

RAM NEWSLETTER



Richmond Association for Montessori – February 2021

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 3rd Edition of our Newsletter this school year, you can catch up on previous Newsletters on our website!

Firstly, I would like to send a heartfelt thanks to our families who have submitted their memberships and additional donations so far this year. We have received over \$5,700 during what has been a difficult and challenging year. We appreciate your generosity and support!

At the start of the school year, we decreased our expected donation and membership from our annual income of \$12,000, we instead moved our surplus from last year and some funding from our savings to maintain our commitment of funding to our three Montessori schools. We had to make an adjustment to decrease our subsidy per school from \$5,000 each to \$3,000 each. We remain hopeful that our membership and donation efforts will help us continue our \$3,000 per school subsidy, this year and onwards.

This year's membership and donation campaign started later than most years as we figured out our online payment and processing platform. If you haven't yet, *we have extended our **Early Bird Draw for \$50 Gift Card to February 22nd**. It's not too late to submit your membership or make an additional donation!* <https://bit.ly/3geBXdC>

What's New? There's a new addition to this newsletter: we wanted to showcase where RAM funds have gone within our three schools. This section gives us all a chance to witness our membership fees and donations having direct impact on our children's Montessori learning environment!

Lastly, we continue to look for suitable fundraising opportunities online and around our community. Locally, we have just partnered with **COBS – Richmond Centre** - mention "RAM" or "Richmond Montessori" and 5% of your purchase is set aside for RAM. We're also trying a one-time Belgian waffles event with **Damien's Waffles** - purchase by Feb 26th for in-store pick up March 11th to 14th. We have other local ideas to roll out and we welcome your suggestions as well. We hope you will stay engaged with us... Check back often on Facebook or our website!

In addition to local vendors, we have online partnerships with **FlipGive** (RAM receives a % of your online shopping or gift card purchases) and **Mabel's Labels** (RAM receives 20% of your purchase). See our Fundraising section for more details! Every little bit add up!

Stay well and Stay safe,
Jacqueline Ip, Chair (McKinney)

In the RAM Community

Upcoming RAM Meetings (on Zoom)

March 2, 2021 7pm

RAM Meeting (host: McKinney)

April 20, 2021 7pm

RAM Meeting (host: Garden City)

June 8, 2021 7pm (AGM)

RAM AGM (host: Steves)

*(If there's one meeting to attend, help us form our quorum at the **Annual General Meeting!!**)*

* COBS Bread Coupon *

[Click here to print](#)



* Damien's Waffles *

[Order by Feb 26th](#)



PARENTS, what can YOU do to help?

1. Help us raise funds for our classrooms.

Our primary fundraising source is donations from our families! Our funding goes directly into the Montessori classrooms and program. 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 and a tax receipt for the full \$200! <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 Tuesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom. 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!

Current Fundraisers

If you have other Fundraising ideas that may benefit RAM, please let us know! Here are our active campaigns:

FlipGive – Our campaign runs all year long, click through to get to your shopping needs, you can also get e-Gift cards!

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

Download the app, and join our team with code: **YQDJ7F**

Damien's Waffle Fundraiser – \$25 for a box of 8 assorted waffles.

Order by Feb 26th and pick up Mar 11th - Mar 14th (10am-4pm only)

[Click here](#) for the order form and payment details.

COBS Bread (Richmond Centre) – we have newly partnered with COBS Bread at Richmond Centre. For the remainder of the school year, mention **RAM** or "**Richmond Montessori**" when you pay, and RAM will receive 5% of your purchase! Click [here](#) for a coupon for a free loaf of bread with your \$15 purchase until Mar 31st!

Mabel's Labels – Select "**Support a Fundraiser**". Type in "Richmond Association for Montessori". Shipping is always free!

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



2020-2021 RAM Execs

Chair: Jacqueline Ip (M)

Treasurer: Daphne Yen (S)

Secretary: Aliaa Elkhashab (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)

ALL MEMBERSHIP
AND CASH DRIVE
FORMS RECEIVED BY
MON, FEB 22ND 2021
WILL BE ENTERED
INTO A PRIZE DRAW
FOR A
**\$50 GIFT
CERTIFICATE!!**



RAM: SUPPORTING OUR CLASSROOMS

For a few years now, RAM has committed an additional subsidy of \$5,000 per school (\$15,000 each year) to purchase Materials and Furniture in our Montessori classrooms. We decreased our subsidy this year to \$3,000 per school due to the effects of the Pandemic on our memberships and donations. We wish to thank our Montessori community for your ongoing support of enhancing our children's learning environment. Your membership and additional donations remain our primary source of funding. Here are some highlights!

The 3 pillars of Montessori education are: 1. The Prepared Environment; 2. The Montessori Materials; 3. The Teacher as Guide

Our teachers have focused on Pillars 1 and 2 over the past few years to create a warm, prepared learning environment for our children, where each child is met in their personal learning journey. Our teachers greatly appreciate the funds provided by RAM each year as the support benefits the multi-layered needs of the children.



Figure 2: The Montessori Checkerboard

"We have been working on adding a variety of Montessori math materials to their classrooms. With the support of RAM over the years, we have been able to purchase sets of stamp game and the checkerboard, for use in early intermediate classrooms. These hands-on materials help our students to practice and become increasingly confident in their math computational skills."

The stamp game (Figure 1) builds on mathematical concepts introduced in the early primary years. Instead of a hundred beads, a color-coded stamp system is used at a higher level of abstraction, to practice more difficult addition and subtraction math problems.

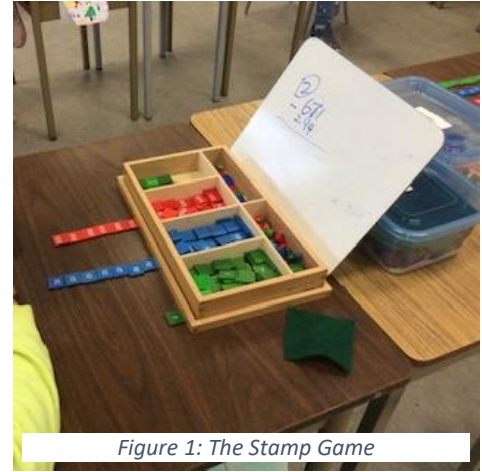


Figure 1: The Stamp Game

The Montessori Checkerboard (Figure 2) is a concrete material that allows the child to move along the passage of abstraction at his own pace. A child may multiply large numbers while skip counting on the beads. With increased use, math facts are mastered. This is opposite to conventional wisdom that says a child may not do multi-digit multiplication without memorizing the multiplication tables.



Figure 4.1: Rainbow Table

The Fraction Box (Figure 3) is such an excellent material to help students visualize and understand fractions. The fraction box aids students with equivalent fractions, adding, and subtracting, and multiplying fractions! Comprehending fractions can be a challenging concept, but the fraction box really helps to make fractions understandable and interesting!



Figure 3: Fraction Box

In addition to materials in the classroom, RAM also helps with the purchase of specialized furnishings in our Montessori classrooms. The Rainbow Table (Figures 4) has been a wonderful addition to our classrooms. *"The students are encouraged to*

choose a place where they can work where they can maintain focus. A lot of students choose the rainbow table, because it's tall enough to work standing up. We also use it for small group work and cooperative work. The Rainbow Tables are also a great space for teachers to guide students in learning conversations, individually or in small groups. This promotes a far more student-centered than a traditional teacher desk."



Figure 5.2: Rainbow Table