

## Chair's Welcome and Report

Welcome Montessori families, to the 2011 - 2012 school year! We hope you had a fantastic summer and are ready for another exciting year.

Last year was another busy one for RAM: we put more than \$20,000 into our Montessori program in Richmond, which included the purchase of \$10,817 of Montessori materials that were distributed among the classrooms, \$3,690 in teacher bursaries and education and a \$2,000 repayment of the School Board loan. Through memberships, fundraisers, and your generous donations, we raised \$22,811 that will provide for our children and Montessori classrooms this year. Thank you to all the families who donated to RAM for your generosity and support. A big thank you also goes to the 2010-2011 RAM executive team for their hard work and dedication - without you there would be no RAM!

This year, we will once again be organizing a number of social and fundraising activities, as well as purchasing the Montessori materials needed in our classrooms. We will also be supporting the deepening of our teachers' Montessori educations through a newly structured bursary program. Although we're lucky to have several returning executive members, as well as some new parent volunteers, you'll notice that there are some vacancies on the executive this year (most notably the secretary and fundraising lead positions). There are always many ways for you to get involved, and get to know other RAM parents and our schools. RAM is a team of volunteer parents working to support our children's Montessori education - we are all in this together and we really can't do it without you. We ask you to get involved, and to consider ways in which you can help RAM be a success.

RAM parent meetings are generally held the 2nd Thursday of each month. Our first meeting of the year is one exception, and will be held on September 29th at Garden City school, immediately following our annual Welcome Social. All families are invited, so we hope to see you there. The meeting schedule for the year is included in this newsletter for your reference. Our meetings are an opportunity for you to hear reports from the principals, our Executive members as well as to discuss and organize our activities. Keep your eyes and ears open in the coming weeks for more information regarding the Montessori program, RAM and the many chances for you to get involved - let's work together to make this a successful year for our children and our Montessori program.

*Ally Medweth - Chair, RAM*

## Questions, comments, suggestions, ideas?

New ideas, suggestions and feedback are welcome.

Please e-mail: [info@richmondmontessori.ca](mailto:info@richmondmontessori.ca) Together we can make a difference for our children.

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## RAM Executive 2011/12

Name	Position	School	Name	Position	School
Ally Medweth	Chair	McKinney	Trish Jardine	RAM Liaison	McKinney
Vacant	Vice-Chair	---	Joanna Yee	RAM Liaison	Garden City
Bridget Rebiffe	Treasurer	McKinney	Connie Fung	RAM Liaison	Steves
Vacant	Secretary	---	Danny Yu	Member at Large	McKinney
Rosemary Casson	Purchaser	McKinney	Tammy Ross	Member at Large	McKinney
Sheila Lau	Inventory Coordinator	Steves	Borg Chan	Member at Large	Garden City
Vacant	Fundraiser	---	Vacant Positions: Vice-Chair, Secretary, Fundraising Lead.		

## 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. There are a number of vacancies on the Executive team this year: secretary (taking minutes of meetings, preparing agendas for distribution), fundraising lead (co-ordinating fundraising activities with a group of volunteers), and vice-chair (supporting the chair). There are also opportunities to help receive materials being delivered to the schools, helping at social events, or updating the RAM board. If you are interested or need more information, please contact us at [info@richmondmontessori.ca](mailto:info@richmondmontessori.ca). Remember, we can't succeed without your help and any amount of time you can spare directly benefits all our children.



## Who is RAM?



You are! The Richmond Association for Montessori (RAM) is made up of the families of Montessori students at Manoah Steves, Garden City and James McKinney Elementary schools, who work together to support the Montessori program in Richmond. We are an independent, registered organization formed under the Society Act of British Columbia. RAM was established more than 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 success of the Montessori program depends 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 professional teachers and administrators whose objective is to create interactive and dynamic learning environments for our children. At the same time, we need committed parents to volunteer their time to make this program successful.

The RAM Executive works each year to fulfill the mission statement to the benefit of the children in the Montessori program in Richmond, 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.

