New Staff Member Joins Montessori
By Jessi Beebe

Patagonia’s Montessori School is pleased to announce that Leah Lynn will be joining the staff as primary directress. Leah Lynn has been a part of the Patagonia community for more than a decade. Over the years, she has provided a childcare program for local families and taught children’s food prep classes. She is the author of two books on childhood development and nutrition, and taught preschool/kindergarten at Patagonia Montessori Elementary School.

After six years away from the Montessori classroom, Leah is looking forward to being back. “I’ve loved the research and writing and other work endeavors, but I’ve missed teaching,” she says. Leah has worked in Waldorf early childhood programs and is a Caspari Montessori Institute graduate. “What I appreciate about both of these models”, says Leah, “is the understanding that education isn’t just about the student’s brain; it’s also about the child’s heart, hands, senses, and intuition.”

In 1996, Leah served on a literacy assistance program in a small rural village in Mali, West Africa. The focus of this nine-month project was to give women and children who normally would not have access to education, the opportunity to learn to read in their native language. “That moment, when a student realizes that he/she has cracked the code and is now a reader... it’s brilliant. Like a gardener watching a seedling’s emergence from the soil, you know you didn’t create the magic, but somehow in your own small way, you have helped it along.”

Leah plans to garden with students again, as part of math, science, and reading curricula, as well as to guide healthy food preparation in the practical life avenue common to Montessori classrooms. Also signature to Leah’s teaching style is daily singing with students.

A Leaky Water Conservation Plan?

This tanker truck was observed filling up many times with water from Patagonia’s town well last weekend. The water is being used regularly by mining construction personnel to keep dust down out on Harshaw Road where mining traffic has been heavy in the past weeks. Due to a significant leak in the bottom of the truck’s water tank, water pooled below the truck and sent a stream down Naugle Avenue. How precious is our water?