

RAM NEWSLETTER



Richmond Association for Montessori – December 2020

If you are in the Montessori programs at Garden City, McKinney and Steves,
THEN YOU ARE A PART OF RAM!

Message from the Chair

Hi RAM Families,

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of our Newsletter this school year. We have now held two RAM meetings on Zoom. We thank you for a great turnout with many familiar and some new faces. Hosting the meeting online seems to work with our busy schedules, so we plan to continue Zoom meetings through the rest of this school year. Please refer to the dates in our meeting schedule to your right, or RSVP to those events on our Facebook page!

As many parents understand, **our Montessori program depends heavily on the fundamental materials we use in our classrooms.** RAM is committed to assist the school district and continue to raise the needed funds to support the classrooms and teacher education. We rely solely on the \$75 membership and additional donations from our Montessori families to help with our annual budgeting. 2020 has been a difficult year for many of us, we have reduced our income expectation as well as our budgeted spending. We welcome your help in donations wherever possible, but we understand these have been tough times.

On the donation front, we have received wonderful news that our CRA Charity status has been re-established - we will be working hard into the spring to provide you with tax receipts for previous years. **This also means that all donations for RAM made from now until December 31st are eligible for 2020 tax year receipts!**

We have chosen Eventbrite as our cash drive platform this year (you don't need an account to process credit card payments). **We encourage you to check things out electronically here:** <https://bit.ly/3qeBXdC>. Alternatively, we also welcome Email Transfers (print out the attached form and email us with reference number). If you prefer to send a cheque, we are able to make arrangements, please email us. **Our Early Bird Draw for \$50 Gift Card cuts off on January 5th so that we can do our live draw at the January meeting.**

Lastly, as the Holiday Season approaches, you can help support RAM through your online shopping! We have an account with **Mabel's Labels** for your personalized stickers and stocking stuffers, and we have an account with **FlipGive**, where RAM benefits a % of sales from your online shopping. More details in our **"Online Fundraisers"** section below. Now more than ever we are doing more online - Let's support our fundraisers this way as well!

Thanks for reading! Stay safe and Happy Holidays!

Jacqueline Ip, Chair (McKinney)

In the RAM Community

Upcoming RAM Meetings

January 12, 2021 7pm

RAM Meeting on Zoom
(Steves)

March 2, 2021 7pm

RAM Meeting on Zoom
(McKinney)

April 20, 2021 7pm

RAM Meeting on Zoom
(Garden City)

June 8, 2021 7pm (AGM)

RAM AGM on Zoom
(Steves)

*(If there's one meeting to attend, it would be the **Annual General Meeting**, help us form a quorum!!)*

Mark your calendars!

Kindergarten Registrations

A quick reminder that **Kindergarten registrations** are now open for siblings who are entering kindergarten in September 2021.

Please visit Richmond School District website for further details and deadlines:

<https://www.sd38.bc.ca/program/s/elementary-programs/montessori>

PARENTS, what can YOU do to help?

1. Take part in the Membership and Cash Drive

Our primary fundraising source is donations from our families! Our funding goes directly into the Montessori classrooms and program. Take part in the Membership and Cash Drive. We are required to maintain annual memberships (\$75) to facilitate voting on our budget and activities. While there are no minimum required amounts, every donation of \$200 or more will include your annual membership! <https://bit.ly/3geBXdC>

If you want to send us an email transfer or a cheque, please fill out our membership form and email us. If you process through Eventbrite, there is no need to send us an email, we will gather the information electronically.

2. Join us at our meetings and stay engaged.

Our meetings are generally held every other month, rotating between the three schools (hosted by the school's administrator). This year's meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Zoom. Check our schedule, visit our website and Facebook events for more updates!

3. Questions, comments, suggestions, or ideas?

We welcome your ideas, suggestions and feedback. Consider helping us with idea implementation! Email us at info@richmondmontessori.ca or contact us on our Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!

Online Fundraisers

If you have other Fundraising ideas that may benefit RAM, please let us know!

Mabel's Labels – Take things back from the "Lost and Found"! Personalized labels are great to use and fun as gifts. Click on our link or visit their website and select "Support a Fundraiser". Type in "Richmond Association for Montessori".

https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/

Free shipping, always!

FlipGive – Our campaign will run all year long, but our proceeds can only be collected once we hit \$100 threshold. Come help us by clicking through to get to your shopping needs! Visit the website at:

<https://scotiabankhockeyclub.flipgive.com/f/1172093>

Current cashback examples include: Amazon.ca gift cards are 1% cash back, Indigo / Chapters at 4-6%; Starbucks ecards at 3%; Sephora at 2%; Gap and Old Navy at 2%; wayfair at 3%; itunes at 2% and more! Click the link above for current details, join our team, download the app!



2020-2021 RAM Execs

Chair: Jacqueline Ip (M)

Treasurer: Daphne Yen (S)

Secretary: Aliaa Elkhatab (S)

Social Media / Webmaster: Sonja Starke (GC), Lydia Liu (S), Faye Huang (S)

Fundraising: Lydia Liu (S), Winnie Ng (S)

Steves RAM/PAC Liase: Justine Ross (S)

McKinney RAM/PAC Liase: *position available*

Garden City RAM/PAC Liase: Sonja Starke (GC)

Members at Large: Rika Motohashi (S), Doris Lin (S), Fiona Yuen (S)

Annual Cash Drive

ALL MEMBERSHIP
AND CASH DRIVE
FORMS RECEIVED BY
TUES, JANUARY 5TH
WILL BE ENTERED
INTO A PRIZE DRAW
FOR A
**\$50 GIFT
CERTIFICATE!!**



www.richmondmontessori.ca

RAM MEMBERSHIP AND CASH DRIVE 2020-2021

We encourage membership fee and donations to be processed electronically here:

<https://bit.ly/3qeBXdC>

2020 has been a difficult year, we have reduced our income expectations as well as our budgeted spending. If you're able, please consider donating with your membership this year.

If you're unable to donate at this time, there are other ways you can support RAM!

Please let us know if you have any additional fundraising ideas!

Who is RAM? If your child is in the Montessori Program, YOU are!

The Richmond Association for Montessori (RAM) is made up of families of Montessori students at *Manoah Steves, Garden City and James McKinney Elementary* schools, who work together with the school district and school administration to support the Montessori program in Richmond. We are uniquely structured to help our children's education!

Why become a RAM Member and stay involved?

- As a registered organization, we maintain annual paid memberships to stay active
- RAM is funded by parents, our classrooms benefit from our memberships and donations
- Our funding goes to support additional classroom materials and resources; bursaries for teacher development; and Montessori conferences and workshops

How can you help?

- **Renew as / become a Member of RAM:** \$75/family Membership Fee (no tax receipt on fees)
- **Donate additional amount any time:** tax receipts will be issued for donations more than \$10
- **Donate \$200+** and your Membership Fee is **included** (tax receipt for the **full amount**)
- **Attend** RAM meetings or volunteer with us!

To receive a tax receipt for the 2020 tax year, payment must be made no later than December 31st 2020. Otherwise, tax receipts will be issued for the 2021 tax year.

EARLY BIRD DRAW!

Get your RAM Membership Fees in before **January 5th 2020**
and be eligible to win a \$50 Gift Card!



GET INVOLVED THIS YEAR! STAY ENGAGED WITH US!

Support RAM and the Montessori program in Richmond.

Become a member and attend a meeting,

visit our **website** www.richmondmontessori.ca,

email us at info@richmondmontessori.ca, or

visit our **Facebook** (RichmondMontessori) page

We have a **WeChat** group (email us for the latest QR code)



RAM Annual Family Membership and Cash Drive 2020-2021

Please print this form if you are paying by cheque or email transfer.
For electronic processing, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3geBXdC>

Please print clearly: Circle your school; Garden City, Manoaah Steves, McKinney

Father's Name (or guardian) _____ Family Name _____

Mother's Name (or guardian) _____ Family Name _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

I give permission to be contacted via email by RAM for volunteer opportunities.

My area of interest for volunteer opportunities include: _____

	Grade	Division
Name of Child (1) _____		
Name of Child (2) _____		
Name of Child (3) _____		

for our **RAM Annual Family Membership**, in the amount of \$75, per family.
(Tax receipts cannot be provided for memberships.)

for additional **donation of \$ _____**. (Tax receipts issued for amounts over \$10)

for a **total donation of \$200** or more \$ _____. My Annual Family Membership will be included, and tax receipt will be issued for the **full amount**.

Signature: _____

Your completed form, with cheque payable to **Richmond Association for Montessori**, can be returned to your school. Email transfers are accepted at info@richmondmontessori.ca, please email a completed form with the confirmation number of your e-transfer.

Please ensure donations are made no later than December 31st 2020 to be eligible for a 2020 tax receipt. Otherwise, your eligible tax receipt will be issued for 2021.

For any questions or clarification, please email us.