safe, respectful, and responsible to others (not offensive to students or staff)

Winter (Break) is coming!

School photos, the Winter Ball, Llama visits, and two whole weeks of No School!

We've celebrated Thanksgiving with an Upper School Feast, made it through school photos, and danced at the Winter Ball.

And now we're looking forward to a break!

Winter Break is December 23-January 3



Important Dates to Remember

December 23-January 3

Winter Break!

Happy Holidays!

January 10: No school for Lower School Professional Development Day. Upper School Normal School Day.

January 20: School Closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Stay informed for snow days!

You'll receive an automated call directly from Serendipity for any inclement weather.



Newsletter Created by Staff and Students of Serendipity Center, Inc.

Serendipity Center, Inc. will not discriminate against any individual with respect to employment or provision of services based upon that individual's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, disability, gender identity, source of income or familial status. Additionally, Serendipity complies with Executive Order 11246, Titles VI, VII and IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy may be directed to the Compliance Officer, Jelena Doney at: P.O. Box 33350, Portland, Oregon 97292-3350, or by phone at (503) 595-2753

Principal's Post



Dear Serendipity Students, Families, & Staff,

Thank you to Student Council for organizing a successful and jolly Winter Ball. Thank you to Upper School Staff & students who co-hosted an upper school wide Thanksgiving Celebration. Going into January, remember to keep a look out for snow days via phone messages from Serendipity Reception, notices on Serendipities Website, and FlashAlert. I hope everyone enjoys the Winter Break and we will see you again in 2020!

Principal Megan

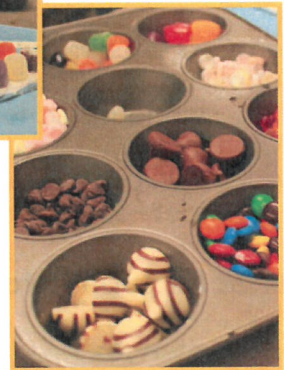
Festive Fun!



Staff celebrated with an Ugly Sweater Contest!



Room 9 made gingerbread houses with LOTS of candy!



Creative Corner

By Zee, Room 103



Snowman by Bella, Room 9

What is your favorite thing about winter?

“Nothing.” — Connor, Rm 10 3.

“I love to play in the snow.”

—Lucy Rm. 103.

“Can I say two things? No, I mean three things. Building snowmen, sledding and getting presents.” —Remy, Rm 9.

“Christmas!!!!!!”

—Anonymous, Rm. 9.