



Laurel Cottage

November 2010

Dear Families of Laurel Cottage,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, it is important to take stock of all we have to be thankful for and do what we can to share our blessings with others. What a gift Austin Montessori School is in each of our lives. Every day I am grateful that the twenty-four amazing children who make up our *casa* have such a wholesome and beautiful place to grow up in. I am grateful to be surrounded by colleagues who have a passion for the work they do and a sincere desire to make their labor mean something in this world. We are all fortunate to have the guidance of a school administration that is so widely respected in the Montessori community for their commitment to education for peace. And we are blessed to have each other—a community of adults drawn together by a shared vision of childhood and the role of education in the development of the whole child.

One important way that we can share these blessings is by donating to the Annual Fund. The resources this fund provides allows us to offer our services at the lowest tuition cost that we can. Not only will your donation help to maintain upkeep of our beautiful cottage and school grounds, but it will make it possible for me to attend professional development workshops as well as provide me with the invaluable support of mentor teachers and consultations. The fund also plays a vital role in keeping our community intact and economically diverse by providing financial aid for children who couldn't otherwise continue to be here. Participation in this fundraiser is more important than the dollar amount you can contribute because in order to support the high quality of our small school every member of the community must play a role.

We all hope that our children will grow up to be individuals of character and integrity—not only professing values of peace, unity, and compassion, but living out those values in their daily lives. Donating hard-earned money to causes we believe in is one way we live out those values. Please join me in supporting the continued excellence of Austin Montessori School to the best of our individual abilities.

Most sincerely,
Jesse Jahnke