

Director's Report
Serendipity Center
October 2019

Enrollment Update

2019-2020 Projections Reflecting 10/8/19	
Currently enrolled	102
Start date set	2
Admissions in process	5-1=4
Possible referrals (districts in discussion with Serendipity Admissions or parents requesting a tour)	0
Wait List	5
Placements at risk	0 (3)
Likely Enrollment	108
Budgeted annual average enrollment:	101

Program Update:

Enrollment is strong, as can be seen by the above table. While 5 admissions are in process, the admissions team has made the determination to decline one of the referrals due to the unlikelihood that Serendipity's therapeutic school program could meet this child's needs. No students are officially at risk, however, there are three students that are on Tier III status that we are approaching the Review-of-Placement stage. It is possible that these placements may need to end if we are not able to find ways to support these students in addressing their goals.

The state is making changes to regulations that govern restraint and seclusion. Megan, Jelena, and one of our SPED Coordinators obtained more information at the recent COSA conference. Megan has been asked to serve on the state-wide task force that will operationalize the revised regulations through a new technical assistance manual for schools. Serendipity's total incidents of restraint dropped again this fall. Megan, Jackie, and La'Verne are planning the series of announcements and trainings that will steer Serendipity towards compliance with the regulations. Our concern is that the regulations will make it riskier for Serendipity to accept some referrals, which will not be of service to our districts. We will keep the board informed as we move forward.

Tri-Met is moving forward on the condemnation process of our corner. An appraiser was on campus last week, learning about the business impact of the proposed construction. Matty facilitated that contact and was able to begin building insight into and support for Serendipity's mission. Tri-Met and Serendipity both agreed to sign a waiver of conflict so that our land use attorney within Miller Nash is able to guide our journey through this process.

The discovery process with our selected managed service provider for IT continues to move forward. As one of the final steps, we met with John McCloskey, our Virtual Chief Information Officer, to complete a Business Impact Analysis. This was the final step before our team produces their report on the findings of their discovery and their recommendations for moving forward. John did share that of grave concern is our firewall, both in terms of its ability to prevent outside penetration and to provide clear delineation between our staff and student networks. This will be addressed as quickly as possible. John has requested on our behalf specific quotes for both purchase and installation and rental and installation of a new firewall product.

Safety week went relatively well, given that drills are difficult for our students. Our staff demonstrated their trauma-informed thinking as they supported our students. For example, the recommended protocol for students and staff when evacuating a building following the threat of an intruder is with raised, visible empty hands. Staff in one room made signs for students to carry and display with both hands that read, "I am safe." We will be providing these to other rooms next drill. I have attached the list and explanation of drills to this report for your understanding of the drills and frequency of exercises.

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee met on October 2nd, to review August financials. Without a final budget, scheduled to be approved September 28th, there is no August comparison to budget. The only available comparison is to the same month in the previous year. August financial reports are summarized below:

Net earnings for August 2019	(\$242,263)
Net earnings for August 2018	(\$177,101)
Budgeted net earnings for July 2019	n/a
Net earnings year-to-date as of August 2019	(\$374,854)
Net earnings year-to-date as of August 2018	(\$335,216)
Budgeted net earnings year-to-date	n/a

Cash status remains strong. Using a Cash Status analysis dated 9-30-19, excess working capital (revenue not restricted or committed to projects or payables) totals \$620,946, out of a cash total in our accounts of \$790,158. In addition to this cash, receivables from tuition on that date added another \$649,000 in anticipated cash.

On a brief, happy financial note, we received our second dividend check from SAIF. This one's was around \$23,321, and was not included in our budget since it is discretionary on SAIF's part.

Capital Committee

As I shared last report, conceptual designs for a greatly reduced capital expansion that continues to address the most pressing of our overcrowding related challenges are nearing

completion. The design that is emerging is lean, but skillful in the way to separates kids and creates significant space for productive activities when one can't be in a classroom. More to come.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee next meets on October 25th. Their next tasks involve identifying potential recruits for the Donor Advisory Committee, a second board member for the Capital Committee, and general support of both new and established board members. In the future, reports from this committee will come directly from the committee.

Fundraising Update

See Caron's report, in combination with the grant update.

Program Advisory Committee

Jackie is working to schedule the first meeting of this new team. One of their first tasks will be to explore topics and presenters for the YO (Youth Opportunity) Breakfast in January, as well as finding the right approaches for providing continual support and input into the School Improvement Plan. In the future, reports from this committee will come directly from the committee.

Attachments

- 2019-2020 Grant Report (to date)
- Safety Drill Letter
- October edition of the student/staff newsletter, affectionately called The Eagles' Scream

Grants 2019-2020

Submitted prior to beginning of fiscal year						
Foundation	Amount	Project	Outcome	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report	
Randall Charitable Trust	\$5,000	GM Garden	Awarded \$5,000	2019-2020	June 2020	
The Standard	\$10,000	Tier II	LOI Pending			
99 Girlfriends	\$100,000	Service expansion	declined			

Awarded Multi-year grants active at beginning of fiscal year						
Foundation	Amount	Project	Outcome	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report	
Meyer Memorial Trust	\$180,000	Tier II	Year 2	\$120,000 18-19 \$60,000 19-20		
OCF	\$30,000	Tier II	Year 2	\$20,000 18-19 \$10,000 19-20		
Collins Foundation	\$60,000	Tier II	Year 1	\$30,000 19-20 \$30,000 20-21		

Submitted July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020						
Foundation	Amount	Project	Outcome	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report	
100+ Women, East Co.	\$11,700	GM Garden	Awarded \$10,100	19-20		
Autzen Foundation	\$5,000	GM Garden	Awarded \$4,000	19-20		
Rippey Family Foundation	\$50,000	Four Pillar Fund	Pending			
Charis Fund	\$5,000	Outcome Project	Pending			
Boyd Family Foundation	\$5,000	Outcome Project	Pending			
Juan Young Trust	\$10,000	Library Media	Pending			
Heatherington Foundation	\$25,000-	Expanding	Pending			
	\$50,000	Therapeutic Ed.				

Targeted July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020						
Foundation	Amount	Project	Due	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report	
Bill Healy Foundation	\$15,000	Four Pillar	On-going			
NIKE Impact Fund	\$10,000	GM garden	12/19			
Spirit Mountain	\$30,000	Transition	1/20			
Maybelle Clark Macdonald	\$25,000	GM garden	8/15/19			
Templeton	\$5,000	Outcomes?	3/20			
Hoover	\$8,000	Outcomes?	11/1/19			
Reser	\$10,000	Transition	2/20			

Targeted July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020						
Foundation	Amount	Project	Due	Fiscal year Recognized	Final Report	
Silver Family Foundation	\$20,000	Transition	3/20			
Jackson	\$5,000		quarterly			
Weston	\$25,000	Four Pillars	December			
Tucker	\$5,000		quarterly			
Miller	\$15,000	Outcomes	bi-monthly			
Quest			On-going			
Swigert	\$10,000	GM Garden	On-going			
Umpqua	\$7,500-	Media Specialist				
	\$10,000					

Dear Parents and caregivers,

At Serendipity Center we take the safety and well-being of our students and staff very seriously. We take great care in how we instruct, prepare, and practice our emergency procedures with our students. For many of them, these drills can cause a lot of stress and anxiety. For that reason, these drills are conducted differently than in most schools.

Serendipity Center students and staff are regularly instructed on emergency procedures so that everyone can respond to an emergency without confusion or panic. We instruct and practice emergency procedures several times each year. Monthly (for fire drills) and 3 times annually during school wide safety weeks for Earthquake Drills, and other safety threats (lockout, lockdown, and shelter-in-place)

Here are the drills:



LOCKOUT

Why do we do this drill: Something unsafe may be happening outside of the school.

What we say: Lockout- Secure the perimeter, Lockout- Secure the perimeter

What we do: Bring everyone inside, keep all exterior doors locked, and wait for the all clear from law enforcement. No one comes in or out for any reason.



LOCKDOWN

Why do we do this drill: Something unsafe is inside the school.

What we say: Lockdown- Locks, Lights, Out of sight! Lockdown- Locks, Lights, Out of sight!

What we do: Bring all students and staff into the first available classroom, office, or secure space, lock the door, turn off lights, and gather in a safe area out of view. Encourage silence until lockdown is lifted.



SHELTER

Why do we do this drill: For an environmental safety hazard, like an earthquake.

What we say: This is an earthquake drill, drop, cover, and hold on! This is an earthquake drill, drop, cover, and hold on!

What we do: Drop, cover, hold on, and practice evacuating the building after the drill is over.



EVACUATE

Why do we do this drill: To practice safely leaving the building in the event of a fire or other hazard. We practice both a group directed, and a law enforcement directed evacuation (meaning visible hands if we are evacuating after a lockdown drill).

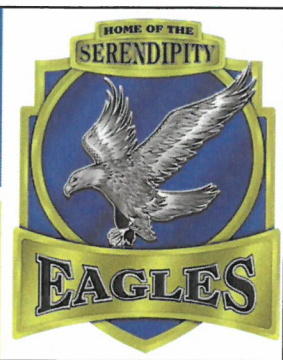
What we say: This is a fire drill, exit the building safely and responsibly. This is a fire drill, exit the building safely and responsibly.

What we DO NOT do: We **do not use the fire alarm**. Many of our students already experience stress and anxiety about drills, and many have sensory needs that a loud, scary alarm would make worse. Instead we calmly announce drills over the intercom system after alerting all classrooms of the time and type of drill in order to prepare and prevent any difficulties the drills might present for our students.

What we do: After the announcement, we evacuate to the gathering area, take attendance, and dismiss classrooms back into the school once the drill is completed.

Safety week will be held on the following dates: **September:** (insert dates) **January:** (insert dates) **April:** (insert dates)

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)

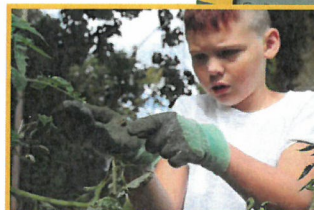
Fall is here!

There are lots of things happening this month, including: Family Open House, the Harvest Festival and Halloween Dance as well as Parent Teacher Conferences!

It's also National Pizza Month, National Vegetarian Month, and National Pop-corn Popping Month!

And best of all, it's time for Family Open House!

Serendipity staff is excited to see you Thursday night! We'll have the farm stand & food pantry open, a craft table, a photo booth & lots more!



School Activities			
Activity	When	Where	Staff
	October 11 9:00-9:45	Library	Stundra
	October 11 1:45-3:30	Library	Maddie Tara
Wednesday		Dining Room	Mina
Thursday	7:45-1:30		
October 23		Library	Debra
Friday		Main in Dining Room	Principal Megan

Fall Open House Schedule

5pm-6:45pm

Spaghetti, Bread Sticks, Salad Bar, Dessert, Water served in the Dining Hall

Passport Activities around the school

5:45pm Raffle Drawing

6:30pm Raffle Drawing



Important Dates to Remember

October 10:

Family Open House!

5:00pm –6:45pm

October 11: NO SCHOOL!

Statewide In-service day

October 31: Family Teacher Conferences!

November 1: Grading Day NO SCHOOL!

November 8: No school for

Lower School Professional Development Day. Upper School Normal School Day.

November 11: Veteran's Day School Closed!

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



Hello Serendipity Students, Families, & Staff,

Happy Fall! Thank you to everyone for working so hard on all the assessments so that we can tell what you know and what you are ready to learn next! Our next Family Events are the Open House on Thursday, October 10th and our Family-Teacher Conferences on October 31st. We are all looking forward to this year's Harvest Festival on October 25th!

Principal Megan

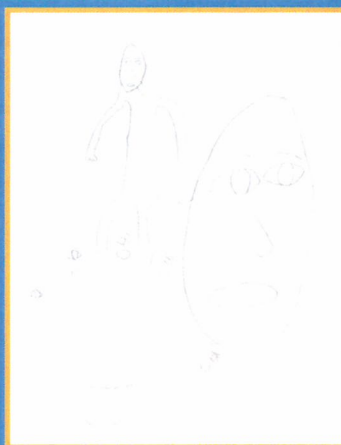
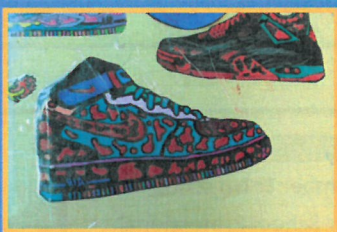
community connection



Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) club had their first meeting of the school year on October 4th. Middle school and high

school students were invited to participate in GSA club during "Ally Week." Ally Week was September 23rd-27th and focused on giving students information on how to be a better ally. An ally is someone that supports and promotes equity and inclusion for all students, no matter their gender and sexual preferences. GSA meets twice monthly on Friday mornings in the cafeteria and helps students learn about resources and supports for allies and LGBTQ+ students, creates group projects that focus on educating the school, while having fun and socializing in a safe and inclusive environment. If you are a middle school or high school student and want to participate in GSA club, please tell Shandra (speech teacher), your classroom staff, or your case manager.

Creative Corner



Tennis Shoes by Ian, Rm 1. Lebron James by Ari, Rm 2. Eye Guy by Rylan, Rm2.

What is your favorite part of fall?

"I can finally wear winter clothes."

— Armando, Rm 113.

"Haunted Houses, Halloween, Cold Weather, Leaf Piles, Scarves, Turkeys!"

—Makayla Rm. 113.

"Eating Pumpkin Pie without being judged."

—Carina, Rm 113.

"World Series Baseball. My LA Dodgers."

—Kristina, Rm 113.

"I Hate Fall!"

—Gigi, Rm 2.