



November 2010

Dear Pomegranate Cottage Families,

Austin Montessori is a bastion of pedagogy, upholding the tenants of Montessori's education philosophy. It is a place that values the art and science of guiding and learning. A place where the ideals set in place by a scientist over 100 years ago are daily reflected upon and aspired to. This is not your typical school; this is a place where we are allowed and encouraged to be our best selves. This serves us now and those who will come after us in the future – AMS will be here long after the children I have worked with are in college and beyond, with the same vision maintaining a space that instills respect for others and a lifetime love of learning.

I feel so blessed to have discovered this sanctuary and to be entrusted to uphold the principles of the guides that have gone before me. I stand in awe of my colleagues and their commitment to this work and their full exploration of the art and science and balance of being a guide. This is not just a job for any of us. This is our work and we carry it with us, always. We appreciate the school that encourages us and supports us in this endeavor. We as a staff have joined together in solidarity to show our commitment to this school and its standards through our own donations to our school's Annual Fund Drive.

No doubt you recognize the necessity of this fundraising campaign. No school is able to cover all expenses through tuition. Our school requires a lower than typical tuition in hopes that a diverse population will remain in our community. AMS absolutely relies on tax deductible donations, small or large, to the Annual Fund from all families.

In addition to helping us meet everyday expenses, the Annual Fund provides training, mentoring, consultations and community accreditation, and helps keep the standards of Austin Montessori School the highest among AMI schools. As you know from our parent meeting discussions, this is near and dear to my heart. I am confident in my work knowing that Charlotte and AMI consultants are consistently observing and giving valuable feedback for individual children, the overall community and the classroom environment.

Disregard that voice that says, what I could contribute won't help. Every person's contribution comes together to make the whole, building upon the other. Join me in giving to our school's Annual Fund campaign, only as much as you can, but no more than what is right for your family. Thank you so very much!

With the warmest regards,

Valerie Monda