

Elementary News

Financial Basics for Kids

In October, Money School Canada visited AMS to deliver their Financial Basics for Kids workshop to our students in Grades 5 to 8. The Financial Basics workshop program is kid-centered, fun and engaging. Personal money management ideas are broken down into easy-to-grasp, digestible concepts and were taught using real-life examples and interactive exercises that inspire students to learn and retain information. Our students got to “Be the Banker”, participate in the “Money Word Lightning Round” and “Fast Forward to the Future” to plan their own simple budgets using income and expenses.

The three lively and informative workshop sessions were led by Tricia Barry, Founder and Managing Director of Money School Canada, who has extensive business and personal finance experience and is truly committed to improving financial literacy among young Canadians.

Here's what some of the students said:

“I know how to use my money properly and I will probably use this info to help me in the future.” – Gr. 5/6 student

“The workshops were interesting and I learned a lot. The activities were very FUN!” Gr. 7/8 student

“I loved it because it was all about MONEY! Excellent, excellent, excellent.” Gr. 7/8 student

“This was a very fun way to learn about money. Thank you!” Gr. 7/8 student

Birthday Celebrations

Many thanks to Mr. Beyzaei for the excellent effort he has put toward organizing our birthday celebration assemblies in honour of our monthly birthday stars. A thank you also goes to our music instructor Shelly Broddy for her musical accompaniment and terrific school spirit. If anyone would like to perform or contribute their own ideas or suggestions to help make this a continuing tradition at AMS, please share your thoughts with Mr. Beyzaei.



R.O.M Visit and Legislative Building Tour

The Grade 5 and 6 students visited the Royal Ontario Museum on Friday, December 4th, where they were given a lecture and tour on the Ancient History of Mediterranean civilizations. We were so proud of the knowledge our students were able to exhibit during the lessons and, as always, so pleased to witness the enthusiasm and energy generated by the many world class exhibits. After our morning visit to the museum, we were off to Queen's Park to partake in an interactive tour of the imposing architectural masterpiece we know as our Ontario Legislature Building. Students were taken into the Legislative Chamber where they could see where the provincial laws of Ontario are debated and passed. Students then participated in a mock debate which was held in a room built to replicate the Chambers. Sonny Rogers was chosen to be our Speaker of the House, and Julia Messersi was our Sergeant at Arms. The topic of debate was whether uniforms should be worn at school – as you can imagine the debate was lively! Whew! We sure learned a lot in one day. We would also like to thank Mrs. Deasley, Mrs. Ihejirika, and Mrs. Petta for their excellent chaperoning assistance... we can't wait until our next field trip!



Snap Science

The first Snap Science demonstration was held in the gym on Friday November 20. No doubt Mr. Beyzaei's presentation inspired many budding scientists to recreate some of the very easy and very cool experiments on their own at home. Do you know of a neat experiment that you think would entertain and awe your fellow students? Please let Mr. Beyzaei know... and get in on the fun!

Winter AMS School Newsletter

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. Thanks to your generosity, our "Shoe Box Programme" support will bring smiles to children in South America and Africa; and your donations of presents placed under our Christmas tree will make the holidays a little jollier for needy families in the Aurora and Newmarket community. The Aurora Lion's Club will be distributing these presents for us. It is wonderful to watch the expressions of pride and love reflected in our students' faces as they place their donations under the tree. It is also heartwarming to learn from some of our students about the charities and families they personally support each year in addition to supporting the AMS cause.

Have a safe, happy holiday with your loved ones. We'll look forward to welcoming you back to AMS on January 4th!

With Love, Brenda Glashan

RE-ENROLMENT DEADLINE REMINDER

January 29thst is the deadline for re-enrolment for the 2010-2011 school year! Don't be disappointed.

Commencing February 1st, applications from families outside of AMS will be confirmed.



Dance-a-Thon

Wow!... our AMS PAC are fantastic! They raised over \$7,000 to put towards our Winter Carnival in January. All students had a blast and our younger students enjoyed a visit from Santa, Rudolph and Wolfie Wolverine. Watch for the pictures showing in the front lobby. Many, many thanks to the Powell and Gobbo/McNeil families, for donating such incredible prizes. The Powell family donated tickets to both the Raptors as well the Leafs. Jana Gobbo and her son Jared McNeil donated an amazing total of three Raptors jerseys. We are truly touched by the generosity of these families.

Boston Pizza Fundraising

Thank you Mrs. Anna Trankovskaya, for signing AMS up at Boston Pizza in Aurora for their School Rewards Program. This is how the program works: Each time you take your family to Boston Pizza, please sign AMS and your child's teacher's name on the back of a copy of your receipt and put it in the school box located in the restaurant. Each month the manager of Boston Pizza will tally up the receipts signed by AMS parents and 10% will be rewarded to AMS. What a simple, great way to help support AMS!

Don't Forget....

To pack extra clothes for your children to have on hand at school. They should have a full change of clothes (non-uniform is fine) and a few pairs of extra socks for those snowy, wet recess days. They will also now need mitts or gloves, snow pants, boots, hat and coat. Avoid drawstrings or long scarves – they can be a hazard on the playground.

Poinsettia Sales

Thank you to everyone who showed support for AMS by purchasing poinsettias during our recent fundraiser. Special thanks to **Shirley Ayer, Catherine Capek and Sonia Lewis** who did a wonderful job, sorting and distributing our plants to the parents.

Casa News

Christmas/Winter Event

How wonderful to have so many enthusiastic children making a presentation to you, the parents. We enjoyed learning about and studying our country in great detail in the classroom. The customs, traditions, history, geography, as well as the unique food items were all so interesting to learn about.

Yearbook photos - We are taking pictures of the children as they work in the classroom. This year all yearbook pictures will be in colour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of AMS.

Parent/Teacher Interviews - This is always a special time for us to get to know each of the children better and work as a team with you to better assist your child. With your help, parents, we look forward to facilitating your children academically, socially, and emotionally in Casa and then in our Elementary programme.

Operation Christmas Child - Seventy-six boxes were collected this year. Thank you so much! Your gift will enable underprivileged children in Africa and South America to experience the joy of Christmas love.

Dance-A-Thon - Friday, December 11th, in the AMS gym. Everyone had a wonderful time with prizes going to many children. A special visit from Santa surprised everyone. A bag of safe treats were provided for each child from Santa.

Winter Clothing -- Please be sure to send your child to school with everything they need to keep warm at recess – hat, mitts (an extra pair is handy), snow pants, coat and boots are all needed now. An extra set of indoor clothes is also required for those wet days. Please label all items of clothing.

Teacher Training at AMS

Please welcome Ms. Karmali to the school. Ms. Karmali is doing her practice teaching in room 105 until February 9, 2010.

Lunches - Consider saving yourself a trip in the cold weather: provide a nice hot lunch for your child in a Thermos. Hot lunches from home, so yummy!

Christmas Tree Raffle Winners -

Thank you to all the participants. The lucky winners of the tree raffle are:

Room 105 - James Vettesse

Room 106 - Alison Kurtz

Room 107 - Andrea Morante

Room 108 - Ashton Hunter

Room 109 - Andrew Puzzuoli

Room 110 - Vennila Ramkumar

Room 111 - Emily Zuliani

Room 112 - Brendan Hicks

Room 113 - Thalia Deakin

Toddler News

The children and their teachers are very excited for Santa's arrival. We are all excited too about the new snow that has finally arrived. We are also busy creating beautiful Christmas decorations for our classrooms, our tree and a special surprise to take home. The children are so proud of all of their hard work.

This month we have been reviewing our colours, letter sounds and numbers, as well as teaching the children about the different holidays we all enjoy celebrating. The children are always very excited to be learning new songs and skills during our work cycle and at circle time. We are amazed at their growth and development. The children improve their skills with each new song they sing and each new piece of material they attempt. Keep up the great work friends!

We would like to wish all of you an especially happy winter break. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! From your Toddler Staff...See you next year...

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Middle School News

The students in Room 116 are soaring to new heights! As part of our Extended Physical Education program we are participating in a 5 session Rock Climbing experience at Of Rock and Chalk Climbing Gym in Newmarket. Our first climb was an extensive two and a half hour training session where students are taught the safety procedures and use of equipment in order to climb with their partners. Although some individuals found the walls (and distant ceiling) somewhat daunting initially, everyone in the end made their 'summit' for the day. The teamwork, patience, and perseverance made the morning a thorough success, and we all are looking forward to our return in January. A special thank you to all our volunteer drivers and photographers, your contributions were also invaluable.

Students were also outstanding back in the classroom for our meeting and interview with Frank Klees. We were very fortunate to have a special period to interview Mr. Klees on a wide variety of topics both in terms of political issues, and inspiration and goals. The level of dialogue and discourse encouraged Mr. Klees to observe that perhaps a future Member of Parliament could be sitting in the class that morning. We very much enjoyed his visit, and thank him for his time and interest in AMS.

Astronomy Night – Cloudy, but ‘Cool’

Although the weather did not cooperate, astronomy night was still a success. On November 6, many students from grades 5 to 8 gathered in the gym to enjoy a fascinating presentation by Mr. Paul Mackin, an avid amateur astronomer and parent of two former AMS students. Unfortunately, cloudy and wet conditions prevented outdoor observations and a campfire, but a good time was had by all inside, with hot chocolate and friends. Thanks again to Mr. Mackin for sharing his passion for astronomy.

After School Study Hall

There are limited spots available for the after school study hall. This service is available for all elementary students on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room 124, from 4:00 – 4:45 pm. The cost is \$6 per day (students already enrolled in the BASP program are no charge). Contact the office to make arrangements for your child.

New Term - New A+ Math Sessions

A+ MATH strives to provide opportunities for developing lasting math skills, independent work habits, building self-confidence in math and reaching personal milestones. The program is tailored to suit every student and targets different areas of need in math for each participant. Whether your child is looking for assistance in math school work, homework or enrichment, A+ MATH could be just the perfect answer. It is convenient, effective and affordable. The students participating in this program enjoy a quiet, learning environment with Mr. Beyzaei, coordinator of A+ MATH at AMS in room 117. He will be glad to speak to you if further details are needed. Each math session starts at 4:00 pm and ends around 4:45 pm. The last 20 - 25 minutes of A+ Math (4:45 - 5:10) is allocated to math puzzles, chess, checkers, outdoor activities, etc.

AMS WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!

Out with the old and in with the 'gently used'... don't miss the shopping event of the year! Get a jump on your spring cleaning and help provide our Senior and Middle School students with donations for this fun, fun, fundraising event! We are accepting donations beginning IMMEDIATELY until the end of January, 2010. We will store your generous contributions in preparation for the big event. Mark these dates on your calendar.

Thursday, February 4th 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, February 5th 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer help for the AMS White Elephant Sale is always needed and very much appreciated. Please let administration know if you can help in any way.

Skating

On Tuesday, November 24, children in grades 1 to 4 enjoyed an hour of skating at the Aurora Community Centre. Some were new to skating, others were experts, but all had a good time. Thanks to all the parents who came out to help tie up skates in the dressing room and assist novice skaters on the ice. It was a great afternoon.

News from the Specialty Classes

En Francais

French Class Plays

During Montessori week in February, we will be staging 3 theatre productions. On the 23rd we will be presenting the Grade 2 classes in "Comment y aller?", the 24th will feature the Grade 1 classes in "Les 3 petits cochons", and our Grade 3 classes will present "Les animaux du bayou" and "L'arbre Ungali" on the 25th. More news to come as opening night approaches.

Vive le francais!

Some of you have asked if there is anything you can do to encourage your child's French learning at home. The amount of French your child is doing at AMS is more than the typical amount done in other schools. We have a luxurious amount of class time to develop your child's language skills. However, if a child wants to do extra work, we would certainly not discourage his or her love of French. In an effort to continue the learning, there are PowerPoint presentations on the class pages for room 123, 120 and 125 through the AMS website. Simply go to www.auroramontessori.com, on the left side of the homepage, click on AMS Community, and then click on Teacher Reports and finally click on the class number to enter the page. Under the French subheading your child can select the lesson of her/his choice. Enjoy et bon travail mes amis!

AMS Book Fair

A special thank you from Mrs. Haseman to all the parent volunteers for another successful Book Fair! Students were extremely eager to tour the fair and select various books and treasures. We thank all the shoppers for your overwhelming school support. Congratulations to the winners of the Scholastic draws: Fiona Sharpe, Meaghan Del Fabro, and the winner of the draw from Usborne Books was Adam Mouratidis.

From the Library

Please, return all overdue library books before starting your winter break. Also, as a reminder if you are vacationing, please leave your school library books at home to help keep them from becoming lost in hotel rooms and at relative's homes. I hope you find time to sit and enjoy a good book. Have a great holiday! - Mrs. Haseman

Music

Musical appreciation days are being held on scheduled Wednesdays with "Instruments in the Hallways", and on scheduled Fridays with "Piano, Voice and Violin Recitals" in Room 114, the Music Room. Feel free to join us if you are able.

Parents' Corner

From the Whitmell Family Words cannot express the how grateful we are for all of the clothes, toys, gifts and moral support given to us since the terrible fire. Your thoughtfulness and support has touched our hearts. Please know it is all very much appreciated.

Holly and Logan Bakker need an occasional babysitter for evenings and weekends. If you are interested, please call their parents, Jack and Frances at 416-848-7528.

Oliver's Labels offers waterproof, weather-proof, scuff-proof, tear-resistant, high-performance vinyl labels with super strong adhesive and high quality full-colour printing. They are safe in the dishwasher, microwave, fridge or outdoors. In other words, they are kid-proof! What makes them different than other labels?

- They are colourful. All other labels are one or two colours. These are beautiful with multiple colours! Also available are logos such as "No Nuts" "No Dairy" "No Eggs" "No Seafood" "No Gluten" and a generic warning "Food Allergies".
- They offer a free "Found-it" service, so lost items can be more easily returned.
- Offer items such as Original Labels, Mini Labels, Shoe Labels, Iron-on labels, Wrist Bands, Small and Large Bag tags

New to the product line up are Stick-eez clothing labels, so there's no need for an iron for things like snowsuits that shouldn't be ironed, and Safety Wristbands for trips to amusement parks or school trips.

As an AMS parent I'd like to offer a discount to you. To receive a 5% discount, order through my website, www.oliverslabels.com/catherine and enter the coupon code HAPPYLABELING When checking out, when asked "How did you hear about Oliver's Labels" select Agent and specify Catherine Greenwood-Grabas This coupon code will only work through my website.

Our Kids Rock!

Prada Faraji, in room 105, donated her beautiful hair to the Angel Hair for Kids Program. Angel Hair for Kids provides wigs of real hair for children who are undergoing cancer treatment or suffering from other illnesses. Way to go Prada! We are so proud of you!

William Deo participated in 3 events at the Richmond Hill Aquatic Club's SuperSharks Swim Meet on December 2. He placed as follows in the Boys Division (9 -10 yrs):

- 50 m Backstroke - 1st place
- 50 m Breaststroke - 1st place
- 50 m Freestyle - 2nd place

Congratulations William!



Welcome to Tristan and Troy! The grade 7/8 class has adopted two sweet little guinea pigs for the class to take care of. We are so proud of them for taking on this responsibility.

Upcoming Events

- **P.A. Day** – Friday, December 18
- **Christmas Break:** December 21 – January 1
- **Grade 7/8 Rock n' Chalk:** January 12
- **M.S. Read-a-thon Begins:** January 18
- **Elementary Open House:** January 27 & 28
- **Winter Carnival:** January 29
- **Elementary Ski Day:** February 11
- **PA Day:** February 12
- **Family Day Holiday:** February 15
- **Montessori Week:** February 22 - 26

Book Sale & Signing In Support Of Juvenile Diabetes

Please watch for our January announcement of a very worthwhile, exciting event. Renowned children's book author, Judith McMurray, is the grandmother of AMS students, Ryan and Megan Torisawa.

The cumulative efforts of a dedicated group of artists (members of the Tobin School of Fine Art), along with the beautifully written words of Judith McMurray has resulted in a wonderful children's book entitled Chucky the Lonely Inukshuk. Ms. McMurray dedicated the book to her grandson, Ryan, and the book includes 2 pieces of art from her granddaughter, Megan.

In the book, Chucky the Lonely Inukshuk, knows he was created as a symbol of safety, hope and friendship to everyone. Chucky is lonely until he serves as a shelter for two young children out on the lake during a dangerous storm.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the book sale will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Type 1 diabetes is rising by as much as 5% each year, the greatest increase being in children between the ages of 5 and 9.

The hardcover book makes a beautiful gift for all ages. In January, Judith McMurray will be at AMS for a book signing and we are hoping to raise a large sum of money for this worthy cause.

If you would like to purchase a copy of this beautiful book before the book signing in January (in time for Christmas) you may view a copy of it in the display cabinet in the front lobby or call Dawn Torisawa at 905-751-0454. \$20 cash or a cheque addressed to Children's Books for Charity may be left with our receptionist, Marilyn.

