



## 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

## ABC-Stewart School History - Conclusion

This month's newsletter concludes the history of ABC-Stewart School, bringing us to current day. We thank Merry for sharing the school's story and hope that you have enjoyed learning more about the history of our wonderful school!

### The Move to Our Current School Location

We needed a new building and more space. By this time, Merry had been able to attend Montessori Conferences and visit Montessori Schools throughout the country. Force Construction Company, parent architects Frank Adams and Charlie Budd worked with Merry and designed a wonderful Montessori building. Bakalar offered us the land for a dollar a year. We were ready to build.

Then our present facility, the old Kent School closed and BCSC asked if we would like to rent it. We met with the board a several evenings during the next couple weeks and finally the decision was made to move to Kent. My heart dropped as I considered how were we to run an open classroom program in a closed classroom building? *"The teacher, when she begins work in our schools, must have a kind of faith that the child will reveal himself through work."* - Montessori. How was this to happen in a closed classroom environment? We opened it up. So, in 1983 we moved into our building after removing walls, making doors between the rooms and much additional work to prepare our building. We then purchased the building which we now own.



We started here with ABC pre-school, the Two Year old room and the elementary school while renting out the west building. We gradually opened additional classrooms starting with Splendid Days, Children's Garden and Horizons. Teachers Larry Powell and now Terri Hileman along with Doug Warren have worked summers to do the many jobs that have allowed us to maintain our old building. Parents led fund raisers to improve our playground. Bobbi Kroot led a fund drive among grandparents to purchase new heaters and air-conditioners for the elementary school.

## ABC-Stewart School History Conclusion- Continued

We have had so many wonderful teachers over the years, most of whom have stayed at the school for decades. We have never been able to pay our teachers enough. We have had as many as 109 students in the elementary school. We now have about 70. So our goal is to grow the elementary school.

I look forward to seeing where the new director, Stefanie Stafford and Administrator Rae McQueary, along with the staff, children and parents are going to take the school for the next 50 years!

***"The greatest gift we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."***     ***-Montessori***

## The Walk-A-Thon

The Walk-A-Thon is one of our schools' biggest annual fundraisers. It has been a part of Stewart tradition for over fifteen years. ABC-Stewart has had many different fundraising events throughout our fifty years of operation. The Walk-A-Thon is one that has proven to be fun and engaging for the children while also productive for raising funds for our school.

We are a private non-for-profit school. This means that our school is privately funded through tuition only. We do not receive any money from government programs for education. For us to keep our tuition lower than most private schools surrounding us, we rely heavily on fundraisers to help fund our expenses for the school, classroom materials, and our teachers' salaries.

2005 was the first year that the Walk-A-Thon took place. It was introduced as an active way for students to raise funds while also participating in physical activity. Over the years the fundraiser has seen many different platforms. We have offered a variety of activities to entice the students to participate and raise funds, and many different rewards for the entire school for helping us reach our goal. In past years, we have had magicians put on a show, dedicated an entire school day to an outdoor field day, and rented Foundation For Youth for the evening.

Pie in the Face has remained a favorite for our students. Our teachers volunteer to have a canister placed in the hallway with their picture on it. Students and staff can place money into the jar of the teacher they would love to see get a pie in the face. The teachers who can collect the most amount in each building will be the lucky winners of a pie thrown in their face!

We encourage all families to be active participants in this fundraiser whether you donate funds, help your child reach out to friends and family to ask for pledges, donate prizes for our rewards ceremony, or donate your time to be a part of the planning committee. We appreciate all the support each of you give to our wonderful school!



# Alumni Spotlight

## Nathan Jones

In 1985, I started at ABC Stewart when I was three years old and attended through the 4th grade. Then my parents moved to Massachusetts where I realized how well prepared I was academically. I went on to graduate as Valedictorian of Chatham High School. Graduating from Boston College with honors, I was recognized as a Scholar of the College for my senior thesis work, one of only 3 Biochemistry majors so honored.

After graduating from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, I completed an Anesthesiology residency and a Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. I am currently a Cardiothoracic Anesthesiologist at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, where I serve as Vice Chairman of our department. For 2021, I have also been elected President of the Massachusetts Society of Anesthesiologists.

It all started at ABC Stewart, where Mrs. Carmichael and Mr. Powell amongst others helped foster a curiosity for math, sciences, and the world around me. I still remember hatching chickens, learning about pulleys in the science area, and learning about organ systems with a large cut out of myself. Who could have known it would all be the basis for a career in medicine?

I am thrilled to report that my oldest son William has started his adventure of exploration at Wellesley Hills Montessori Day School and his little brother Brian will be joining him there soon. I can only hope that they are given as good of a start as what I received at ABC Stewart.



## Rainbow Pinwheels

Recipe adapted from "The Little Lunchbox Cookbook" by Renee Kohley

Colorful as spring, these pinwheels will make you smile while filling your kids with healthy vegetables, protein, and fats. For my older child, I add thinly sliced turkey.



### Ingredients:

- 1 cup rinsed, drained canned chickpeas
- 8 oz full-fat cream cheese at room temperature
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp dried parsley
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp sea salt
- 1 heaping cup diced or shredded vegetables (ie carrots, broccoli florets, red/ yellow peppers, purple cabbage)
- 4-5 tortilla wrap

### Instructions:

1. In food processor blend chickpeas, cream cheese, onion powder, parsley, garlic powder, and salt.
2. Place mixture in mixing bowl, add vegetables and mix until combined.
3. Spread ¼ cup of mixture on tortilla wrap in an eaten layer and tightly roll the wrap. Continue with remaining wraps. Chill in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes or up to 2 days.
4. Use serrated knife to cut into into 1-2 inch long pinwheels. Enjoy!

## Drama Club

Drama Club, facilitated by Jerry Maulin, provides active engagement of reading and performing for grades 2-6. With a new play selected every nine weeks, the first three plays this year reflect the school's educational theme of Early Man: a collection of Aesop's Fables, The Hunt of Medusa's Head, and Pandora's Box. Due to COVID, the plays have been taped instead of live performances. Videos of these performances can be seen on YouTube at Stewart Drama Club. The final play, which is currently being filmed, is a Star Wars play Mr. Maulin wrote and performed in 2009. Next year several Shakespeare plays will be preformed. Mr. Maulin began Drama Club many years ago and has continued to lead it as an after-school club. A pre-COVID junior high performance of Shrek included seven former Stewart students, who had attended this beloved club.

You can find the YouTube Performances referenced above using this link: [Stewart Drama Club](#)



# Kids Corner

In honor of Earth Day on April 22, students were asked:

## "What can you do to help make our Planet Earth a better place?"



"Make Earth cookies and plant flowers." - Brynn (Children's Garden)

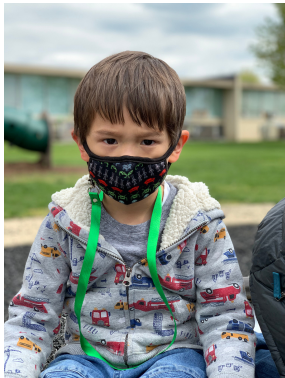
"I can plant trees in Africa" - Ruby (Horizons)



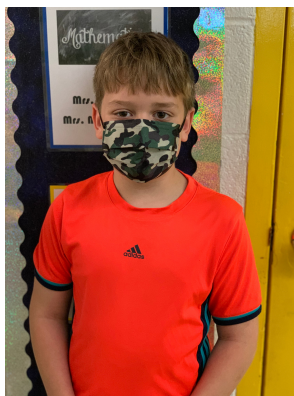
"We can plant flowers." - Ameya (2nd year Reading Room)

"We can mop and have a dance party." - Nico (ABC)

"I can help my grandma and grandpa with their garden." - Aarin (1st year)



"Organize a trash cleanup. Spread the word. Make a compost. Play card games with the lights off instead of watching TV." - Kai (4th year Culture Room)



"At recess people can volunteer to go around and pick up trash. I picked up some trash today." - Carter (3rd year Science Room)

"Reserve light by turning lights off when we leave the room. Go around to public places and pick up trash." - Audrey (6th year Math Room)

# Teacher Feature: Aimee McCormack

Hello, my name is Aimee McCormack, and I am delighted to be one of the math teachers at ABC Stewart. I am from Dundee, the sunniest city in Scotland, and I have lived in the US for the last two years. Before moving to the US, I obtained my Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education from the University of Dundee, and spent a number of years teaching all curricular areas in kindergarten and first grade in highly multicultural environments.

Throughout my teaching career, I have taught several students from diverse backgrounds, promoting inclusivity for all students and catering to their preferred learning styles and needs. I studied Montessori education at university, and I have loved

having the opportunity to study and apply it in greater depth during my time at ABC Stewart. I can really see the value of Montessori education, and the impact it can have on helping students become successful learners and confident individuals.

I am really passionate about creating a growth mindset culture in order to raise self-esteem, resilience, and attainment. This is something I look forward to developing at ABC Stewart.



## School Clubs & Upcoming Events

### School Clubs:

#### **Elementary:**

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

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

Math Bowl: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3:30- 5 pm

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

#### **Preschool:**

Art Club: Wednesday or Thursday 3:30-5:15/5:30 pm

### School Events

May 14th - Walk-a-thon

### Important Updates

- School program and end of year picnic is cancelled this year
- Classes are filling up fast.

Be sure to get your application in for the 2021-22 school year!

### **Newsletter Editors:**

**Stefanie Stafford, Veronica Turner DDS, Sheena Seger**