



AMS News & Notes

Interns from ASC and AU

Starting this month, we have three interns from Alfred State College who are doing their 400 hour internships with us. Each of these interns will work in classrooms every day, and they will also have some additional responsibilities, such as helping with the upcoming art auction on March 28th, planning curriculum for our school age children during February and April breaks, and learning about the general operations of AMS.

Mya Guild will be working in the Toddler classroom for the majority of the time, but she will be working in the Preschool classroom on

Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Naomi Matos will be working in the Preschool classroom and Kayana Webster will be primarily in the Infant classroom.

From AU, we have two new interns working on their 100 hour internships with us. Nellie Dennis and Lisette Portes will be working in our infant classroom in the mornings. Megan Gent, who interned with us last semester, will continue to work in the Toddler classroom.

We are so grateful for these students...as they are learning about working with our staff and students, we also

learn so much from them. Without our interns and our work study students, we would have a difficult time maintaining our ratios (teachers-children) in each classroom and we would miss out on the opportunity to have such strong connections with the two universities.



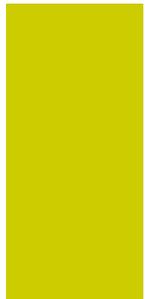
Alfred Montessori School

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Infants on the Move

This month, we have welcomed three new friends into our infant classroom: Francis, Lilly, and Mandy. We have a range of ages from 3 to 14 months old. Everyday is full of fun and new experiences. We are enjoying every moment, from walking to rolling and tummy time to sitting up.

Our friends in the infant room love to share their serious stares and smiles for miles. We also get to hear all of the noises, from talking up a storm to howling like a wolf pack. Sadly, we have to say good-bye to one of our friends. Lia and her family are moving to Toronto at the end of this

month. We wish them the best on their adventures and hope to keep in touch. Our infant room will miss our little fashionist, bows and all!



Toddler Times

February means Valentine's Day and that means lots of hugging! The children really care about each other and want to learn all those social skills necessary for being a good friend. Each child is unique and brings something special to the classroom. We also really appreciate being in Alfred and all of the people and businesses that make it such a great place. To celebrate this, we will be making valentines to distribute in the Alfred community later this month. Also, on Friday, February 14, we will have a special Valentine snack at 2:30 pm. If you wish to contribute an item towards this snack, please sign up on the sheet that will be posted in the classroom.

Please have boots and snow pants available for your child every day. And thank you for making sure your child has dry shoes to wear in the classroom! Just a reminder that if you need to walk beyond the cubby area of the classroom, please remove your wet shoes/boots. It really does help us with classroom maintenance in keeping the floors clean and safe.

This time of year tends to be a constant battle against all types of illnesses. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms, especially behavior changes. We are doing our best to keep the classroom clean and the germs under control. We greatly appreciate your adherence to our illness policy!

The About Me posters have been a huge success in the classroom! The children have been looking at them, individually and in groups, and talking about their



favorite pictures. If you haven't done yours yet, it's not too late!

One of the great things about our room is the opportunity to view wildlife. We get daily visitors of birds, squirrels and even deer to our bird feeders. The children enjoy observing their interactions and the animals enjoy getting some additional nourishment during these snowy months. We welcome any contributions of bird seed or suet to help keep our feeders well-stocked.

In January, we chilled out with our Polar Animals/Winter unit and have been going on safari with our African/Zoo Animals unit. We've also learned a little about the Chinese New Year which is celebrated on January 25. In February, we will be cruising through our Ocean unit and then slithering into Reptiles! Looking ahead, our Dr. Seuss Week will take place March 2 - 6. As always, if you have any books or items relating to these themes that you would like to share, please send them in with your child.



Happy Birthday to Revan, who turns 2 on February 4!

Thank you for all who donated items from our train display. The children and teachers really appreciate it!

Montessori FYI

One of the key concepts of Montessori is the absorbent mind. This is the time, especially from birth to age 3, when young

children are able to absorb huge amounts of information about their environment through their senses. They acquire language(s), develop motor skills, learn how to think, copy social skills of adult caregivers, and learn what to expect from the world around them. Our Montessori classroom and the works we prepare are designed to facilitate this process. The children really are like little sponges!



Preschoolers At Work and Play

We're having such a fun time in preschool this winter! After break we welcomed 3 new friends into our classroom: Marlowe, Forrest, and Liam! We're all getting into the swing of things as we get to know these new friends and continue to build on our learning from the fall. We have such a great group of preschoolers!

In addition to our Montessori works each day, we've had so much fun playing in the snow when we can, singing with Miss Rebecca on Tuesdays, and having group reading time with the books Miss Janice brings us on Fridays from the Box of Books Library!



A few reminders this month:

Please send food fully cooked food (only needing 30-40 seconds in the microwave). We can warm up food, but with all the children there just isn't time to

make things that aren't pre-cooked. This includes Easy Mac packages.

Please leave a pair of gloves and a hat along with snow pants at school with your child for outside play. We go outside every day unless it is below 20 degrees, so hats and gloves are essential.

Make sure your child has a full change of weather appropriate clothing in his/her cubby.

I'm looking forward to a growing, learning, and fun filled rest of our year!



Upcoming School Age Project-Supplies Needed:

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 on off in Kathy's office:

- Scraps of material
- Felt
- Ribbon
- Yarn

Alfred Montessori School

8 1/2 South Main Street
Alfred, NY 14802

Phone: (607) 587-9334
Fax: (607) 587-8889
E-mail:
amsdirector@yahoo.com .

*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,
Trinniti Gunn, T'ana Lewis

Alfred University Interns: Nellie Dennis, Megan Gent, Lissette Portes

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

Alfred State College Interns: Mya Guild, Naomi Matos, Kayana Webster

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

Calendar Reminders

- Teacher Training Day (AMS Closed)-Monday, February 17
- AACS February Break-AMS will be open all day for school age students from Tuesday, February 18-Friday, February 21
- AACS Spring Break-AMS will be open all day for school age students from Monday, April 6-Thursday April 9
- AMS Spring Break (AMS Closed)- Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13
- Memorial Day (AMS Closed)-Monday, May 25
- End of the Year Celebration-Saturday, June 14 in Nevins Theater (will be in morning; more information will be provided on exact time)
- Last Day of School-Thursday, June 18