

Chair's Welcome and Report

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We hope you enjoyed the summer and are ready for another busy and exciting year!

We would like to thank all the members of the 2008-2009 Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment to the Montessori program. A special note of thanks goes to our outgoing Chair, Barbara Lee, for her 8 years of dedication to RAM and Montessori in Richmond. Last year, we purchased \$15,860 of Montessori materials for the classrooms, provided \$1,700 in teacher bursaries and repaid \$2,000 of the School Board loan. Through memberships, fundraisers and donations, we raised \$24,445.70. Thank you to all the families who donated to RAM for your generosity and support.

This year is shaping up to be a busy one for RAM. In addition to the fundraising and purchase of materials, our major focus this year will be conducting an inventory of all RAM purchased materials in our three schools. Over the years parents, through RAM, have contributed over \$249,000 in materials to the classrooms in our three schools, and the inventory process is necessary as we strive to ensure that our teachers and children have the materials they need. As you can imagine, this will be a large undertaking with many opportunities to volunteer, get to know other RAM parents, as well as to get into the classrooms and see, first-hand, the materials your children use every day. Keep your eyes and ears open in the coming weeks for more information regarding this project and the many opportunities for you to get involved – we can't do this project without you.

RAM parent meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month beginning October 8th. The meeting schedule is included in this newsletter for your reference. The meetings provide you with an opportunity to hear reports from the Administrators, and our Executive members as well as to discuss and organize our activities. If you want to learn more about what's going on in your children's school and with RAM, we encourage you to join us at our meetings or to become part of our Executive team.

We hope you have a great school year and we look forward to getting to know you and to seeing you at our events!

*Rosemary Casson and Ally Medweth
Co-Chairs, RAM*

Questions, comments, suggestions, ideas?

New ideas, suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Please e-mail: info@richmondmontessori.ca Together we can make a difference for our children.

www.richmondmontessori.ca

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RAM Executive 2009/10

Name	Position	School	Name	Position	School
Rosemary Casson	Co-Chair	McKinney	Joanna Yee	Fundraiser	Garden City
Ally Medweth	Co-Chair	McKinney	Borg Chan	Fundraiser	Garden City
Borg Chan	Vice-Chair	Garden City	Tammy Ross	RAM Liaison	McKinney
Danny Yu	Treasurer	McKinney	Jean Hu	RAM Liaison	Garden City
Rita Yip	Purchaser	Garden City	Briget Rebiffe	Member at Large	McKinney
Kathy King	Purchaser	McKinney	Niloufer Dubash	Member at Large	McKinney
Jeremy Lam	Inventory Coordinator	McKinney	* Vacant Positions: Secretary, RAM Liaison for Manoa Steves.		

Volunteers Needed!

Over the years, we have had many dedicated parents who have volunteered their time to help with the Montessori Program. To keep the Montessori program running well and to ensure continuous improvement, we need your help. Among the many opportunities for involvement are the inventory project, help at social events, or helping the purchasers organize materials. If you are interested or need more information, please contact us at info@richmondmontessori.ca. And remember: any time you can spare will directly benefit all our children.



You are RAM

The Richmond Association for Montessori (RAM) is an independent, registered organization 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 at 3 schools in Richmond.

The Executive of the society work each year to fulfill the mission statement to the benefit of the children in the Montessori program at Manoa 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. Provide funding to our teachers for professional development specific to Montessori education.
3. Raise money to buy Montessori materials used in the classrooms. This is done through memberships, donations and fundraising.

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 volunteer their time to make this program successful.





RAM Monthly Meetings

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

Month	Date	Location	Time
October	8	Steves	7:00 pm
November	12	Garden City	7:00 pm
December	10	McKinney	7:00 pm
January	14	Steves	7:00 pm
February	11	Garden City	7:00 pm
March	11	McKinney	7:00 pm
April	8	Steves	7:00 pm
May	13	Garden City	7:00 pm
June	10	McKinney	7:00 pm

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.

Upcoming Events

Keep your eyes open and check your child's backpack or our website for information regarding the following upcoming events:

- Membership Drive
- Kindergarten/New Families Social
- Fundraising events
- Education Sessions
- Social events



*" In the words of a child:
I hear and I forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand."
-Maria Montessori (1879-1952)*

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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

RAM Newsletter 2009/10