



## ABC-Stewart School

Founded 1969

Mission: We seek to educate and prepare each child to make life's journey as an independent responsible citizen of the world.

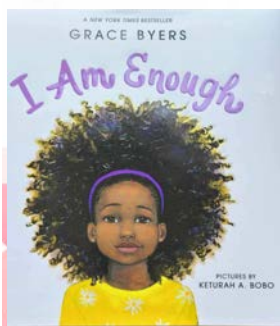
# MONTESSORI MESSENGER

## Introduction to Splendid Days

Did you know....not only do we have an amazing school curriculum, but we also have a wonderful before and after school program called Splendid Days for preschool kids. This feature will give you an update on what has been going on in Splendid Days.

**Our goal in Splendid Days is to continue to support the child's natural inclination for learning.**

We work closely with all the ABC-Stewart preschool programs along with gaining inspiration from the elementary classes. Each month, Splendid Days picks a theme. This month, we have been focusing on Black History Month. We started the month of February with mindfulness lessons on 'power', discussing what it means to be powerful. We have been reading books authored by people of color, listening to black musicians, and admiring other accomplishments and contributions of the black community. Our hope is to continue to study the world around us constantly and celebrate our differences and similarities, not just during Black History Month. We strive to create a culture, where all cultures are welcome, affirmed and celebrated, be it Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, or Black History Month.



***"We shall walk together on this path of life for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."*** -Maria Montessori



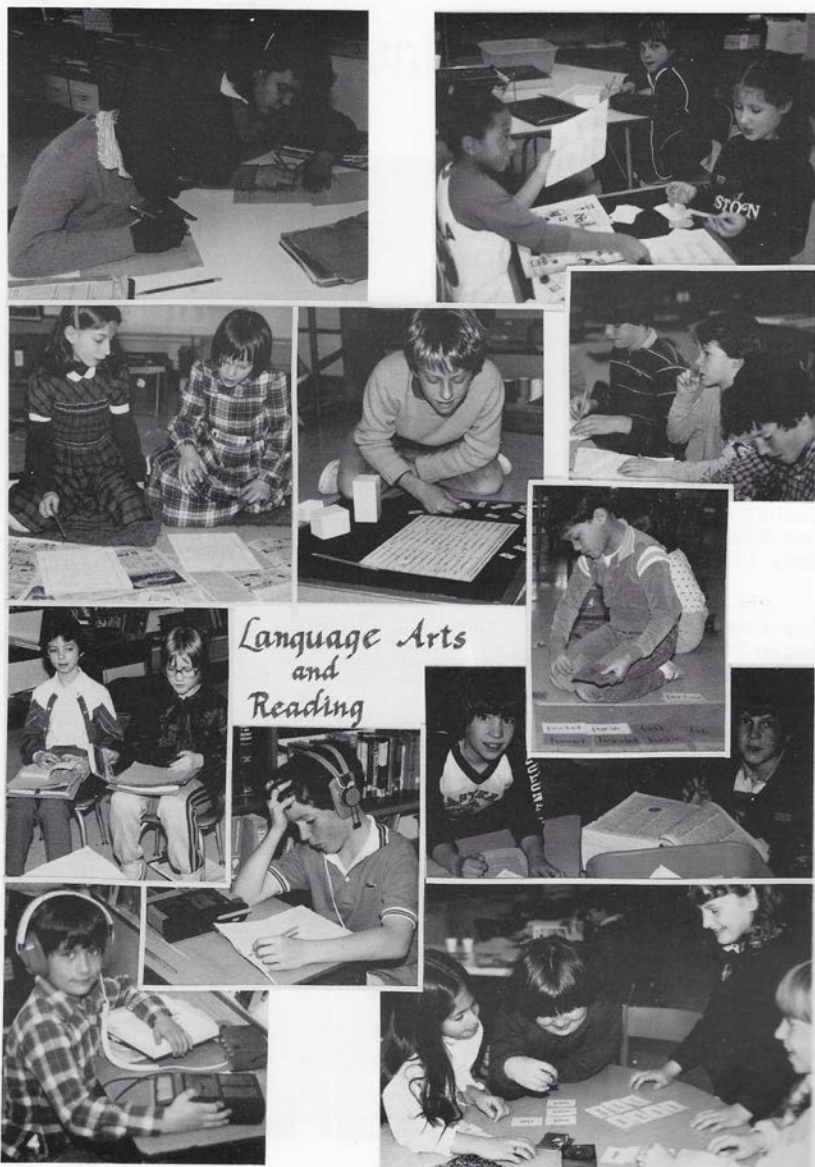
## ABC-Stewart School History - Part 2

In the January issue, you learned the origin of ABC-Stewart School, beginning in the basement of Merry's house. This issue will give you insight into how the school continued to grow.

### A Move to the Bakalar Air Base Barrix

Two years later, the school had outgrown my basement and buildings at the Bakalar Air-Base were becoming available for rent. We rented a barrix building 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. For the fire marshal (who was very glad we had moved out of the basement) we had to paint each wall with 3 coats of \$25.00 a gallon fire resistant paint.

## ABC-Stewart School History Part 2 - Continued



Pregnant with my son, who was born that August, parents would come to look at the school. They would return in work clothes with paint brushes and tools in hand. That is when ABC school became a family as so many chipped in to help. Parent, Julie Reister painted huge animals on the walls between the buildings. The school was beautiful.

So in 1971 we opened in the Barrix with 40 children in the morning and 40 in the afternoons along with a two year old class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings taught by Beth Grimm. That summer I hired 2 wonderful teachers in addition to myself.

Within the next few years I learned that I was just not charging enough tuition to keep the school going. In order to enable parents who could not afford to pay more to remain in the school, we made the school a not-for-profit 501-C-3 with the name ABC Early Learning Centre, still our legal name.

Clementine Tangeman, Irwin Miller's sister, had visited the school and helped us with that project. The Irwin Sweeney Miller Foundation and Cummins Foundation were

very generous with scholarship help for many years. Also, during these years, Nancy Rambusch, founder of the American Montessori Society, visited the school a few times and spoke to our parents in the evenings. She was such an inspiration and she loved our school. We took our kindergarteners and their parents to Spring Mill State Park each year. Our kindergarteners were learning to write and to read and more. The public school first and second year teachers were generally not real happy with us as our children did not fit the mold of a first grader ready to start to learn letter sounds.

In 1974 we held our first fifth Anniversary cake sale fund raiser. For years, we held this at a Vietnamese restaurant. Parents would bake cakes and Ted Turner and Dick Westzel were our eager and fun auctioneers. They would not let one husband purchase his cake for less money than the previous husband had paid. We made a lot of money at these every 5 year events. After 30 years, they became 10-year events and the auction included a lot more than cakes. Dick would actually walk out to the sidewalk and try to sell the cakes to passers-by for more money than was being bid! Those cake auctions sure were enjoyable.

## ABC-Stewart School History Part 2 - Continued

During this time we also opened a day time summer camp for preschoolers and elementary children at Heflin park called Camp Chickadee. We purchased large tents, taught canoeing, horseback riding, archery, outdoor crafts and more. A bus picked the children up at and returned them to Donner Park. We later held the camp on Beth and Lloyd Grimms property so that we could also teach red cross swimming lessons. As I look back on it I think we were a little crazy to do that but we worked hard, had fun and poison ivy.

## Alumni Spotlight

### Charlie Rentschler

**The photo is from the 1979 Halloween party. Charlie is the skeleton on the right side of the picture**

Having attended ABC Stewart from 1979-1987, I date back to the original defunct Army base campus and the days of the legendary Mary Pearl. Stewart was always a place with great teachers and lots of smart kids from different backgrounds. My siblings and I all feel lucky that our parents were willing to make the sacrifice-- including a long commute-- for us to attend.

Among my fondest educational memories was the emphasis on learning about world cultures and geography. Once you could correctly recite all of the names and capitals of a particular continent, your reward was an oversized paper map to color, label and illustrate with things like flags and representations of local natural resources.

Perhaps it was partly this that inspired me to travel so extensively and develop an international business career. My family and I live in San Antonio, Texas and I have travelled to 50 countries and all 50 states. I am a business executive with the Google Cloud division of Alphabet and over the course of the past five years, my job has been to build technology partnerships with companies like Wal-Mart, AT&T and Toyota.

ABC Stewart helped me foster a sense of self-confidence, the ability to think creatively and a life-long love of learning. Stewart provided an educational foundation that led to two degrees from Tulane University [Anthropology & Political Economy] and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.





# Teacher Feature: Lorna Clarke

## Reams Family Award Excellence in Teaching Winner!



Fall 2020

We are excited to acknowledge Ms. Clarke for being the recipient of this year's Reams Family Award for Excellence in Teaching! She has been a part of our Stewart family for the past sixteen years. Her passion for Montessori and educating young minds shines bright every day in her classroom. Her students and their families benefit from her dedication, compassion, enthusiasm, and her love for her job. ***"Ms. Clarke has touched our children's hearts and minds, by being not only an attentive teacher, but for also being welcoming with our family upon our arrival to this community."*** – Monica Ontiveros, Children's Garden parent

Ms. Clarke first discovered Stewart School when she enrolled her oldest son (now 18) in the two's program. She fell in love with the Montessori method of teaching and the hands-on approach to education that our students receive. She started out volunteering, reading with students, and subbing in classrooms. After many years of helping the school wherever they needed, she took a full-time position as a teacher in our Two's program. Three years later, she moved into a 3–6-year environment and helped to start the Horizons classroom. She is now currently a teacher in Children's Garden working with 3–6-year-old children. When asked about winning this award, Lorna said, ***"Receiving this award was completely unexpected, and not on my mind at all, as we have had such an extraordinary year of challenges. I fell in love with Montessori education when my children attended ABC-Stewart School. I am humbled every day that I work with my students as I believe I learn much more from them than they do from me. They are so resilient as our world is changing. In their conversations, I know the world would be in great and caring hands if children were to lead it."***



Fall 2020

Outside of her classroom, Ms. Clarke lives on a farm in Brown County with her three children, Orien, Ava, and Dagan. On her farm you will find sheep, donkeys, chickens, two dogs, and cats. Her love for animals is strong like her love for students. Ms. Clarke has often shared her farm life with her students by bringing animals to school for special events. Last year, when we had to quickly adjust our teaching methods due to the quarantine in March of 2020, Ms. Clarke's farm became a part of her classroom. ***"When ABC Stewart went to virtual learning in early 2020, Lorna far exceeded our expectations. Keeping the children aged 3-6 virtually engaged seems like a difficult challenge. Not for Lorna, she created the most exciting and creative lessons for our children. She spent hours documenting life on her farm. The birth of a lamb, chores explaining appropriate care for her dogs, waking early in the morning to feed and care for her many farm animals! These are life experiences that cannot be taught in a classroom!"*** – Ashley Dec, a Children's Garden parent. Ms. Clarke shares many more passions with her students beyond her love for animals. She loves to knit, is a nature lover, a plant hobbyist, loves cooking, and enjoys art. Her students experience all these skills in the classroom with her.

# Teacher Feature - Continued



Spring 2017

Our school is full of wonderful, passionate, loving, and dedicated teachers. We are honored to have ABC-Stewart be chosen for the Reams Award again this year. We would like to extend a big congratulations to Ms. Clarke for all her hard work and dedication to our school, especially this year! Congratulations Ms. Clarke!



## Kids Corner

### Valentine's Day Tea at ABC

Photos by Sarah Mae Photography

It's that special time of year at ABC - the Valentine's Day Tea! While this year was different, we were still able to celebrate with the students! Take a look at some of the highlights from each classroom.

### Two's Room



### Children's Garden



## ABC



### 1st Year



### 2nd Year





# 3rd Year



# 4th Year



# 5th/6th Year





## Cheesy Sausage Balls



Recipe adapted from Cooking Light Nov 2014

Whole grains. Dairy. Protein. These freezer friendly balls are a great make ahead lunch. Serve them with a dip for younger kids or as a slider for older kids.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup cooked quinoa
- 1 TBS cornstarch
- 4 oz shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 lb sausage (pork, Italian, or breakfast)

Direction:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. Combine all ingredients.
3. Shape into 1.5 inch balls (makes about 40). Place on foil-lined baking sheet sprayed with cooking spray.
4. Bake for 18 minutes until light browned.

## School Clubs & Upcoming Events

### School Clubs:

**Drama Club:** Wednesday 4:15 - 5:15 pm.

-Current session ends before Spring Break. New session starts after Spring Break.

**Art Club:** (1-3rd grade) Tuesday 4:15- 5:00 pm

**Math Bowl:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30- 5 pm

**Music Club:** Tuesdays 3:30- 4:15pm

### March School Events

Spring Break: March 8-19



## Spring Break Reminder

Reminder: If you plan to travel over the SECOND week of Spring Break and/or spend time with people outside your "COVID Bubble" or immediate family, your child will be required to quarantine and eLearn for at least 1 week before returning to school. If your child has a possible or known exposure, your child and siblings will need to quarantine and eLearn for at least 10 days.

### Newsletter Editors:

Stefanie Stafford, Veronica Turner DDS, Sheena Seger