

One School – Two Campuses

Excellence in Montessori Education for Children Age 3 through Grade 6

CALENDAR

6th Year Experience

Thursday,
November 12, 2009

Adult Social and Auction

Saturday,
November 14, 2009

Open House

Saturday
January 9, 2010

ALUMNI FACTS AND FIGURES

Total Number of Graduates

161 alumni

Largest Graduating Classes

Class of 1994 and 1997
15 students

Smallest Graduating Class

Class of 1991
3 students

Average Graduating Class Size

8 students

1st Graduating Class

1990

The class of 2009 was our

20th

graduating class.

WELCOME

Welcome to the very first edition of the Shrewsbury Montessori School Alumni Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. It has been a long process attempting to form an alumni presence at SMS. With over 160 graduates and countless other former students, the SMS alumni community is quite large for a school with such small beginnings.

Our first step has been to compile a list of graduates and former parents and update their contact information. If you are receiving this newsletter, it is a result of these efforts over the past months. We are greatly appreciative of those who have offered updated contact information and hope you continue to stay in touch with SMS.

We currently have updated information from about 30% of alumni.

We hope to bring this number up over the next several months and will look to our alumni to help in this endeavor. As always, you can e-mail us at alumni@shrewsburymontessori.org. Also, please feel free to pass this newsletter along to any alumni or former parents you may know.

It has been a great pleasure for us to become reacquainted with the school. If you have any suggestions or would like to help plan any future alumni events please feel free to contact us. We are always looking for ideas and input. We hope you find this first newsletter to be informative and interesting. Your feedback is important to us. We look forward to bringing this newsletter to you in the future packed with more exciting news and updates.

Thank you for your interest!

Maria Chacharone Mihopoulos
Alumni Coordinator



RECONNECT!

Along with this newsletter, which will be published twice per year, we hope to have several opportunities for alumni to be involved in the Shrewsbury Montessori School community.

This fall all alumni over the age of 21 are invited to take part in the PTO-sponsored Adult Social and Auction "Opening New Doors" to be held on Saturday, November 14th at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester.

Please look for your invitation to this exciting event in the mail. In addition, there will be an opportunity for all alumni to give back to the community by helping with the PTO-sponsored toy drive for Friendly House in Worcester.

This will also be a great way for high school students to earn community service hours. More details about this event will follow.

This is a chance to:

- Meet new friends
- Reminisce with old classmates
- **See your teachers!**
- Help our School

We look forward to seeing all of you again!

SHREWSBURY MONTESSORI SCHOOL TODAY

Since its humble beginnings over 30 years ago, the Shrewsbury Montessori School has grown and changed tremendously over the years. One of the biggest changes occurred in 2005 when the school's owner, founder, and director, Nancy Corkum, decided to sell the school and retire after many years of dedication to the SMS community. As a result, a group of dedicated parents united to purchase from her the main school in Shrewsbury along with The Montessori Children's House in Auburn and create a non-profit academic institution. After a two-year search for a Head of School, with Mr. Lily as the interim head, the board of trustees hired Margie Smetana to lead the school. As our Head of School, Mrs. Smetana, along with the eight trustees, works with committed parents and faculty to continue the tradition of an academically strong, vibrant Shrewsbury Montessori School.

Although the business of the school has changed, the academic experience is largely untouched. Currently, there are five Children's House classrooms between the Shrewsbury and Auburn campuses. These classrooms are for children ages 3, 4, and 5. In total, there are 115 students who attend the Children's House program. The Shrewsbury campus also houses the Lower and Upper Elementary programs. There are two LE classrooms with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders together in each classroom while each of the two UE classrooms have 4th, 5th, and 6th graders together. The entire elementary program has 82 students enrolled for the 2009-2010. There are nine 6th graders expected to graduate this spring.

SHREWSBURY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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Before...

Renovations

- Improved safety & security
- New roof
- Updated phone system
- New windows
- Updated rest rooms
- New carpeting and tile
- Fresh paint inside and out
- Improved insulation
- Additional playground equipment
- ... and many repairs!

By: Pride Custom Building Corp. (Storm Repair)
10-840 Street, East A
Auburn, MA 01530

Industrial Floor Coverings (Metal Repair)
200 Main Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Maugel Architects (Dan Burton)
200 Apple Road
Warwick, MA 01093
(978) 220-0800

Living Colors Painting
60 Shrewsbury
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508) 840-0900

Tom Hayes
Handyman

Thank you Annual Fund Supporters!

- All of our Teachers and Staff
- Contributing Families
- PTO Volunteers
- Kirby Foundation
- Dexter-Hyde Charitable Foundation

We did it!

Special Thanks to
SMS parents:

Megan Bannison (Exterior painting)
Phil Partin (Roof)
Chris Sandusky (Trustee - Facilities)
Rupsali Sharma (Flooring)
Susan Treffer (Trustee - Development)

The door to our Little House at the Shrewsbury Campus represents so much of what the Annual Fund hopes to address in Auburn and Shrewsbury. Teachers and parents enter this door to a house built many years ago with a solid foundation, much like the Montessori education we provide, but the house and Auburn campus were in need of repairs, maintenance, and renovation.

We could not begin maintenance and renovation without committed funds to see these first projects through. Two years building the Annual Fund made it possible to reach this goal! **Thank you!**



...After

The 2009-2010 school year marks Shrewsbury Montessori School's fifth year as a non-profit. This past year, as a result of the tremendous support for the Annual Fund, the school underwent significant [renovations](#) and improvements. Some of the repairs and renovations at the Auburn campus included a new roof, new playground equipment, insulation, and preservation of the logs. In Shrewsbury, the school underwent quite extensive changes this past summer including exterior and interior painting, installation of new carpets and flooring, roof repairs, and the replacement of several windows. In addition, the downstairs restroom facilities were completely renovated with new toilets and sinks and hands-free faucets and soap dispensers. Over the past year the Upper Elementary classrooms were upgraded in order to accommodate older students. These improvements included new cubbies, more storage area, and most importantly, a new science area with high counters with sinks and upper cabinets.

As the school moves forward in improving its facilities for students and faculty, one long-term goal is expanding the school building. Currently, there is a long-range strategic planning committee working with the town and an architect in order to determine the best possible solution. We hope to bring you more information about this and any other future projects or improvements.

2009 CLOSING CEREMONY

On Thursday, June 4th 2009, the Shrewsbury Montessori School had the annual Closing Ceremony for the departing 6th graders. This year it was held in Remillard Hall at St. John's High School in Shrewsbury. The school celebrated the graduating class of 2009: Mark Joseph Barton, JScott Crompton MacDuffie, Julie Kyra Joyce, Maya Hope Silvia, and Lindsay Kathleen Tretter.

The entire Upper Elementary (grades 4-6) and their parents were invited to attend, along with teachers and former students. This ceremony was really a time to remember the 6th graders and their journey through learning at SMS. It was also a time to say good-bye to the graduates and wish them well in their new adventure that they will begin in 7th grade.



In honor of the 6th graders, the Upper Elementary students learned various songs to sing for this special occasion. Their music touched many of the people's hearts in the hall that night.

One of the highlights of the evening was the 6th graders speeches. Each individual graduate wrote a speech about their time at SMS and then shared it out loud to the audience. The speeches included memories and thank-yous to the various teachers and friends that helped them along the journey. They especially thanked their parents who really made it all possible.

The other highlight of the evening was the slideshow presentations about the 6th graders. Each graduate made a slideshow about him or herself which was presented on a projector screen for everyone to see. The slideshows included pictures from when they were just little babies to current ones. The 6th graders spent months working on these. Without the help of Mrs. Gagne, the computer teacher, it would not have been completed in time for the ceremony!

Later on in the evening, the 5th graders presented the 6th graders with their very own song that they composed with Madame Whitten. In the song, there was a verse dedicated to each individual graduate saying all things that made them who they are. The unique part of this song was that each verse was sung to each 6th graders main lead song in the spring musical, Annie.

Finally, the 6th graders received their certificates from Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Reagan, the Upper Elementary classroom teachers. They were also welcomed as alumni to the Shrewsbury Montessori School community.

The night was a special night filled with laughter and tears. After the ceremony, everyone was invited to the Manor House across the way for a reception hosted by the 5th year parents. If you were not able to attend this year, try to come next year. It is truly something special to see.

This year's graduates are attending the following schools in the fall: Bancroft School, Charlton Middle School, Francis Parker Charter School, and Grafton Middle School

Contributed by Maya Silvia, Shrewsbury Montessori Graduate '09