



SEPTEMBER 2007

## *Letter From the President*

*By Chris Coppen*

To me, Montessori is, among other things, about community. It's funny how small things contribute to that. Take the picnic at Coeur D'Alene Park on an absolutely splendidly gorgeous Sunday, September 9, which opened the school year. I don't know who suggested it, but we were invited to write on nametags not just our own names but the names of our children and their Montessori teachers. (Those who have several children had to write small.) Call it an innovative icebreaker, but it was a neat idea. People looked at each other's nametags and said, "So YOU'RE so-and-so's mom" or "Hey, my son was in that teacher's class last year, your son will love it!" The small idea of writing names became a way for people to connect - to share stories, share wisdom, learn about each other -- and become a community.

Maria Montessori formed her classrooms into communities -- not just of learning but of spirit and sharing and caring. By extension, all of us who are involved in the Spokane Schools Montessori program are a community. I am reminded constantly from my children and their teachers what a gift we have been given. For some, the nametag thing introduced them to the Montessori community; for others, it gave us a new way to experience it. Either way, it was apparent to me, in seeing smiles and hearing conversations and seeing children play, that we have a good thing going.

And that was just the picnic! We still have Lessons and Lunch, and parent nights, and an evening riding the Carousel downtown, and campouts, and especially the stories of how our kids learn, from their teachers and from their sharing with each other. Montessori is education, but about so much more. It looks like it will be a good year!

## *Teacher Recruitment Committee Forming Now*

*By April Cathcart*

As another school year begins, our SCAMC Board of Directors continues to find that the wonderful growth and development of Montessori in the public school system requires dedicated and persistent work. Growth requires small changes and adjustments to ensure continued stability.

The Teacher Recruitment Committee is the first Board of Directors to form. Proudly, we have two teachers currently attending AMI training. Our vi-

sion of increasing access to public Montessori classrooms requires us to increase our efforts to recruit qualified teachers immediately.

As you know, family participation in Montessori is strongly advised. I would like to suggest that your unique talents and skills would be beneficial in our creative efforts to reach out to potential Montessori teachers.

Please consider joining the Teacher Recruitment Committee. Giving back to our program feels great, and increasing

Montessori access in the public setting is a way that you can support the larger community of youth in our area.

Please call or email April Cathcart if you are willing to join this new and dynamic committee. We know that your time is valuable, and we contain meetings to once a month at most.

Call 768-2727

Email [aprilcathcart@hotmail.com](mailto:aprilcathcart@hotmail.com)

## *Funds for Montessori*

*By Chris Coppen*

I had a really good run this morning, a little drizzle, saw a coyote, and now I'm sitting at my computer sipping some Thomas Hammer coffee. Ah, that coffee. The aroma, the taste, the caffeine! AND the blissful awareness that by purchasing this coffee, I am supporting the Montessori programs.

A walk through any of our Montessori classrooms will show the special educational materials Montessori classes use. These are purchased by SCAMC (that is, by you

and me) for which SCAMC raises funds through the school year. But it's not just the classroom materials for which we raise funds. We also provide sponsorships for teachers training to become Montessori teachers. This year, we are providing sponsorships for two teachers, and for the program to continue (or grow) we'll need additional teachers in the coming years.

To raise money for all of this, SCAMC has designated three fundraising opportunities. Ah, that coffee! Most of us have already seen the flyers

about it that have been sent home with our students.

Another fundraiser is the appeals letter soon to arrive in our mailboxes. Finally, next July, SCAMC is pleased to co-sponsor a Children's Triathlon organized and promoted by Emde Sports.

Here's hoping we may all do what we can to support our kids and our teachers by availing ourselves of these opportunities!



OUR VISION OF  
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TO PUBLIC  
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### *Montessori Open House*

Paula Gibson-Smith invites you to attend an OPEN HOUSE in her classroom at Jefferson Elementary on Thursday, October 4th anytime between 3:30 and 4:30 to find out more about Montessori teaching, learning and philosophy.

Please spread the word to potential teachers, student families and volunteers. This OPEN HOUSE will be offered throughout the year on the first Thursday of each month at the same time.