



# AMS News & Notes

## Training...Transitions...Thankfulness

This school year, we made a decision to provide more training/planning days for our full-time staff. Many of you may not know that during the school day, our teachers do not receive any preparation time, so the board and I committed to schedule four training days. We know this is an inconvenience for our families, but we so appreciate your understanding of this need. The two training days we have had this fall have allowed for several hours of team planning; training in health, nutrition, and movement; reviewing the OCFS regulations; and just

as important, time to bond as a staff.

Speaking of staffing, our lead waddler teacher, Miss Shannon, will be leaving us to work at PawsUp in Hornell. Shannon has been an amazing member of our teaching team, and she will be incredibly missed. We know, though, that she will continue to be a part of our AMS community. Sarah Calhoun, who has been working with us part-time will now be a full-time assistant teacher in the infant classroom in January. Sarah has been a wonderful addition to our staff, and

she will work in the toddler classroom in December.

I am thankful...for our committed and dedicated staff, our amazing families, our supportive and engaged board of directors, and most of all, for the opportunity to get to know our curious, joyful, and energetic students. What a gift it is to watch these little ones grow up and learn new things each and every day. Thank you, families, for entrusting us with the care and education of your children.

With Gratitude,  
Kathy

## Waddlers Becoming Toddlers

We had two Waddlers start this fall, and for the first couple of weeks they spent their time exploring. They explored in our classroom and outside during walks and on the playground. This time provided me with the opportunity to really get to know each child and what sparked his/her interest.

Our daily group activities allowed the Waddlers time to develop friendships,

practice sharing, and learn how to take turns. In addition, they are using rugs for Montessori work time and learning how to walk around each other's work and respect personal space.

We have also been learning how to sign certain words to communicate our needs with great success.

Both of our Waddlers will be moving to the Toddler

classroom in the beginning of December, and they will be ready!



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*Alfred Montessori  
School*

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# Toddlers Toddle Through the Thankful Season

We are Thankful! This is one of the songs we learn and sing in November . We are **thankful** for so much:

**For our children**-their smiles and endless questions and many interactions.

**For our parents**-their continuing support and love.

**For our school**-a great learning and nurturing environment.

**For our community**: so much to see and explore!

We love our daily walks so please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor attire every day: jacket, hat, snow pants, mittens and boots! FYI, no need to buy expensive snow mittens; simple wool-type mittens are actually better for the children to use when gripping our walking rope. As a rule, if the temperature with wind chill is 20 degrees F or warmer, we will be going outside. Remember, if your child is at school, he/she is expected to participate in all class activities, including outside time. We do not have the staff to allow a child to stay inside. Also, be sure to prepare for One Call Now phone messages during bad weather for school closings and delays. If Alfred-Almond School closes or has a delay due to weather, then generally we do as well.



In addition, we appreciate your adherence to our illness policy and keeping your child home when she/he is feeling unwell. It really does make a difference in the well-being of the classroom!

With the arrival of snowy sidewalks, I'd like to thank all of you who continue to use the rear entrance. Please remember to remove your wet shoes/boots before entering the room beyond the cubby area. We spend a lot of time on the floor and no one likes to sit in a wet spot! We ask that children (and adults) remove their wet shoes/boots when going into the bathroom to wash hands at arrival so that the floor does not get too slippery. Also, extra shoes really are important so that we do not have wet shoes in the classroom. Children must have shoes on their feet at all times while in the classroom, including during rest time; this is for emergency purposes.

**Mark your calendar:** Parent/Teacher Conferences are planned for Tuesday, December 3 and Friday, December 6 during school hours. I feel it is beneficial for you to know what I've noticed about your child's development at school, so please try to schedule a conference with me. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the classroom. If you need an alternate time, please let me know.

We have been exploring our unit on the Human Body this month which also includes learning All About Me. Talk to your child about his/her place in the family and what makes him/her special. We'll be working on an activity regarding this topic in December. The last two weeks in November will be devoted to studying our Native American/North American Animals units.

The month ends with the Thanksgiving Holiday and we would like to celebrate with a lunch gathering on Tuesday, November 26, at 11:30 am. Details for this event were already sent home on an orange slip of paper.

If you ever have any questions about

your child's progress at school, please contact me at school or email ([amstoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:amstoddlers@gmail.com)). I usually check my email each morning between 6-6:30 am.

We welcomed a new friend, Jaiyi, to our classroom on November 5th. In December, we will welcome



Aimee and Miles, who are moving up from the Waddler Room. All of the children are working hard on

getting to know each other and learning how to work well together. We are Thankful!

## Montessori FYI

One of the major goals of the Montessori program is that each child learn and practice social skills. This includes learning to take turns, working with others, developing manners, interacting with new people, learning behaviors that are mindful of others and recognizing and describing emotions. When we are studying the human body, we read books and sing songs about our emotions and then practice making different faces while looking in a mirror. When we are outside on our walks, we greet people and politely wave to vehicles that wait for us to cross the street. We make socializing a total community experience.



## Preschoolers Participate in Work and Play

Our school year is in full swing, our children are getting more comfortable with each other ,and they are all gaining confidence in our daily routines. We have such an incredible group! They have had fun learning alongside each other about our themes; including community helpers, fire safety, and the human body (just to name a few!).



We had an amazing opportunity to take a tour of the Alfred Fire Station during our community helpers' unit. Fire

Chief Paul Weaver showed students the fire trucks and a lot of the equipment the fire fighters use. Our preschoolers had the chance to sit in a fire truck, and some even got to sit in the driver's seat! Students learned never to play hide and seek if they see a fire fighter approach them and to yell for help if they cannot get out of a building. Before leaving, Chief Paul gave each student their own fire hat!

We had our Thanksgiving lunch on Tuesday since not all of our students will be here next week.

Our table was set with a tablecloth we could decorate and festive plates. We had yummy food and treats!

### Some new information and reminders:

Although it's getting colder, we still try to go outside daily if the temperature permits. For this time of year, your child should have a coat, hat, mittens/gloves, winter boots, and snow pants at school every day.

Please send rest time items in a separate bag that can stay at school for the week.



We have been encouraging the children to clean up their rest things on their own, and we find this to be easier for them when they have a bag specifically for those things!

Please make sure all things left at school are labeled with

your child's name or initials. This includes extra under-clothes, snow pants and coats, boots/shoes, and lunch containers!

Please have all extra clothes in a bag/protected in some way. We clean the cubbies biweekly and want to make sure your child's clothes stay safe from the cleaning product!

Lunches should only need 20-30 seconds in the microwave. Please send food premade and we can warm it!

If you and your child still want to create his/her "about me" page, it's not too late! This is a project we're putting together so the children can look at these pages when sitting at the peace table!

We're so excited about the group we have and those who will join us in January as well! We are looking forward to a great rest of the year!!



## Alfred Montessori School

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*Learn  
Grow  
Become*

### Alfred Montessori Full-Time Staff:

Director: Kathy Sherman  
Infant Lead Teacher: Heather Biddle  
Waddler Lead Teacher: Shannon Smith  
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

### Alfred Montessori Part-Time Staff: Sarah Calhoun

**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

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

**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.



## Infants Growing in Leaps and Bounds

Our infant room has been a busy place this fall, even with just two little ones attending. With an age gap of about 7 months, our infants have been learning and growing alongside each other, with many opportunities to visit and learn with their waddler buddies.

Every Tuesday, Miss Rebecca comes from the Hornell YMCA to teach our little ones new songs and ways to make music with instruments and with our hands. On Thursdays, Miss Melanie from the Box of Books comes to read to the infants/waddlers. Our kiddos sure love music and story time!

January will bring quite a bit of change to our infant classroom as we will be welcoming several new

wee ones. All of our new infants will be within a couple months of each other, so they will make lots of new friends and learn new skills together.

