

The Montessorian

AMS  Newsletter

December 2010

A Message From The Principal

That magical time of the year is upon us once again! I would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Celebrations of “humankind”; individual thoughts and different beliefs.

Thank you to all our students, parents and staff who have opened their hearts and pocketbooks in demonstrations of love and caring for those less fortunate.

Have a safe, happy holiday with your loved ones. We’ll look forward to welcoming you back to AMS on January 3rd!

With Love, Brenda Glasban

RE-ENROLMENT DEADLINE REMINDER

Re-enrolment packages will be sent out the first week back in January. January 31st is the deadline for re-enrolment for the 2011-2012 school year! Don’t be disappointed. After January 31st, enrolment from our waiting list will be accepted.

IMPORTANT

Please make a note that the National Anthem will be played in each **Elementary classroom at 8:45 am** to avoid disrupting their class time. This will begin when we return from the Christmas holidays on January 3, 2011. All children who arrive after 8:45 am must first report to the front office for a late slip to be admitted to class. The National Anthem will be played in the **Casa and Toddler classrooms at 9:00 am**. Any Casa or Toddler student arriving after 9:00 am must come to the office to get a late slip.

Student Illness

Please don’t bring your child to school if they are ill (fever, bad cough, sore throat, running nose and eyes, as well as vomiting or diarrhea), and be sure your child is well enough to return to school following an illness. Having them come back to class too soon often results in the illness taking longer to clear, and can spread the illness to others.

REMINDERS

Lunch Programs

Please take a moment to mark the start and end dates of the lunch programs you have ordered for your child on your **home calendars**. This will help to avoid scrambling to provide lunch at the last minute and teary eyed children.

Some staff and students have **sensitivities to fragrance** – it can trigger asthma attacks and headaches. Please avoid using strongly scented perfumes or body lotions before entering the school. Thank you for your cooperation!

Party Invitations

Please give party invitations to the teacher to distribute rather than leaving them attached to lockers. Thank you.

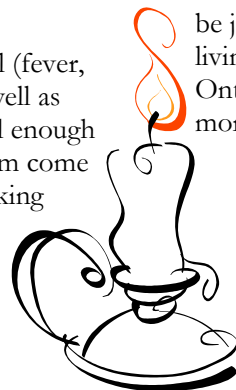
News from the Library

We are pleased to announce that beginning in the new year, the library will be open until 4:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, on a trial basis.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** was a resounding success! A giant thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped run the fair. Your support was greatly appreciated. All teachers received early Christmas presents by having their book wish lists fulfilled by AMS parents.

Please ensure all library books are returned to the library before the Christmas holidays.

Our annual **Multiple Sclerosis Read-A-Thon** will kick off with an elementary assembly on January 17. We will be joining students across Canada to fundraise for those living with MS. Last year, over 500 schools across Ontario participated in the MS Read-A-Thon and raised more than \$800,000 in pledges!



Elementary News

Boogie Down Dance-a-thon 2010

The annual dance-a-thon was a huge success. This year AMS was sponsoring World Vision. The money raised went to people in the developing world to build a community stable. The stable would include chickens, a rooster, a donkey, goats, a cow, sheep, and ducks.

The whole school participated in this fundraising activity. Many friendships were made during the dance. There were children from the younger grades who recognized some of the older students and danced with them.

Many thanks to the grade 7 & 8 students for being eager volunteers, and encouraging the younger students to keep on dancing. We would also like to thank Ms. Ashley, a parent volunteer, who dedicated her time to prepare and run the music for the dance-a-thon. Thanks for all your help... You are awesome dancers! Together we raised over \$4,000.

Duffelbag Theatre, "A Christmas Carol"

The "almost world famous" travelling theatre troupe entertained our very own students with improvisation theatre. Some very surprised but talented students and Mr. Beyzaei were picked from the crowd to join in on the act. It was great fun and an experience that the students truly enjoyed.

Joy to the World Elementary Event

All the elementary students and teachers worked very hard preparing for this special event. Our thanks go to the teachers, Mrs. Patterson, Ms. Wierzba and Mr. Gerry for their extra efforts. Thank you must also go to Mrs. Maskery, (Caileigh and Kristen) for providing so many decorations!

Super Me Gratitude Event

On November 30th, AMS students felt the wave - the wave of gratitude that spread throughout the school. It was a morning of recognition and acknowledging acts of kindness. Discussions about reasons to feel gratitude to moms, dads, friends and teachers and students alike led to special writing exercises and a wonderful energy of joy spread throughout the school. It was a beautiful way to embrace the warmth of the upcoming holiday season. Thank you, Cori Ashley, for introducing AMS to this beautiful programme.

Skiing for Elementary

Elementary students will be going skiing at Snow Valley again this year. In order to better coordinate and organize the students, they will be divided into two groups. Students in Grades 1 to 3 will be going on Friday, January 28, and students in Grades 4 to 8 will be going on Friday, February 11th.

Attention Skiers!

The Canadian Ski Council would like to invite you to join them for their 14th SnowPass Season! This is only available to students in grades 4 & 5. You are invited to ski for free for 1 year at 89 different locations in Ontario. All you need is a copy of your current report card, 2x2 or bigger school picture and \$20.00. Go online to www.snowpass.ca for more information. Hope to see you on the slopes!

Birthday Celebrations

In the past two years, we have been celebrating the birthdays of students and teachers at the end of each month. These celebrations have one philosophy in mind: sharing the joy of one's birthday with the whole. This unique tradition has become more popular as months have passed.

The Birthday celebration is generally held on the last Thursday of each month in AMS Gym at 8:45 am - any changes will be notified by the homeroom teacher. The Birthday students and staff have the choice of dressing down for the day.

To make this event more fun, a limited number of students are welcomed to showcase their talent - by playing a piece of music, singing, dancing, performing a magic trick, or telling a joke. Students are asked to speak to Ms. Wierzba or Mr. Beyzaei in advance. The birthday celebration for the months of June, July and August will be held in the month of June.



Middle School News

Busy days lead into even busier holiday events. The Middle School students paid a fond farewell to Halloween and the fall season with our big Halloween Party that took place at the Kashani farm property. Students enjoyed a great variety of activities from exploring the property and greeting the animals, to games, dancing, Karaoke and the bonfire. A special thank you and acknowledgement goes to Tonya Maskery for her spectacular energy and support in planning, transporting and preparing the very cool decorations and delicious food. The whole Middle School community truly appreciated all the effort! Several of the students themselves contributed significant creativity and elbow grease preparing the environment; even carving the pumpkins.

Together with the 5/6 class, we were glad to have the opportunity to welcome a special guest speaker, Jaime Freitas, to come and make a presentation on her adventure volunteering in Uganda, Africa. Ms. Freitas shared beautiful pictures and stories of the challenges and triumphs in Eastern Africa. She reminded the students once again of the importance of the World Vision campaign and that we all can make an immediate and profound difference in the lives of others in the developing world.

It is this desire to make a difference in the world that inspired the Middle School students to engage in a 30 Hour Famine during the final two days before the Holiday Break. Students will begin to study in Social Studies the theme of migration and quality of life issues as they subsist on juice and water in our class. In the afternoon on Thursday, December 16, the class will then hold a celebratory party in which we will share our food treats. We hope that our activity will inspire and remind our AMS staff and families that during the holidays and throughout the year, we are richly blessed!

Toddler News

There is a festive spirit in the toddler rooms. The children have been busy preparing for the holidays and are excited for Santa's arrival. They have been learning Christmas carols, poems and stories. The classroom [and soon your house too] is filled with Christmas sparkles. The toddlers have also enjoyed working on a special something for their parents.

We are seeing a big difference in the children. They are so settled in and are learning so much. Many of them are talking more and it is rewarding and exciting to hear them express their knowledge and ideas.

The toddler staff would like to thank you for all your support so far this year. We wish all the AMS families a safe, healthy and happy holiday and New Year.

Casa News

Winter Weather – Brrrr!

Now that the snow and cold weather has arrived, please dress your child accordingly. Mittens, boots, hats, and scarves are necessary for winter temperatures. Also, please make sure that your child's extra clothes at school are appropriate for the weather.

Hallowe'en

Lions, tigers and bears... Oh my! All the Casa children dressed up for Hallowe'en and participated in a spooky parade around the school. Fun was had by all!

Clubs

The Casa clubs were a real success this term! Arts and crafts brought out some of the hidden talents of the future "Van Goghs". The enthusiasm and zeal of the children was overwhelming while racing neck to neck towards the finishing line in Sports and Games. Nature walks were refreshing as well as educational while the children learned about science and nature.

World Vision

Founded in the USA in 1950, World Vision works towards a brighter future for all. This year AMS came together to support World Vision in their endeavour to aid families in developing countries.

As a preamble towards the donation drive, volunteers from World Vision came to AMS. With the help of audio-visual aids their presentation made the children aware of poverty around the world and how we can help. The children were excited and very moooved to see how livestock such as cows, goats, lambs and chicks can become a great source of wealth. An announcement was made that the staff and students of AMS would work towards getting a stable of animals to help the cause.

Everyone danced to their hearts content at the DANCE-A-THON, which was organized to collect money!! We are happy to announce that over \$4,000.00 was raised. AMS, we did great!!



From AMS Parent Action Committee- (All AMS family members are welcome to participate in any PAC event – see the office if you don't know who to talk to about joining.)

AMS Community Directory

Have you wanted to set-up a play-date but didn't have that Mom's phone number? Or organize a holiday party but not had the other parents' email addresses? Interested in car-pooling, but not sure who lives in your area? The solution? **The AMS Community Directory!** Much like the directory found at your ski or golf club, the AMS Community Directory will hold the contact information of every consenting family in the AMS Community. It will be distributed in paper-form and updated yearly. The Directory should **never** be used for anything other than school or child-related activities and functions. The Directory will be organized by Classroom and contain information such as:

- Child's name
- Parent names
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Email Address

Over the next couple of weeks, watch for your friendly PAC members roving the halls, gathering your information for this awesome new resource!

Mabel's Labels – labels for the stuff kids lose!!

Personalized sticky labels, clothing labels, shoe labels, bag tags! AMSPAC is running a fundraiser with Mabel's Labels. Please go to www.aurora.mabel.ca to place your order and support our school. AMSPAC will receive 20% from every sale.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

In order to celebrate the contribution of each staff member at AMS, PAC will be hosting a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, December 15. Please remember to stop a staff member in the hall from time to time to thank them for the extraordinary effort they put forth every single day!

Winter Carnival

Planning for the Winter Carnival is already underway – it is sure to be another successful, community and spirit-building event hosted by PAC! Watch for more information in the New Year.

In Closing...

Hoping you are surrounded by love and warmth this holiday season. Happy Holidays! See you in the New Year. From AMS PAC

Stressed to Stress-less Workshop

This workshop is being offered to AMS parents and staff on Monday January 17th, 2011 at the Aurora Public Library from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets for this event are only \$25 and would make great holiday gifts for any loved ones you know who spend so much of their time and energy multi-tasking to help their families and friends.

Congratulations!

We extend our congratulations to **Eva Greyeyes**, Room 119, who is performing in The National Ballet School's seasonal ballet, The Nutcracker. Several hundred students audition for a spot in this performance each year.



Upcoming Events

Monday, January 3 – First Day Back to School

- After School clubs begin

Monday, January 17 – M.S. Readathon begins

Wed. January 27 and Thurs. January 28 – Elementary Classroom Open House evenings

Friday, January 28 – Ski Day for Grades 1 – 3

Friday, February 11 – Ski Day for Grades 4 – 8

Friday, February 18 – P.A. Day – no school

Monday, February 21 – Family Day Holiday

February 22 to 25 – Montessori Week

Friday, February 25 – Winter Carnival (weather permitting)

Saturday, February 26 – Public Open House
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.