

RICHMOND ASSOCIATION FOR MONTESSORI



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 2010/11

Chair's Welcome and Report

On behalf of the RAM Executive team, I'd like to welcome you to the 2010 - 2011 school year! We hope you enjoyed the beautiful summer and are ready for another fantastic year.

I would like to thank the members of the 2009-2010 Executive for all of their time and dedication. A special note of thanks goes to our Inventory Project team who took on the enormous task of completing an inventory of all materials in our Montessori classrooms in Richmond. Over the years parents, through RAM, have contributed over \$250,000 in materials to the classrooms in our three schools. As you can imagine, the inventory was a large undertaking but a job very well done - thanks to all the parents and teachers involved! Last year, we purchased \$17,782 of Montessori materials for the classrooms, provided \$2,935 in teacher bursaries and education and repaid \$2,000 of the School Board loan. Through memberships, fundraisers, and your generous donations, we raised \$21,575 for this year's spending. Thank you to all the families who donated to RAM for your generosity and support.

For 2010-2011, which promises to be full of activity, we're happy to have several returning executive members, as well as some new faces this year. In addition to the completion of the inventory lists for each school, we will be organizing social and fundraising activities, as well as the purchase of materials. There are always many ways for you to get involved, and to get to know other RAM parents and our schools. Keep your eyes and ears open in the coming weeks for more information regarding the Montessori program, RAM, and the many opportunities for you to get involved - we can't do it without you.

Please join us for our annual New Family Social at 6 p.m. on September 30th at Manoah Steves. Our first RAM parent meeting of the year will immediately follow the social. We hope to see you there. The remaining RAM meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month. The meeting schedule for the year is included in this newsletter for your reference. Our meetings provide you with an opportunity to hear reports from the principals, our Executive members as well as to discuss and organize our activities. Please join us to learn more about what's going on in your children's school and with RAM.

Here's to a great school year! We look forward to getting to know you and to seeing you at some of our events!

Ally Medweth
Chair, 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 2010/11

Name	Position	School			
Ally Medweth	Chair	McKinney	Louise Walker	Fundraiser	McKinney
Danny Yu	Treasurer	McKinney	Tammy Ross	RAM Liaison	McKinney
Tammy Ross	Secretary	McKinney	Joanna Yee	RAM Liaison	Garden City
Rita Yip	Purchaser	Garden City	Connie Fung	RAM Liaison	Steves
Rosemary Casson	Purchaser	McKinney	Bridget Rebiffe	Member at Large	McKinney
Jeremy Lam	Inventory Coordinator	McKinney	Borg Chan	Member at Large	McKinney
			Vacant Positions: Vice-Chair and Volunteer Coordinator.		

We Need You!

Over the years, many dedicated parents 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 helping the purchasers organize materials, helping at social events, or updating the RAM board. If you are interested or need more information, please contact us at info@richmondmontessori.ca. Remember, any amount of time you can spare will directly benefit all our children.



Who is RAM?

You are! 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, ultimately 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 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. 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
September	30	Steves	7:00 pm
October	14	Garden City	7:00 pm
November	10	McKinney	7:00 pm
December	9	Steves	7:00 pm
January	13	Garden City	7:00 pm
February	10	McKinney	7:00 pm
March	10	Steves	7:00 pm
April	14	Garden City	7:00 pm
May	12	McKinney	7:00 pm
June	9	Steves	7:00 pm

Check out the RAM notice boards at your child's school
(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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