

Elementary News

The senior elementary students have charged back to school with great vigor, goals, and sense of community.

While the **Level 5 and 6 students** have worked extremely hard on classroom assignments and activities, they still reserve extra time and effort to volunteering around the school. The leadership qualities and responsibility they demonstrate running the school recycling and tuck shop programs are commendable. Many students have enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer with the Casa children during their recess breaks. This growing maturity is also reflected in their participation in our **Financial Basics program**, in which guest instructor, Tricia Barry, is exploring the infamous world of money, budgeting, and finances with students Grades 5 - 8. Perhaps students will be presenting business plans outlining the economic benefits of allowance increases in the near future!!

We also held a special **BBQ night** for parents of Grade 6, 7 and 8 students to build stronger relationships between our senior families, both new and our AMS 'pillars'. Mr. Rossiter gave an overview presentation of Montessori philosophy regarding adolescence, and the corresponding Middle School curriculum and methodology. Parents contributed to an engaging discussion of contemporary issues including Internet, and fostering independence in our youth.

Throughout the school day, and night, Mr. Beyzaei is keeping busy with his camera to record many school events and moments. Take some time to check out our school life in the photographs lining the gymnasium windows.

In the Middle School program, we started off the year with our annual **Camp Pinecrest** adventure. Three days jam packed with outdoor activities, group and personal challenges, and community building in the hallowed forest and waterways of natural Muskoka. Congratulations to all students on their High ROPES achievements, record breaking canoe trip and morning dips, and overall effort and attitude. Our best trip, yet!!!

The Middle School students are responsible this year for the **Kiss n' Ride Drop-Off** program. Watch out for the smiling adolescent faces at a car door near you! We also assumed a greater role in the food drive for the Aurora Food Pantry. Students assembled, sorted and repacked the food for transport, and loaded the truck in a highly efficient, team approach. Grade 8 students accompanied Mr. Rossiter and Mr. Kanji to a local church storage facility to personally deliver and unload the gifts from AMS. Adopting a greater volunteer role within the local community is part of the Middle School curriculum. Any parents that are aware of an organization open to a partnership with the AMS Middle School are asked to contact Mr. Rossiter soon.

Mr. Rossiter feels particularly appreciative this fall following his 5 week volunteering experience in **Tanzania** over the summer. Again, it is important to recognize and thank all of the AMS, parents, students, teachers, and administration for their exceptional support of the **Olive Branch for Children**. The dance-a-thon proceeds from last spring helped provide teaching materials and training for 19 remote villages and schools serving hundreds of Casa age children. Everyone is welcome at anytime to Room 116 if you are interested in seeing pictures, and hearing about plans for the future. Remember that we all CAN and DO make a DIFFERENCE!!!

Students in **Room 123** put forth a lot of work in preparing science experiments for the information night held on Oct. 27th. They all contributed to creating interesting experiments which impressed visitors, parents and teachers. Thank you for all of your hard work in making it a terrific event!

We were very fortunate to have beautiful weather for our trip to the **Toronto Zoo**. Students of Rooms 122, 123, 124 and 125 all enjoyed a fun filled and exciting day! Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who were able to enjoy the day with us.



Aurora Montessori
School

October 2009

AMS School Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of AMS;

September and October are my favourite months: This is the time when I have the pleasure of witnessing the spirit of joy and excitement in the halls as our students rekindle old friendships and welcome new ones. Judging from the comments I am hearing from our new elementary students during "lunch with the Principal", they are enjoying a warm welcome from our AMS family. I hope our new students will soon feel like AMS is their home away from home.a place where they gain true independence, learn to follow their innate love of learning toward deep understandings and learn to see their own unique greatness. As you witness our children continuing their journey of exploration and discovery, great personal achievement and new knowledge, I hope you will feel rewarded for your faith in AMS, our staff and the Montessori philosophy.

I would like to say thank you, once again, to our amazing Parent Action Committee who worked so hard to help us ensure our Founder's Day Fair was a huge success. I encourage all parents to join this enthusiastic, fun group of parent volunteers, helping to build a strong sense of community within our great school.

Please drop by and see me, telephone or e-mail me at: **principal@insideams.net** if you would like to share an idea or a concern.

With Love,
Brenda Glashan
(p.s. Did you know that a remarkably high number of the most innovative and successful people are Montessori graduates.....including the founders of Google, Amazon, Wikipedia and SIMS!)

Elementary Classroom Websites

All Elementary classrooms will soon have their own website as part of the AMS school website. Each teacher is preparing their class page which will post homework, information for parents, and events in their class. Check it out at: <http://www.auroramontessori.com/ams-teachers.html>

Late Arrivals

Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am – students are working in the classroom between 8:45 and 9:00 am. To avoid disrupting the class, any Elementary student arriving after 8:45 **must go to the office** and pick up a late slip, and wait until the National Anthem is played to return. We thank you for your support with this initiative.

Celebrations

Aurora Montessori and Private School has a policy in regards to party and event celebrations. Parents must not bring any loot bags into the school for any celebration such as Birthdays, Halloween or other Holidays. Food must be purchased through the approved suppliers. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Refill and Enjoy!

A special tap has been installed on the drinking fountain in the front lobby to enable our children to refill their drinking bottles. As you know, in February 2008 we had water filtering systems installed on all our drinking fountains. These four stage filter systems (reverse osmosis) reduce up to 98% of inorganic water-soluble metals, chlorine and organic compounds, resulting in healthy, clean drinking water. Our students now have the option to drink directly from the fountains or refill their bottles. Enjoy!



Casa News

Casa Trip to Forsythe Farms

On October 6th and 7th all the Casa children enjoyed a morning at Forsythe Farms learning about pumpkins and animals. Each child got the opportunity to choose a pumpkin to take home. The highlight of this excursion was the very bumpy wagon ride and of course.....the BIG yellow bus! Fun was had by all!

Out of the mouths of babes:

Mrs. Kadey was working on classified cards with Avalyn Grace. She showed Avalyn Grace a picture of a fire hydrant and asked her, "What is this?" Avalyn Grace replied, "A doggy toilet."

Toddler News

Our toddlers have settled very nicely into their new classrooms and routines. Gone are their tears & fears. Now they enter with smiles and march in to put their bags away.

It's been a busy few weeks. The children enjoyed the apple unit, especially the apple peeling. They also liked learning about Thanksgiving, turkeys, and the Fall. We look forward to all of the activities for Halloween.

The weather was certainly wonderful in September. We took full advantage and had many walks to see the animals and lots of outdoor play. We'll enjoy playing in the leaves next.

We've already had some positive feedback. The toddlers are impressing their families by singing new songs such as 'O Canada', recognizing some numbers and just by sitting better and longer. We're sure they will continue to amaze you.

From the Library

Many visitors have dropped by to see our library located in Room 128. The students are thrilled to see the changes and to check out the new materials for research and pleasure.

The response has been wonderful to the Birthday Book Donation program! There have been 14 birthdays celebrated so far this year. Please keep this worthwhile program in mind as your student's birthday comes closer. Forms are available at the library.

The Elementary students have now finished their library orientation sessions. Please assist your children to look after their library materials, return them on time, and by reading with them daily at home to promote literacy and family time.

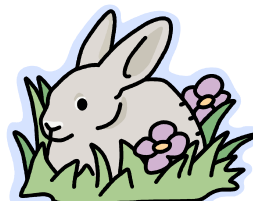
The Book Fair is coming to AMS the week of November 2 to 6th. Any parents who would like to assist at the book fair should see Mrs. Haseman for available times. More information will come home soon.

Our wonderful parent volunteers have been working steadily in the library to help keep our shelves neat and tidy. We thank them very much for all their dedication and effort!

- *Mrs. Haseman*

Thank You Ms. Fentum!

Special thanks are due to Jennifer Fentum (**Clare and Georgia Littlechild's** mom) for donating the jungle gym to the Toddler Playground, and for providing AMS with our two new bunnies, Maria and Floppy. We appreciate it so much!



Family Fun Stuff

CUPCAKE FARM

DECORATE YOUR CUPCAKES AND MAKE THE SWEETEST LITTLE ANIMALS.

You will need:

Your cupcakes
2-1/2 cups of powdered sugar
Cookies
Chocolate buttons
1 stick (8 tbsp) butter, softened
1 tbsp water
Marshmallows (including mini marshmallows)
Colourful candies
Red food colouring
Tubes of writing icing

1. Make the butter frosting. Sift the powdered sugar into a bowl. In another bowl, beat the butter until creamy. Gradually add the powdered sugar to the butter, beating to keep the mixture smooth. Finally, beat in the water.

MARSHMALLOW SHEEP

1. Spread a thick layer of butter frosting over the top of the cupcakes.
2. Stick on marshmallows, using large ones for faces, halved ones for ears, and mini ones for wooly coats.

PINK PIGGIES

1. Mix a few drops of red food colouring with butter frosting.
2. Spread the pink frosting on top of the cupcakes.
3. Stick on a nose made from a large marshmallow and ears made from slices of marshmallows.

PUPPY CAKES

1. Spread on the frosting.
2. Stick on cookie ears and candy eyes and noses
3. Draw the faces on your animals using writing icing squeezed from a tube.

Source:

Mom and Me Cookbook, Have fun in the Kitchen!

Author: Annabel Karmel

Publisher: DK Publishing, Inc.

Crafts

Paper Cup Crow

As autumn rolls in and farmers work on their harvest, the crows will be looking for free goodies. Make this cute little crow to celebrate fall!

Supplies

2 small plastic cups (bathroom size)
2 cotton balls
2 medium wiggle eyes
1 red button
Scrap of orange craft foam
Scrap of orange construction paper
Acrylic craft paint: black and goldenrod
Scissors
White craft glue

Instructions: Cover table with newspaper, or a plastic tablecloth.

Paint one of the cups black and the other with goldenrod. Set ups aside to dry. Cut a triangle from the orange craft Foam for the beak. Cut a heart shape for the feet from orange construction paper.

When paint is dry, use scissors to cut thin slits (fringes) halfway up the cup, going all the way around. Bend the fringes upward to form the feathers. Turn the hat over and put 2 cotton balls inside the cup. Glue hat to the top of the black painted cup. Let dry.

Glue 2 wiggle eyes and beak on to the cup under the hat.

Glue the red button to the front side of the hat.

Glue the heart feet to the opening of the black cup, bend the construction paper into the sides of the cup so that just the "feet" stick out

Computer Health

Repetitive Stress Injuries and your Child

Some of us 'older' folks have been using the personal computer for about twenty plus years now. Many have been users for a lot less time. Even then, close to half that time the use would have been limited to working hours only. The number of people in our generation suffering from debilitating injuries such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and other Repetitive Stress Injuries (RSI) is still on the rise.

Now let's think about when our children first started using computer keyboards. How many years will they be using them? How many hours in a day will they use them at school, work, and home? Now add that to the fact that their little bodies have to use adult sized furniture, applying even more stress and strain during computer use.

Just as we have taught our children that brushing their teeth is a needed daily exercise that prevents tooth decay and gum disease, we need to encourage them to exercise responsibly when using the computer to prevent RSI and eye strain. The exercises take just a few minutes and can be done sitting down if necessary. We use these exercises at the end of each class, but in fact need to be done more often. Exercises are recommended for adults about every twenty minutes of computer use. Explore the internet for some good information on exercises and set a good example for your children by doing them yourself.

Here are a few sites you can check out, or ask your child to get printed information from their computer teacher Glen Haseman.

<http://www.ergoindemand.com/ergonomic-keyboarding.htm>
http://www.latkey.com/typing_tips.asp
<http://www.klis.com/computers+health/>

Internet Security

The safety and well being of our children is important to everyone in our society. You as a parent, struggle to understand rapidly changing technologies and how it affects your children. The advantages of the internet are far reaching. Never before have children had the opportunity to access so much information so rapidly. The difficult thing is to be able to separate the fiction from the truth and the material that is inappropriate for your child.

The key to ensuring the well being of your child on the internet is for you to be well armed with a good knowledge of the internet yourself. Software and Microsoft software security is constantly being upgraded to try and protect you and your family. There are actions you can take regarding the computer use in your home to protect them even more. By applying these methods you can create an atmosphere for an enjoyable and educational computer experience for the entire family.

Aurora Montessori School is providing a **Family Internet Safety Symposium** on November 10th 2009, at 6:30 pm, in cooperation with the York Regional Police. We will help show you methods and software that can be used to help make your family safer. The discussion is open to elementary parents and guardians of AMS. We regret that we will not be able to provide daycare services. I hope to see you all there.



Our Kids Rock!

Congratulations to **Montana Martz** – in only her first year of showing her horse, she made it to the Championship level and has placed 3rd in the Hunter Division and C. Equitation. She was riding “Cloud 9”, a white show pony who is 17 years old. She rides at The Meadows and is coached by Samantha Murray. Way to go Montana!

AMS School Bussing

for 2009 - 2010 is so streamlined!



Their schedules are precise. Their staff is so child-friendly and courteous. Communication with parents is effective and professional. Prices are reasonable; consider the savings on gas and time. Van transportation of students is their niche business – they have a fleet of 65 vans servicing various school boards.

If you're curious about how this could work for you, call **Dib from Aplus School Services at 905-830-0015.**

Upcoming Events

- **Book Fair:** November 2 – 6
- **Remembrance Day Ceremony:** November 11
- **Picture Retake Day:** November 12
- **First Term Report Cards:** November 16
- **Parent / Teacher Interviews:** November 18 & 19
- **Grade 1 & 2 Open House Mornings:** November 3 & 10
- **Elementary Classes Go Skating:** November 24 & 25

Parents' Corner

KWL Automotive Centre
Wayne K. Lewis, Owner
Tel: 416-588-6586, Volvo Master Technician

Free pickup and delivery, service and repairs to all makes and models, usually done on the same day. We are expanding business to the Newmarket area to give customers a top quality repair without paying dealer prices.



Meredith Deasley

AMS is pleased to announce that we have acquired the services of a nutritionist for AMS parents and students. Meredith Deasley, B.A., R.H.N., R.N.C.P., teaches pediatric nutrition at the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition.

She will be available at AMS for private consultation on Thursday mornings of each week, exclusively for AMS families. Having a nutritionist on staff is an opportunity for our families to receive additional help in making our children healthier and happier.

All appointments must be prearranged by calling Mrs. Deasley at 905-713-3299. Consultations usually last one to one and a half hours and cost \$100. Normally only one session is required. A payment receipt will be provided. All consultations are strictly confidential.