

Montessori school has new owners

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Pam Oja and Mikeleen Reed first got to know each other while camping out on a cold, damp November night and guarding the booty assembled for a rummage sale to be held at Oja Lumber Mill.

The rummage sale was to benefit the Sandy Montessori School.



At the time, the two had no idea they eventually would be partners in a business; they are now co-owners of the Sandy Montessori School.

"If you had told me a year ago that I was going to own a preschool, I would have said, 'You're insane,'" Reed said.

But when Avis Grudi, owner and teacher, announced she was closing the school, Oja and Reed were impressed enough with the Montessori program to try to keep it going.

Although Montessori programs were available in Gresham, Reed was sure there was enough demand for a program in Sandy. The school has enrolled 15 youngsters and could accommodate 10 more.

It only takes a few minutes with Oja and Reed to know that they have can-do attitudes. Without a student enrollment and with some question about the availability of a



Pam Oja, Mikeleen Reed and Linda Delisle-Etim will work together to run the Sandy Montessori School.

school, they hired a teacher, Linda Delisle-Etim.

Both Oja and Reed had plenty of other commitments without purchasing a school. Oja helps her husband, Mike, in the operation of Oja Lumber Co. They have one child and another on the way.

Reed, whose husband teaches at Centennial High School, helps run a family business, selling log cabin kits. They have two children.

But Reed said she wants her children to have every educational opportunity possible to excel. "The

more you find out about the Montessori philosophy, the more you like it," she said.

Reed pointed to puzzles of varying geometric and geological shapes and other hands-on learning tools. On one wall there are strings of beads, 10 to a string, that help youngsters learn to count.

"The Montessori method helps a child to explore his world," Delisle-Etim said. "It gives him the keys. It's a practical, orderly way to learn."

Delisle-Etim has a bachelor of

science degree in social welfare from Southern Oregon State College in Ashland and earned her teaching certificate in the 10-month program at Association Montessori International teacher training center in Portland.

An open house will be held on Sunday, Aug. 23, at 1 p.m. at the school, which is at 36001 S.E. Highway 211. Sandy Montessori School is leasing the Sandy Ridge School building from the Sandy Elementary District.

Students should bring supplies to school

Sandy Elementary District School Supplies First Grade

- 4 pencils
- 1 jar paste/school glue
- 1 scissors
- 1 pink pearl eraser
- 1 box color crayons
- 1 box kleenex
- 1 PeeChee folder or book bag
- 1 school bag
- 1 school box
- 1 large pencil tablet

Second Grade

- 2 pencils
- 1 Elmer's school glue
- 1 pointed scissors
- 1 pink pearl eraser
- 1 box 16 color crayons
- 1 box kleenex
- 1 PeeChee folder
- 1 ruler with centimeter scale
- 1 large pencil tablet
- 1 school box

Third Grade

- 3 pencils
- 1 Elmer's school glue (4 oz.)
- 1 pointed scissors
- 1 pink pearl eraser
- 1 box 24 color crayons
- 1 box kleenex
- 2 PeeChee folders
- 1 ruler with centimeter scale
- 1 red ink pen
- 1 large pencil tablet
- 1 spiral notebook (8 1/2 x 11)
- 1 school box

Fourth Grade

- 5 pencils
- 1 Elmer's school glue
- 1 pointed scissors
- 1 pink pearl eraser
- 1 spiral notebook
- 1 ruler with centimeter scale
- 1 box of color crayons
- 1 set water based felt pens (optional)
- 1 pack notebook paper (500)
- 1 box kleenex
- 1 compass
- 1 protractor

Fifth Grade

- 2 pencils
- 1 Elmer's school glue
- 1 pointed scissors
- 1 pink pearl eraser
- 1 ruler with centimeter scale
- 1 box of 16 color crayons
- 1 stenographic notebook
- 1 set of colored pencils or water based felt pens
- 1 notebook paper
- 1 protractor
- 1 box kleenex

Sixth Grade

- 2 pencils

- 1 Elmer's school glue
 - 1 pointed scissors
 - 1 pink pearl eraser
 - 1 ruler with centimeter scale
 - 1 box of 16 color crayons and/or colored felt pens
 - 1 notebook paper
 - 1 ball point pen
 - 1 box kleenex
 - 1 PeeChee folders (optional)
- All students will need to have swim suits
- Please label all supplies with child's name.



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