



# AMS News & Notes

## Let It Snow...Let It Snow...Let It Snow!

I may be the only one in Alfred and the surrounding areas who actually thinks this, but for me, the snow brings such joy. I grew up outside of Chicago until I was 12 years old, and I have such fond memories of playing in the snow as a little kid. My brother, sisters, and I would build snow forts, snowmen, and have endless snowball wars with our friends in the neighborhood. The snow brought a different atmosphere to our village. The streets were quieter. There was smoke billowing out of chimneys to keep our houses warm and cozy. There was a stillness even in the midst of snowballs flying through the air.

As an adult, I still love seeing the snow fall and watching it pile up on the ground. Coming from Seattle where I always felt the world was mostly gray, the snow brings a brightness and sense of wonder even on cloudy days. The anticipation of a coming snow storm often means making sure the car has gas, there is plenty of food, and candles/flashlights are ready if needed. It also means preparing to slow down; being acutely aware of our surroundings and our place in them. When we are finally in our homes, bundled up and warm, no longer gripping our hands on the steering

wheel, we can sense the quietude and calm.

Having the privilege to watch our young ones venture out in the snow when it's not too cold is such a treat. The sheer joy expressed when they frolic in the snow is apparent on their sweet faces. They don't worry about gathering supplies or about how they will navigate the snowy roads, they just see the snow as an opportunity to play and giggle and run around with delight.

Squeals of joy are not incompatible with the stillness the snow brings. Little kids sense the change in the world and they delight in it.

"I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending."

-Fred Rogers



View from the front doors of AMS

*Alfred Montessori School*

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### Montessori Marketplace Update:

What a wonderful event filled with tasty treats, a variety of things to purchase, and a festive holiday atmosphere! Thank you to those who made soups/pastas, sweet desserts, and to all who volunteered during the event. Thank you to all of our board members for helping in a variety of ways. Thank you to everyone who came to eat and shop. A huge thank you to Kara Amore for planning and organizing this event! Fun was had by all...and we raised money for the future of AMS.

# AMS Reminders

## Upcoming Dates:

- Winter Break-December 23-January 3
- Teacher Training Day-Monday, January 20
- Teacher Training Day-Monday, February 17
- AACCS February Break-AMS will be open all day for school age students from Tuesday, February 18-Friday, February 21

## Fighting Germs and Illness:

As we have seen during these past few weeks, germs spread quickly in our small school community. We know it is difficult to find care for your children when they are sick and you need to work; please make sure you have a plan in place if your child needs to stay home from school. Per our policy, if your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, your child may not attend school until he/she is fever-free without medication for 24 hours.

One of the best ways to stop the spread of germs is to make hand washing a priority. Keep reminding your children to wash their hands frequently and we will do the same at school.

Our staff cleans and sanitizes classrooms on a daily basis, and we also do a thorough cleaning of everything in the classrooms on our training days.

Hopefully, when we return from break all of the icky germs will have gone away, and we can have a healthy winter for our students and staff!

## Sign In/Sign Out:

Please make sure to write the time you bring your child to school every day on the sign-in sheet AND the time you pick up your child with your signature. This is a legal record of attendance, and we need to make sure we have accurate information recorded. If you do not sign in, sign out, or write your signature, you will be charged for the full before/after care time.

“There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community.”

-Maria Montessori



“Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves.”

-Maria Montessori



# More Interns and More Babies...Coming Soon!



“Joy, feeling one’s own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul.”

-Maria Montessori



Starting in January, we will have 5 new interns and 3 new babies (with one more joining us in February). We are busy preparing the infant classroom for these new little ones and are so excited for them to be a part of our AMS family.

We had to say goodbye to one of our work study students, Rosie, at the end of the semester as she graduated from AU. She started with us last fall and was such a great member of our team. Her next adventures will either include interning with a member of Congress in D.C. or teaching English in China.

In addition to several new babies, we will have 5 new interns. Three of these interns are from Alfred State, and they will be doing 400 hour internships. Some of their work will involve helping out with our big fundraiser in the spring (Art Auction-March 28), looking for possible grants to support our school, and time learning about how AMS operates. Each intern will also work in one of our classrooms during the school day, alongside our lead and assistant teachers. Once we know who will be

working in each room, we will introduce these interns to you.

One of our 100 hour interns, Megan, is staying with us next semester, and she will be joined by two more AU students doing the same amount of hours. Our goal in having more interns in the spring is to ensure that we are providing our teachers with the additional support needed in classrooms and our children with more opportunities for learning.

We will also have 8 AU early education students doing observations in our classrooms during the spring semester.

So...you will see some new faces when you return in the new year. Take the time to introduce yourself and learn a little bit about these students. We truly could not run AMS without the

## Upcoming School Age Project:

The School Age students are going to be working on some creative (top secret) projects this winter. If you have any of the items listed below, please drop them off in Kathy’s office:

- Scraps of material
- Felt
- Ribbon
- Yarn

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*Learn  
Grow  
Become*



### Alfred Montessori Full-Time Staff:

Director: Kathy Sherman

Infant Lead Teacher: Heather Biddle

Infant Assistant Teacher: Sarah Calhoun

Toddler Lead Teacher: Carol Prigmore

Toddler Assistant Teacher: Nalini Sundaram

Toddler Assistant Teacher: Nikki Fletcher

Preschool Lead Teacher: Daisy Smith

Preschool Assistant Teacher: Cheryl Quagliato

**School Age Program Teachers:** Ross Gardner and Thea Frost

**Alfred University Work Study Students:** Kelcy Beckstrom, Rosie Borquez, Trinniti Gunn, T'ana Lewis, Kayla Pembleton

**Alfred University Intern:** Megan Gent

**Alfred State College Work Study Students:** Kamau Denis and Holly Oliver

**Board of Directors:** Heather Zimbler-DeLorenzo (President), Lily Wolf,(VP), Earl Johnson (Treasurer), Kara Amore, (Secretary), Ann Rossington, Jerel Johnson, Sarah Moody, and Linda Belle

## Amidst the Hustle and Bustle... Take Time to Enjoy the Season

We all put a lot of pressure on ourselves to make the holidays festive and fun for our families and friends, but we often forget to take care of ourselves and slow down to appreciate this time of year. As you prepare for, and celebrate the holidays ahead, be sure to prioritize some time to just look around and take in the wonder of the season. Look at the lights around your neighborhood. Notice the stars in the sky. Take a walk in the snow. Sit in a comfy chair and just be present. See the wonder of the season through the eyes of your children. Enjoy watching

and listening and observing.

And...when the season leaves you tired and drained, it is, of course, always a good idea to lay down on the floor and take a nap.

