



# The Montessorian

June 2011



## Dear Parents and Friends of AMS

Another busy and productive school year has flown by! Thank you to our amazing students for making us so proud; to our parents and grandparents for your on-going trust and support; to our extraordinary Parent Action Committee, who tirelessly continue to support and strengthen our AMS community; and to our outstanding AMS staff for nurturing and guiding our students to success and happiness in their educational journey.

Enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer with your loved ones. Please play safely with your children and enjoy every precious moment as you build wonderful memories.

When you return in September you will observe that some major improvements have been made, including upgrades to our technology at AMS: Our curriculum and technology will include a combination of newly purchased Apple computers and most recent Windows systems. All elementary students will have the opportunity to learn both operating systems and develop an understanding of how the two interact. As well, AMS students will enjoy using the new interactive presentation technologies AMS is installing over the summer. This new technology will enable the teachers to deliver dynamic lessons, write notes in digital ink, and other interactive functions – all with the simple touch of a finger. Also, all of our teachers' computers will be replaced. Improvements to our toddler playground will be made as well.

We'll see you in September, rejuvenated and ready to enjoy another school year filled with unique learning opportunities for your children.

With Love, Brenda Glashan

## Students Visiting AMS

AMS enjoys allowing past students, friends and relatives to visit or volunteer at the school. However, they are permitted on the premises only if prior arrangements have been made with Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Glashan, Mrs. Mueller and the homeroom teacher where the child will be visiting. As a safety precaution, and to ensure the child has a productive visit, a minimum of a weeks notice should be provided.

## From the Library

☺ All outstanding library books must be returned before June 22nd. If books are lost, please speak to Mrs. Kadey as soon as possible. Thanks for your cooperation!

☺ A summer reading program is available at the Newmarket Public Library. The TD Summer Reading Club provides children with the opportunity to read books corresponding to a particular theme, attend special programs and then receive generous rewards at the end of the summer. If you are interested, please see Mrs. Kadey for more details. You may also check it out online at [www.newmarketpl.ca](http://www.newmarketpl.ca) or call: 905-953-5110. Have a fantastic summer! - Mrs.Kadey

## Usborne Books

Would you, or someone you know, like to work from home while building a great home library? I am looking for more Usborne Consultants to help me sell these fantastic books in homes, schools, daycares, etc. I am one of only 2 school specialists here in York and Durham Region selling Usborne Books and I need HELP! It's a very flexible and exciting opportunity especially if you are a teacher and would just like occasional or seasonal work. Summer is the best time to join! Please call, email or check out the website for more information: **Patricia Marsden 905-478-2656** [patmarsden@rogers.com](mailto:patmarsden@rogers.com) [www.usborneonline.ca/patmarsden](http://www.usborneonline.ca/patmarsden)

## Grace & Courtesy

As we strive to teach our children about grace and courtesy to others in the world, often our own behaviour is the greatest example! We appreciate those who hold doors open for us, who patiently allow us to back out of a parking spot, allow us to go ahead, and who say please and thank you. The school property is a great environment to practice these courtesies!

## Montessori Moment: How Can Montessori Teachers Meet the Needs of So Many Different Children?

Great teachers help learners get to the point where their minds and hearts are open, leaving them ready to learn. In effective schools, students are not so much motivated by getting good grades as they are by a basic love of learning. As parents know their own children's learning styles and temperaments, teachers, too, develop this sense of each child's uniqueness by spending a number of years with the students and their parents.

Dr. Montessori believed that teachers should focus on the child as a person, not on the daily lesson plan. Montessori teachers lead children to ask questions, think for themselves, explore, investigate, and discover. Their ultimate objective is to help their students to learn independently and retain the curiosity, creativity, and intelligence with which they were born. Montessori teachers don't simply present lessons; they are facilitators, mentors, coaches, and guides.

Traditionally, teachers have told us that they "teach students the basic facts and skills that they will need to succeed in the world." Studies show that in many classrooms, a substantial portion of the day is spent on discipline and classroom management.

Normally, Montessori teachers will not spend much time teaching lessons to the whole class. Their primary role is to prepare and maintain the physical, intellectual, and social/emotional environment within which the children will work. A key aspect of this is the selection of intriguing and developmentally appropriate learning activities to meet the needs and interests of each child in the class. Montessori teachers usually present lessons to small groups of children at one time and limit lessons to brief and very clear presentations. The goal is to give the children just enough to capture their attention and spark their interest, intriguing them enough that they will come back on their own to work with the learning materials.

Montessori teachers closely monitor their students' progress. Because they normally work with each child for two or three years, they get to know their students' strengths and weaknesses, interests, and personalities extremely well. Montessori teachers often use the children's interests to enrich the curriculum and provide alternate avenues for accomplishment and success.

- from *The Montessori Way*; [www.montessori.org](http://www.montessori.org)



## Elementary News

This school year has been filled with great hands-on learning both inside and outside the classroom. The children from Grades 1 and 2 enjoyed a day at the **Harbourfront Centre** where they enhanced their creativity through Story Telling and Puppet Making. The children from Grades 3 and 4 went on a field trip to **Kettleby Outdoor Centre** and experienced exciting activities which included a low ropes course, canoeing, orienteering, rock climbing and a stream study.

**Erin Falcon** is applauded for her outstanding performance in "**High School Musical**" which was held at the Newmarket Theatre. The students from Grades 3 and 4 were truly fortunate as they were able to attend the presentation and cheer her on!

Congratulations are sent to the top three winners of the **Spelling Bee**. **Fiona Sharpe** placed first, **Paige Deasley** placed second and **Melissa Feather** placed third. Impressive, ladies!

The children were inspired to promote Respect and Goodwill during our most recent "**Super Me**" presentation. Respecting oneself, the environment, and those around us is an important component here at Aurora Montessori School. Congratulations to not only those who have been mentioned on the Celebration Board in the front hall, but to those who make this a natural part of their everyday lives.

The Grade 5/6 students enjoyed a wonderful day out visiting the **Harbourfront Centre** and participating in a Clay Building Beasts program, and then enjoyed a cruise around the Toronto Harbour, learning about the history of the city. They finished the day off with a fun dinner together at Boston Pizza.

The grade 6, 7, and 8 students have had a busy term, capped off by a trip to the **Stratford Festival** to see Jesus Christ Superstar. They enjoyed this groundbreaking rock opera that reinvented musical theatre.

We are so proud of **Olivia Ciampaglia** of room 123, who has cut her hair for cancer. While on vacation, Olivia met two sisters who had both lost their hair to cancer treatment. This affected Olivia, and so she pleaded with her mom to let her cut her hair and donate it, to make wigs for kids with cancer. Olivia's new hair do looks smashing!

Congratulations to our **Grade 8 Graduates!** Some of you have been with AMS since Toddler and Casa. We are so proud of your accomplishments, and wish you great success in the future. Remember to appreciate your unique talents and abilities as you take on new challenges and opportunities. The Graduates are: Parmis Beyzaei, Alexa Cohen, Anna During-Palisca, Gabriella Eekhoff, Melissa Feather, Matthew Fong, Sydney Freitas, Aviel Ihejirika, Kevin Kim, Montana Martz, Gabrielle Middleton, Natasha Ramsinghani, Meredith Sherlock, Jordan Streb, and Skye von Schwerin.

## Toddler News

Time flies when you are having fun. That is certainly true in the toddler rooms. Its hard to believe that another year is completed. It has been such a pleasure to watch the toddlers grow. They have learned so much; they can talk now, most are toilet trained, they know their lessons, songs and poems. They are also such social little beings having lots of fun with their classmates.

Our morning with Marty and his critters was a special morning. The children were amazing in their curiosity and bravery with all the animals. They all wanted to look and touch the critters.

We all enjoyed the parent morning. There was a great turnout and the toddlers did us all proud. They showed off all their knowledge and skills so well. As our toddlers graduate onto Casa we wish them well. We will miss them, so make sure you come by to say hello in the Fall. It is a good thing we have some returning students because we are not ready to let them all go. They will be our big senior students in September.

A special thank you to the parents for all their help and support this past year. The year would not be as successful without us working together. You have such beautiful children and we hope you all have a happy and safe summer together.

- Toddler Teachers and Staff

## Casa News

### Casa Graduation

On June 9th, 50 of our Casa students graduated with pride, about to embark on the most exciting journey of their young lives! The ceremony was a lovely celebration of their development and dedication through their Casa years. Each class performed a poem or song, reflecting their time in Casa and their anticipation for Grade 1. It was an emotional evening, with laughter and tears (and plenty of photography)! On behalf of the Casa teachers and assistants, we congratulate all of our graduates and wish them all the best in Grade 1!!

### Summer Pool Safety

Never take your eyes off your precious children - supervision is the key to preventing drowning. Supervision means constant watching, not occasionally glancing at your child while you read or snooze. Don't forget to supervise children near pools, rivers, beaches, fish ponds, dams and bathtubs. It takes only seconds for a child to drown.

#### *Water Safety Tips at Home*

- Supervision means constant visual contact, not the occasional glance.
- If you leave the pool or water area, even for a moment, take the children with you.
- A swimming pool fence is not a substitute for supervision.
- Display a resuscitation chart on your pool fence.
- Familiarize children with water by taking them to lessons at the local pool.
- Empty paddle pools when they are not in use.

### Casa Sports Day

Mother Nature finally cooperated with us and provided 2 days of beautiful weather for Casa Sports Day! The children had a blast with potato sack races, Frisbee tosses, running bases, and so much more! Of course, the favoured part of the day was the Freezies to cool off after all that outdoor activity!

### Auction Baskets

Our Casa children have had so much fun filling up our Gift Baskets to be auctioned off at the AMS Family Picnic on Tuesday, June 21st! Each basket has a theme, such as: Kids Can Cook, Baker's Delight, Canada Day, Soft Toys, A Day at the Beach, Picnic Fun, and Craft Corner. Be sure to bid on your favourite basket and raise some money for more PAC school events!!

### Summer Recipe: Dirt Dessert

Ingredients: • Oreo cookies (crushed) • Chocolate pudding (make it ahead of time) • Cool Whip • Gummy Worms

Directions:

1. I make it in a sand pail and use the shovel to serve it.
  2. Layer crushed oreo cookies, chocolate pudding, and coolwhip in the pail. Make sure to top with the cookies and place gummy worms on top!
  3. I have also used brownies instead of the oreo cookies.
- Alternative: If you want sand instead of dirt use any vanilla sandwich cookie or blonde brownies, vanilla pudding and coolwhip! Add gummy whales or eels or chocolate sea shells for a beach theme!

## The AMS Summer Newsletter

The next newsletter will be sent out mid-August, with information for the new school year, lunch programs, clubs, and other information. The administration office will be open throughout the summer if you need to contact us. Please be aware that the primary method of parent/school communication will be through e-mail. Please be sure that you provide any home address, phone number, or e-mail changes to us, so that you don't miss out on anything!

## Thank You From PAC

Thank you to the entire AMS community for a wonderful school year full of great spirit, memories, and friendships!! Our mission, of the Parent Action Committee, is to continue to build a strong sense of community along with positive school spirit within Aurora Montessori School. Thanks to the many dedicated parent volunteers for countless hours of the planning, organizing, and implementing of ideas and events, to maintain this mission.

We wish all the families at AMS a safe and wonderful summer! See you again in September!

-Parent Action Committee

## Summer French Tutor

Would you like your child to practice his/her French during the summer? Mme. Gawad is offering French tutoring for the summer months. The students will develop new vocabulary and build on their new skills through different activities. This will give them a good start to their coming school year. For more information, please contact Mme. Gawad at [ngawad@insideams.net](mailto:ngawad@insideams.net).

## Casa Summer Tutoring

Nancy Knapp is also available for tutoring over the summer months. If you would like your child to keep up their work skills, or prepare for the next level, please contact Mrs. Knapp at [nknapp@insideams.net](mailto:nknapp@insideams.net), or at 905-841-0065, ext. 418.



## Camp Monty at AMS

Don't miss out on some great summer fun! Camp Monty is a dynamic summer day camp program offering children 18 months to 14 years a broad variety of engaging, experiential activities. Each adventure camp offers a weekly theme, such as Big Top Circus, Safari Adventure, Mad About Science, and more. New this year for our campers 3 years and older, is the Red Cross certified swimming instruction at the nearby Aurora Leisure Centre during 4 focus weeks in July and August. Academic Camp, Rock Band Camp, Sewing Camp and Art Camp are all offered as well. Camp registration forms are available on our website, or pick one up at the office.

## The Arbonne Advantage

An AMS Parent, Mr. Gerry Faderbauer, has passed along some important information to us regarding the toxins found in our everyday skincare products. For more information, go to [www.arbonne.ca](http://www.arbonne.ca)

Arbonne is a 31 year old company offering a premium quality brand with a Swiss heritage. The products are healthy, botanically based, dermatologist tested and Vegan Certified. We carry Pure, Safe and Beneficial Products!

Chemicals that are found in most North American Skincare and makeup products include Parabens, Animal by-products, Animal fat, Mineral Oil, Paraffin, Petrolatum, Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLS), Acrylamide, Propylene Glycol, Phenol Carbolic Acid, Dioxane, and Toluene. To learn more about Arbonne and what IS NOT in our products, please visit [www.arbonne.ca](http://www.arbonne.ca)

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