



Greetings Everyone,

2019 is yet another amazing year! We are happy to announce that eight of our children successfully graduated from 8th grade and are taking the next step into the world. They have been accepted in good schools, 4 into private school with scholarships and the rest of them in good public schools. It is amazing to see how much these children have grown. They have shown their talent in various areas including computer skills, dance, creative writing, arts, science, and leadership. We continue to meet with them through this transition period and help guide them towards success in pursuing their dreams.

To honor these bright graduates, the school celebrated their graduation with a cultural program. The entire school participated on this special day with acting and dances. It was a special, joyful day for all of us, especially for our second group of graduates! Our past graduates continue to visit the school to give us updates of their progress. What a joy to see them dealing with obstacles they are facing in the world and their efforts to flourish.

No matter how much we try to convey the experience of Alpha Montessori to you, words can only go so far. Words are only a partial translation of the growth and love that guides every day at the school. This year's newsletter features a masterful video capturing the heart and soul of Alpha. *Matthew Dimakos*, a brilliant videographer from New York and San Diego, spent ten days with us in India, taping the school's neighborhood, classrooms, staff, students, and the 2019 graduation ceremony. His inspiring videos are infused with love for the students in a beautiful portrait of this very special corner of India. Please, watch his video gifts of joy and accomplishment. They are NOT TO BE MISSED! Both can be found at <https://www.igniteafi.org/latestnews.html>. *Cont.....*





Again, we were grateful to have *Ms. Hulton* sharing her computer knowledge with the students this year. Along with teaching the basic computer skills of keyboard, touch typing, word processing, spreadsheets, drawing, and making PowerPoint slideshows, the senior children learned the history of computers, coding, and web page design. How lucky these children are to have a caring, thoughtful and knowledgeable teacher.

We are also grateful to *Bill and Meo* for their inspirational workshops. Bill taught the children how to read directions and maps – so very useful for children to learn at their age. Meo, as before, did magic with her creative drama workshop, which opened the doors of possibility in the areas of self-expression, working as a group, and movement.

While the community continues to value our special education (as is apparent from the long waiting list for the children to enter into the school), our needs have also expanded. Special child counseling, art, music & dance classes, lectures on the environment, and horticulture are on our “Needs” list. Just appearing this year, we now have a need for scholarship funds for our graduates who have gained admission into special schools for their further education. In addition, our teacher-training programs continue to expand for both new and established teachers. These programs are essential for the continued growth of the teachers, both for themselves and for the children, as they grapple with the challenges of changing times.

All of us at Alpha Montessori are ever so grateful for your continuing support, your gifts, and your goodwill. Without your assistance, this project could not survive, much less grow. Thank you!

With great affection and gratitude,  
Amita

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