

September 2018



Welcome to our Montessori Community

We would like to welcome back all of our returning children and families and extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and families. A Montessori learning environment is like no other, helping children to develop within themselves the foundational habits, attitudes, skills and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning.

We are very lucky in Calgary to have access to three Calgary Board of Education (CBE) publicly supported elementary Montessori schools. In conjunction with the CBE, MAPSS, the Montessori Alternative Public School Society, is a very important and essential component of a Montessori education. Since its founding in 1999, MAPSS has raised over \$800,000 for our Montessori schools to buy essential Montessori materials, not covered under CBE funding.

We look forward to another great year and look forward to sharing it with you and your children. Parents are welcome at monthly MAPSS meetings and we invite you to please join us in as we strive to enrich the Montessori education of our children.

Upcoming EVENTS

Oct 4, 2018 – MAPSS AGM From 7 to 9 PM at The Cardel Theater (180 Quarry Park Blvd S.E.)

Oct 11, 2018 – PEACE night From 6 to 8 PM at Lake Bonavista School (1015 120 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2J 2L1)

Nov 10, 2018 – MAPSS Movie Event presenting “Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch” at Landmark Cinemas in Shawnessy S.W. & Country Hills N.E Doors open at 9 AM, movie starts at 10 AM.

Note – Tickets must be reserved prior to the Movie Event.

Please subscribe for our e-mail list to stay up to date on details of upcoming MAPSS events at www.mapss.ca/mailling-list.html or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mapsscanada/



PEACE nights are a place for parents to learn about Montessori material. Parents can see, touch and use the materials during PEACE nights to understand how these concrete hands-on learning materials are used to make abstract concepts more clear to children.

Peace Education in the Montessori Classroom

Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education. – Maria Montessori



Montessori recognized children as the redeeming factor in the evolution of humankind. In order to bring about a world of peace and tolerance, it is important to focus and teach peace early. Montessori believed education was the most powerful and universal way through which to reconstruct society; a way to transition from war to peace. The essentials for peace education are inherent in every level of the Montessori curriculum. With emphasis placed on the family of humankind and the interrelationship of all life, Montessori students begin to realize that they are not separate from the rest of the world, but are an integral part of creating a harmonious world.

Meet your MAPSS Board of Directors

KOLBY

Kolby is father to 1 wonderful little boy and a husband of 20 years to an amazing wife. Kolby was born and raised in Manitoba and spent most of his years growing up in Flin Flon and Winnipeg. After graduating high school in 1991, Kolby studied Criminology at University of Winnipeg for three years, then moved to Calgary in 1995/96. In 1999, he completed the apprenticeship program in carpentry at SAIT. Over the course of 15 years, Kolby worked as a lead hand, foreman and superintendent. Kolby is currently a Project Manager/Estimator for a concrete formwork company, a parent council board member at Lake Bonavista School, as well as the current President of the Montessori Alternative Public School Society (MAPSS).



What the hand does the mind remembers

— Maria Montessori

Kolby Kilmack – President 2018-present

STEPHANIE

Stephanie was born and raised a Calgarian. She is a wife and mother to four marvelous children. All have attended Montessori Casa and her eldest daughters attend Grade 2 and 1 at Killarney School. Her third daughter is enrolled in Kindergarten for fall 2018 and her youngest son will follow in 2020. Stephanie and her husband were introduced to the Montessori philosophy ten years ago by a work colleague. They instantly recognized that their belief system was in-line with Montessori principles. Each of their children thrive as Montessorians, and as parents, they feel it was the greatest decision they made for their children. Stephanie works in the Electric Distribution industry and has been fortunately employed with the same company for the last 20 years.



"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

Stephanie Martin – Vice President 2017-present

WAYNE

Wayne was born in England and moved to Australia when he was 9 years old. He moved to Calgary in 2013 with his wife and two children. His son has been in a Montessori environment since the age of 4 and attended Captain John Palliser up until June 2018. Wayne has been involved in charities for over 20 years and held fundraising events in Australia which raised in excess of \$150,000. He is the past president of MAPSS and enjoys seeing the results of what MAPSS provides to the kids and the schools.



Montessori has always appealed to us, it's like watching little entrepreneurs in the making. Developing and promoting respect and a great work ethic as well as shared learning is a huge benefit of the Montessori method.

Wayne Weskin – Director 2014 – present (Past President)

JACOB

Jacob has two children at Lake Bonavista School; Theo (10) and Walter (7). Jacob got his elementary education at a Dutch Montessori school and felt his children should also benefit from this excellent system. After graduating in Holland as a systems analyst he has founded a number of new companies but has sold off most of these and is now semi-retired, focusing on his family.



I think Montessori is a great system as it encourages self-confidence, independence and co-operation, all things that have greatly helped me throughout my life.

Jacob Groen – Treasurer & Secretary 2017 – present

JUDITH

Judith has been dedicated to Montessori education for the past 43 years in many capacities and roles. She has been a Montessori Guide (teacher), administrator, consultant, teacher training coordinator and examiner, parent and soon, she hopes, grandparent. In 1999, working with a group of parents, she spearheaded and co-wrote the proposal for public Montessori in Calgary and founded MAPSS. She continues to work as a Montessori Early Childhood educator, administrator and advocate. She fervently hopes that one day public Montessori in Calgary will grow to include a Junior High Montessori Adolescent program and a Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Program.



I am continually inspired by the brilliance, depth, and kindness of Dr. Montessori's vision and feel deeply grateful that it is available in CBE as a choice for children, parents and teachers

Judith Doucette – Founding Director 1999-present

HEIDI

Heidi is a mum to 3 children. Her son Elliott is 6 and started Montessori Kindergarten at Captain John Palliser school in 2017. Heidi also has 5 year old twin daughters, Alice and Matilda who will start Montessori kindergarten at CJP in 2018.

Heidi grew up in a Montessori environment, her mum being a Montessori teacher for 3-6 year olds. She moved to Calgary in 2007 from Ireland having completed a PhD in Science and spent 8 years working as a research scientist in academia. Since 2016 Heidi is employed as an Infection Prevention and Control professional with Alberta Health Services, working to improve quality and patient safety in healthcare



Montessori appeals to our family because at its core are two simple, yet profound truths; children must be respected and children spontaneously love learning

Heidi O'Grady – Newsletter Coordinator 2017-present