

Schedule of Events 2008/09

Sep: Membership Drive

As a registered society, we are required by law to maintain annual paid memberships. The Montessori program is dependent on parent funding. It is critical that ALL Montessori families join RAM so that all our children can benefit. Please complete a Membership Form and enclose a cheque for \$50.00 per family (made out to Richmond Association for Montessori) and return to the school office by 8 Oct/08 to be entered into a prize draw.

Oct: Kindergarten/ New Families Social

This is an opportunity for parents of our kindergarten students in the Montessori program to meet each other and the RAM executives.

Cash Donation Drive Kick-off

Cash donations are our major source of funding. We will be announcing our 2007/08 fundraising goal soon and will be asking you to help us reach that target by donating generously. Donation forms will be sent home with your children. As a registered charitable society, tax receipts will be issued for donations (\$10.00 +).

Nov: Progressive Fundraiser

Parent Education Session—topic to be announced

This is an opportunity for parents and guardians to be better informed about the Montessori program, methodology and philosophy.

Fall Social

Feb: Parent Education Session

Progressive Fundraiser

Mar: Cash Donation Follow-up

Apr: Spring Social

Jun: Year End Picnic—Manoah Steves

You are RAM

The Richmond Association for Montessori (RAM) is an independent, registered society formed under the Society Act of British Columbia. RAM was established 20 years ago by parents who wanted an alternative to the public school program. They worked long hours over many months with the school board, resulting in the Montessori program which we are fortunate to have our children attending.

The Executive of the society work each year to fulfill the mission statement to the benefit of the children in the Montessori program at Manoah Steves, Garden City and James McKinney Elementary Schools, and to grow it for future students. The parents have established the following goals:

1. Educate parents as to how Montessori works, and how the children learn through the program.
2. Raise money to buy Montessori materials used in the classrooms. This is done through memberships, donations and fundraisers.
3. Provide funding to our teachers for professional development specific to Montessori education.

The success of the Montessori program is dependent on the participation of parents and teachers in an environment characterized by mutual respect and cooperation. We are fortunate to have an excellent group of dedicated and highly professional teachers and administrators whose objective is to create interactive and dynamic learning environments for our children. At the same time, we also have many committed parents who have volunteered their time to make this program successful.

Your Montessori Child (cont.)

Montessori Materials

All children and most adults learn best through direct experience and the process of investigation and discovery. Most students do not retain or truly grasp much of what they 'learn' through memorization. Asking a child to sit back and watch a teacher perform a process or experiment is like asking a one-year old not to put everything into his mouth. Children need to manipulate and explore everything that catches their interest. Dr. Montessori recognized that concrete learning apparatus make learning much more rewarding. The Montessori learning materials are simply tools that we use to stimulate the child into logical thought and discovery. The Montessori materials are designed to appeal to children at a given level of development. Each material isolates and teaches one concept or skill at a time. In developing the materials, Dr. Montessori carefully analyzed the skills and concepts involved in each subject and noted the sequence in which children most easily master them. The materials can be used repeatedly at different developmental levels. Each has multiple levels of challenge. Interest leads them to explore variations and extensions inherent within the design of the materials at many levels over the years. For example, the Trinomial Cube, which presents a complex and challenging three-dimensional puzzle to a five-year-old, is used to introduce an elementary child to the algebraic concept of the exponential powers of polynomials.

Source: www.montessori.org

RICHMOND ASSOCIATION FOR

MONTESSORI

RAM Newsletter 2008/09

The secret to good teaching is to regard the children's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination. Our aim therefore is not only to make the children understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core. —Maria Montessori



Questions, comments, suggestions, ideas?

New ideas, suggestions and feedback are welcome. Please e-mail: info@richmond-montessori.ca. Together we can make a difference for our children.

www.richmondmontessori.ca

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Chair's Welcome and Report

On behalf of the 2008-2009 RAM Executive team, we would like to welcome you back to another exciting year! This year, we have some returning executive members as well as new parents coming on board. I am pleased to be sharing the Chairman's role this year with Borg Chan so if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. We are always looking for new volunteers, especially parents of K, 1 and 2 children. The reality is that if you do not come forward and volunteer, there is a possibility that the Montessori program will cease to continue.

I would like to thank all the members of the 2007-2008 Executive Committee for the time and effort. Also, a big thank you to all the parents for their generous support to RAM. Our target was \$25,000 and we raised \$23,172 to go towards this year's activities. Last year, we spent \$14,436 on purchasing materials, and repaid \$2,000 of the School Board Loan. Many thanks to Mrs. Thelma Serrano who held 3 very informative Parent Education workshops, and to the parents who made time to attend and learn. We had a fun badminton social in April and although it rained on our June year end BBQ, those who came managed to enjoy socializing and playing games in the gym. We hope you'll put these dates into your annual calendar and come join us this coming year. It's a great way for the kids, parents, teachers and staff to get together in a casual atmosphere.

I hope you enjoyed watching the 2008 Summer Olympics. I was awestruck and inspired by the athletes' spirit, talent and achievements. I thoroughly enjoyed watching Michael Phelps win his 8 Gold medals. Did you know that as a child, he was diagnosed with ADHD and an elementary school teacher told him that he would not amount to anything? He thought of that every time he was on the podium and how he proved that teacher wrong. If he can accomplish all that he has, imagine what are our children are capable of. I would encourage you to support your children when they feel weak and meek; when and where they need development, strengthen them by telling them that they can do it. Help them discover their passion and to reach their potential, and encourage them to dream big and persevere. But more importantly, measure their success, and yours, not by what they achieve but how it made them feel because I believe that that is the true reward.

We have 18 Montessori classes this year. Our RAM meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month (see schedule). Please come and join us to hear reports about our schools, brainstorm on events and activities and make funding decisions. We look forward to seeing and working with you.

Barbara Lee & Borg Chan, Co-Chairpersons

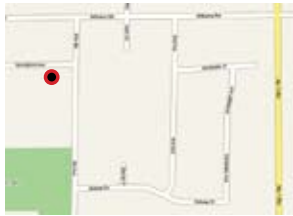
Your Montessori Child

The Montessori Classroom

Montessori classrooms tend to fascinate children and their parents. They are commonly referred to as a 'prepared environment', a term that reflects the care and attention that is given to creating a learning environment that will reinforce the children's independence and intellectual development. The Montessori classroom is organized into several curriculum areas, usually including: language arts (reading, literature, grammar, creative writing, spelling, and handwriting); mathematics and geometry; everyday living skills; puzzles; geography; history; science and art. Students are typically found scattered around the classroom. It may take a moment to spot the teachers as they will normally be found working with one or two children at a time or presenting a new lesson. Montessori children are free to move about, working alone or with others at will. They may select any activity and work with it in their own time, so long as they do not disturb anyone, damage anything and put materials back where they belong when finished. The Montessori classroom is a learning laboratory in which children are allowed to explore, discover and select their own work. Children become comfortable and confident in their abilities to master the environment, ask questions, puzzle out the answer, and learn without the constant intervention of an adult.

Multi-Age Classes

The levels usually found in a Montessori school correspond to the developmental stages of childhood: Infant (birth-18 mths); Toddler (18 mths-3 yrs); Early Childhood (3-6); Lower Elementary (6-8); Upper Elementary (9-11); Middle School (12-14); and Secondary (15-18). Montessori encourages children to learn from each other. By having enough children in each age group, all students will find others at, above, and below their present level of development. Since Montessori allows children to progress through the curriculum at their own pace, there is no academic reason to group children according to one grade level. In a mixed-class, children can always find peers who are working at their current level. Working in one class for two or three years allows students to develop a strong sense of community with their classmates and teachers. In multi-level classrooms, younger children are constantly stimulated by the interesting work in which the older ones are engaged. At the same time, in multi-level classrooms, older students serve as tutors and role models for the younger ones, which helps them in their own mastery (we learn things best of all when we teach to someone else) and leaves them beaming with pride. *(cont. on back)*



Manoah Steves Elemen. School

Tel: 604-668-6660
Principal: Ms. Maria Medic
Vice Principal: Ms. Benita Bahd
10111 Fourth Ave. (West of No.1 Road, between Williams & Steveston Hwy)



Garden City Elemen. School

Tel: 604-668-7855
Principal: Mr. Sean Harrington
Vice Principal: Mr. Wayne McDermott
8311 Garden City Rd. (Between Blundell & Francis on Garden City)



J. McKinney Elemen. School

Tel: 604-668-6133
Principal: Ms. Carolyn Latu
Vice Principal: Ms. Elizabeth Taylor
10451 Lassam Rd. (South of Williams between No.2 Road & Railway)

RAM Executive 2008/09

Name	Position	School
Barbara Lee	Co-Chair	Manoah Steves
Borg Chan	Co-Chair	Garden City
Borg Chan	Treasurer	Garden City
Tammy Ross	Secretary	McKinney
Rita Yip	Purchaser	Garden City
Kathy King	Purchaser	McKinney
Duncan Waller	Fundraiser	McKinney
Jeremy Lam	"Fundraiser Lead RAM Liaison"	McKinney
Jean Hu	RAM Liaison	Garden City
Barbara Lee	RAM Liaison	Manoah Steves
Joanna Yee	Mem. At Large	Manoah Steves

RAM Monthly Meetings

ALL PARENTS WELCOME! Meetings are held in the staff room. Childminding is available.

If you don't have time to attend, check out the RAM notice boards at your child's school (they will probably be located next to the PAC notice boards) to learn more about RAM. Also visit our website at www.richmondmontessori.ca for updates on events and links to other Montessori information.

Month	Date	Location	Time
Sep	18	MCKINNEY	7:00 pm
Oct	09	STEVES	7:00 pm
Nov	13	GARDEN CITY	7:00 pm
Dec	11	MCKINNEY	7:00 pm
Jan	08	STEVES	7:00 pm
Feb	12	GARDEN CITY	7:00 pm
Mar	12	MCKINNEY	7:00 pm
Apr	09	STEVES	7:00 pm
May	14	GARDEN CITY	7:00 pm
Jun	11	MCKINNEY (AGM)	7:00 pm



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