



IGNITE: A Foundation for Learning
241 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, CA 92075

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Greetings!

What a time of change and inner growth!

During the time our Alpha Montessori School was closed by the government from March 2020 to October because of Covid, so much transpired. Most of the breadwinners for the families of the students either lost their jobs or had their incomes seriously impacted. Our immediate response was to help support every family who requested food and related aid with the necessities of life with the money donated by generous team of supporters, You! Thank you for being there for these kids and their families.

During this period, we continued with the education of the teachers and deepened their understanding and “delivery” the Montessori way of educating the children. The teachers discussed their questions and observations with their head teachers daily. I had weekly calls with the head teachers in which we discussed all aspects of this education in detail taking into account the fact that these teachers come from a background of a low level of education. This process has truly been a huge opportunity to embrace in a new way of thinking and acting in school and in the world. This freedom to stop, evaluate, and retrain normally does not happen when the school is in session and teachers have their hands full with the children. This was Covid’s gift to all of us. During this period the school was closed, the teachers came to school, practiced with Montessori material, and got their questions answered. The elementary teachers also provided online classes for the elementary children.

This fall I returned for a 2 1/2 week trip to India, after being away for a year and a half. Even though my trip was set against the background of heavy pollution, dengue virus, and a continuing threat of Covid, it was hugely rewarding. I worked with teachers at all levels to inspire them and increase their understanding of the basics of language, math, practical life and sensorial, time management, observation, classroom management and making materials.. We looked at each and every aspect of the program and redesigned the curriculum based on each child’s needs, starting from the beginning. The most fun for me was the afternoon spent in the green and beautiful roof garden, preparing pots, soils, and planting seeds with the teachers, learning they will pass on to their students

We all reconnected and reignited the spirit of the school.

The school finally opened in November! The children, the teachers and the staff are delighted to be back in school. Even though the children have been away for a year and a half, they are learning fast and they are very happy. 3 children graduated from 8th grade from the school. We are happy to see them go on to the next level of their education. All our children are following strict covid protocol of social distancing, face masks and regular monitoring of their body temperature.

Our graduates still visit us at the end of each school year and share with us their academic progress by showing us their yearly report. Most of them are doing very well. They still love their Alpha Montessori School and express their gratitude. We are all learning and growing together.

For you, we wish health and happiness in this coming year. Thank you all for your generosity of good thoughts and good will. We at the school are so grateful and blessed to have you near us.

With Love and Gratitude,
Amita