

# ABC-Stewart School

Est. 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



**“Preventing conflicts is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education.”**

**-MARIA MONTESSORI**

# Why Montessori is Having a Moment?

*The Head of Training (Louise Livingston)*

*at the Maria Montessori Institute explains why Montessori is experiencing something of a “moment”. Article re-printed from “Thinking about Montessori – September 2021” issue.*

Interest in Montessori is especially vibrant right now. In the rapidly evolving, digital, post-Covid era people are realizing that there are alternatives to the “teach and test” approach that characterizes mainstream education and are looking for something different. We are seeing significant interest in the Maria Montessori Institute and record numbers of people are training with us.

Montessori also feels particularly pertinent in light of new guidance from the Department of Education. As early years practitioners prepare for the introduction of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework in September, many of those qualified in Montessori feel the approach is more relevant than ever. There is nothing in the EYFS that is not fulfilled by the Montessori approach. We believe that children are unique and need to be treated as individuals in an enabling environment specifically prepared for their needs, which is infused with supportive relationships with adults and children. When we focus on this and our pedagogy, the goals of the EYFS are naturally fulfilled.

The new focus on fine and gross motor control in the EYFS is especially welcome. Montessori is a “pedagogy of movement”, where helping children to have the physical skills to interact well with their environment is key to their learning and adaptation to the world; Montessori has always given great emphasis to this in the early years.

We were also happy to see the EYFS and the updated Development Matters guidance refer to executive function. Executive function is the mental functions that enable us to reason and problem solve; to exercise choice, self-control and discipline; or to be creative and flexibly adjust to change or new information. Research shows that executive function is well-supported in a Montessori environment.

Whatever happens at a policy level, the Montessori method will continue to develop and thrive, and with good reason - Montessori will always be relevant because it is not curriculum-based, it is focused on supporting the natural laws of human development. As long as humans are relevant, Montessori will be relevant.



# Kids Corner

On September 21st, our school joined Montessori schools across the world to honor International Day of Peace by learning and singing the song, *Light a Candle for Peace*. Children were asked, "How can you contribute to world peace?"



"Being kind to other people. But I already do that."  
- Indiana (Horizons)



"We can all be friends." - Scarlett (Children's Garden)



"I can spread love around, and bring friendship."  
Aahana (2nd Year)



"Remove companies from making weapons."  
- John Paul (1st Year)



"Be nice to people when they come to the United States. Learn their language and make them feel comfortable." - Norah (4th Year)



"If someone in school needs help, I would help them. Be kind to everyone. We are all human."  
- Reese (6th Year)



"Don't have a war or fight. Don't treat others how you don't want to be treated." - Veronica (ABC)



"I could spread the song and we can play a game that everyone can play so nobody is left out." - Kavya (3rd Year)

# Teacher Feature

## Amy Kiel



*“... a very rewarding career, and we have such special families and students that make my job so enjoyable.”*

Hi, my name is Amy Kiel and I have been a teacher in the Children's Garden classroom for almost 30 Years. I am married to my husband John, and we have two children who attended ABC preschool. Henry is 20 years old and is a junior at the University of Evansville where he is a student/athlete on their golf team. William is 18 and is a senior at Columbus North High School where he is a varsity runner on the state champion cross-country team. I learned about ABC-Stewart school when I was a nanny for a former Stewart student. I would come and observe the student at school, so I was better able to help her with her elementary homework. I loved the positive environment and teachers.

In 1993 I decided to get my Montessori teaching license for 3–6-year old's from Meca-Seton training center in Chicago, Illinois. This entailed spending 6 weeks that summer training at their center, many long weekends throughout the school year working towards my certification, and 1 school year interning under a Montessori certified teacher in the Children's Garden classroom.

Since completing my Montessori training, I have remained in Children's Garden where I co-teach with two other amazing teachers. I get such joy and laughter every day from these wonderful students. I feel lucky that I get to watch a child learn all their letter sounds and read for the first time. Or learn to identify numerals and then begin addition. Or pour their own water into a glass to drink. They feel special when they get to wash their own dishes. I enjoy hearing the conversations that these students have with their classmates and teachers. This is a very rewarding career, and we have such special families and students that make my job so enjoyable.



I started with Two's in 1991 and graduated in 2000 as I was heading back to Japan due to my fathers job. While 20 years have passed I still have many fond memories of Stewart and believe that the Montessori education made me who I am now, which I greatly appreciate. Back in the 90s there weren't many Asians living in Columbus but with the diverse students/environment and great teachers at Stewart I always felt safe and enjoyed going to school everyday. Many of the activities helped grow my creativity, like the Egg Drop contest where we would think of how to protect an egg from breaking while throwing it from the roof. I remember putting the egg inside a loaf of bread :)



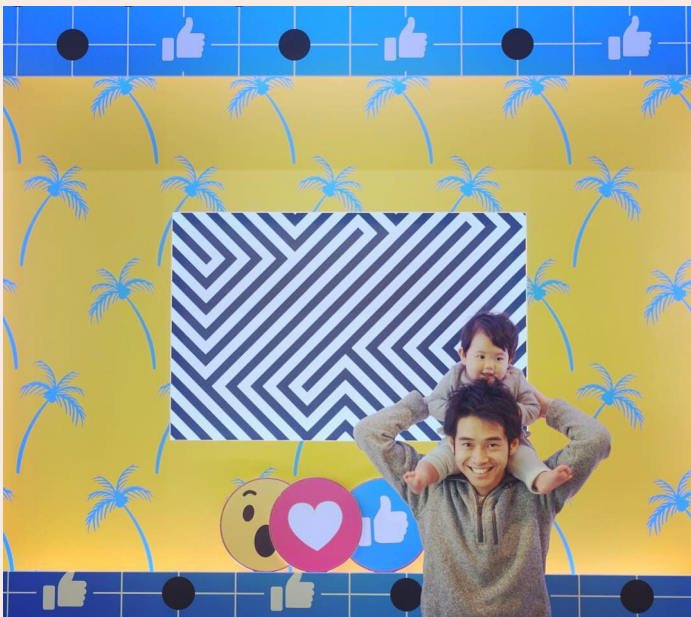
While I can't choose my favorite memory, some of my favorite memories are playing for the basketball team, dying shirts with Mr. Carmichael, causing problems and being called to Mrs. Carmichaels room, water day, eating fried worms, and all the songs with Mr. Maulin (I can still sing all the presidents names, all the states name even though I haven't lived in the US for 20 years.)

Now I live with my two daughters and wife in Tokyo and currently work for Facebook. The reason why I decided to work for Facebook was also related to Stewart. As I moved back to Japan, I lost contact with most of my friends living in the US but with Facebook I was able to reconnect with my friends and teachers, which also led to this :)

I would really like to thank all the teachers and friends that helped me develop who I am and for the impact you had. Hopefully I can go visit everyone once the pandemic ends and I will be waiting for you to visit me here in Tokyo!

# Kojiro Ochi

## ALUMNI NOTES



# Cookies for Breakfast



## Carrot Cake Breakfast Cookies

For a healthy breakfast, morning snack, or lunch treat, these cookies are delicious along with being full of whole grains, fats, and veggies.

### Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups quick cooking oats
- 1 cup almond flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¾ tsp kosher salt
- ¼ tsp ground cardamon
- 1 large egg plus 1 egg white
- ½ cup unrefined coconut oil, melted
- ⅓ cup maple syrup
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups packed grated carrots
- ½ cups walnuts chopped (optional)

### Directions

1. Preheat over 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Whisk oats, flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, and cardamon in a large bowl. Add egg, egg white, oil, maple syrup, and vanilla and whisk till incorporated. Stir in carrots and walnuts.

2. Scoop mixture into ¼ cup firmly packed balls arranging on baking sheet 1 inch apart. Press slightly to flatten.

3. Bake 30 minutes until slight golden. Store in refrigerator for up to 1 week.

•Note: you can replace the cardamon for nutmeg

# Events & Clubs

Parent involvement with the talent show and medieval days has yet to be determined due to covid. If parents cannot attend the talent show then it will be recorded.

## Elementary Clubs

Spell bowl: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Drama club (2nd & 3rd Grade) Monday 4-5 pm

Shakespeare Breakfast Club: (4th-6th grade) Friday 7:10- 8 am

∞ Dulcimer Club: Friday 4-5 pm

Dungeons and Dragons: Monday (5th & 6th grade) 3:30-4:30 pm

## Events

October 8th @1pm : Stewart Talent Show

Fall Break: Oct 11- 15 - Splendid & extended will be closed this week

Oct 22nd Medieval Day



# Special Days

## October events:

**10/1 Stuffed Animal Day (Stewart only)**

**10/8 Stewart Talent Show 1pm**

**10/11-10/15 Fall Break (all school closure)**

**10/22 Medieval Day (all school event)**

**10/29 Classroom Halloween parties during school (all school event)**

**10/29 Trunk or Treat 6:30pm - 8:30pm (Please look for details to be sent by email soon)**