

Teachers with Elementary II children



Meo O'Malley's Solar System Drama Workshop

Greetings Everyone!

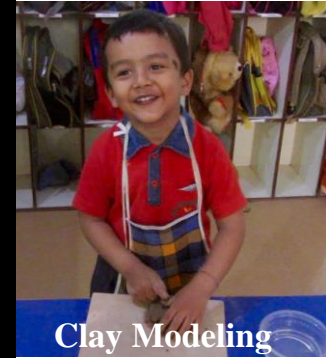
As we come near the end of 2017, it is time to update you on the accomplishments and joys of this year. When I sit down to look back at the year, I feel insufficient to present our developments. So many people have done so much this year, and they can never be acknowledged enough for their insight, hard work and love. We all know it is the heart and soul of the people of the Alpha Community that is the foundation of all that happens. Alpha Montessori is a place of joy for the staff and students alike. That joy is beyond words and explanation.

Here are a few highlights:

In November of 2016, the school was visited by Meo O'Malley, an artist and teacher, and David Bardwick, an artist and owner of David Alan Collection. Meo lead a 5 day, super successful, creative drama workshop for the children. She took topics such as engines, plant cycles, and the solar system from their curriculum and guided the children to represent them through movement in their own creative imagination. Children acted and danced, loving each and every part of the workshop. For most of them the design of the solar system became crystal clear and an experience they will never forget. Each day, they could not wait to be in Meo's class. During the same week, David Bardwick led a workshop in clay work. The children of all ages played with the clay and made sculptures and designs. They can't wait to get to the clay to make something, especially the younger children. What a creative act for their brain!

The children love to participate in cultural programs, consisting of drama, dance and music. It is a delight to attend one of these functions to see their full expression and the joy they get in their participation. Each child is given a chance to join in, so the field is wide open for the child to explore!

In the summer of this year, the school had its first in-house elementary training for the teachers. Ms. Anita, who received her Montessori certification for the education of children, ages 6-12 in 2011 and 2012 in San Diego, CA, USA, led her first teacher training for two teachers already working at Alpha School.



Clay Modeling



Did it!



Elementary II Classroom



Ms. Amita with the dancers



Earth Day planting



David's Clay Workshop



The curriculum in Math, English and Geography for ages 6-9 was covered. Many of the procedures were observed by the primary teachers as well. This is a huge accomplishment for us since it guarantees the continuation of the Montessori education in our school for this community.

The roof top Garden, completed in 2013 with an art room and a few plants, represented a possibility to connect these children with nature. It has grown into a beautiful garden. Each time I visit, I find it hard to believe how much possibility it brings the children. With care and nurturing, the plants and vegetable crops have grown. It is a place where the children come to be with nature. They play, garden, learn, discover, and also present their cultural programs, including Earth day on April 22.

The scope of the elementary education is growing. This year we are expanding the children's education up to 8th grade. It is huge undertaking, but our committed staff is encouraging and supporting this new direction. The children are very happy to stay in the school the extra 3 years and their parents are relieved that they will be able to keep their children in this nurturing environment for a longer time. In spite of our challenges, we couldn't be more delighted to have made this decision.

Our graduates are completing each year in top positions in their current schools and are clear about the direction they want to pursue in their future education. This assures us the quality of education these underprivileged children are receiving in our school gives them a huge possibility for life!

Our challenges are wide ranging; from government restrictions to finding enough of the right teachers. We are committed to the ongoing work at Alpha and this spirit carries the day as we grow, learn and live in gratitude. None of this would have been possible without your good will and your continuing support. Thank you for being our partners! The teachers and children are a happy bunch!

With Love and gratitude!

Amita

www.igniteafl.org



Making Braids



Lunchtime

Cultural Program: Traditional Dance



Cultural Program: Mime

