



The Brandon
Montessori School
AT RIVER HILLS

The Riverview
Montessori School
AT RIVERCREST

Two Great Locations, One Single Commitment to Excellence.

Annual Report

August 2009

A Note From the President

"A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops." -Henry Brooks Adams

Each year I am more and more amazed by our students' achievements and our teachers' talents. This year was no exception, and the bar has been set even higher!

To communicate all the tremendous milestones over the past year, we present to you our inaugural issue of The Brandon and Riverview Montessori Schools' Annual Report. It is intended to share our strategic successes as a professional organization. It is designed to inform our families about where we've been and where we are headed as a

school.

I'm absolutely thrilled to say that not only have we weathered some tough economic times, but we also have grown our student body, school campus and curriculum to meet the needs of our families.

I'm blessed to be surrounded by the most amazing team of professionals. Our Executive Team and Teaching Staff continually astound me with their innovative ideas and positive energy. Ms. Lisa, our Executive Director, Ms. Laurie, our Associate Director, and Ms. Sherri, our Business Manager work tirelessly keeping our schools running su-



perbly. The heartbeat of our schools exists in the classrooms, where our entire team of teachers work together like a well tuned machine. Their creative lessons spark the children's curiosity and challenge them in just the right ways.

We thank you all for continuing to support us...You help make us the best!! *Ms. Rohini*

2008-2009

Milestones

- BMS named Small Business of the Year for 2008
- First graduating class of Riverview Montessori Elementary students
- Schools committed to quality: Reaccreditation under way.
- First Art Exhibit and Open House brings art and families together
- Enhanced curriculum keeps students busy: Accelerated Reading, PE & Rhythm Class
- BMS/RMS Teachers earn A's in their training classes
- Summer Voluntary PreKindergarten a huge success
- RMS Announces Toddler Program for Jan 2010

Proud Winners of Business of the Year

Ms. Rohini has been a long standing member of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Thus, the Annual Small Business of the Year Awards Gala was always an enjoyable event. It was a chance to recognize local business owners who made a difference in our community. This year the Awards Gala was especially exciting: The Brandon Montessori School was a Finalist in the event!

Beginning back in May 2008, we were notified that we had been nominated for the prestigious award. We were so thrilled and honored that our families had taken the time to recognize us. We were then invited to a Chamber breakfast to meet other nominees—over 200 nominees spanning every service and product imaginable. It was quite exciting and admittedly, a bit intimidating. But we

were certainly proud to be in the nominee seat.

From there, we spent many hours completing the detailed application. It captured many of our strengths such as teacher longevity, business growth, commitment to good business practices, and an element we especially appreciate, loyal families.

An independent team then came to see us in action. They were amazed at the caliber of instruction and personal attention the children received. They had "never seen anything like this before", claimed one inspector.

At the Awards Gala, our Brandon & Riverview Montessori team were all in attendance to share in our winning moment. It was a true night to remember.

We graciously thank our wonderful families and friends for supporting us over the years!



Ms. Lisa, Ms. Rohini and Ms. Laurie accept the Business of the Year award!



*"Our Mission:
To develop and nurture the intellectual, creative and human potential of our children through excellence in all our endeavors."*

First Elementary Class Makes the Grade



Building an Elementary Class had been a vision of the Rustogi's for some years. After many parents expressed interest in First Grade and beyond, the wheels were set in motion. Blue prints were finalized and building permits were received. Soon after, Kevin Suarez, of Spartan Builders, began construction on The Riverview Montessori School's Elementary Classroom. In July 08, the classroom was un-

veiled and 17 students began their new elementary school year in their brand new classroom.

This first Elementary Class accomplished remarkable academic objectives. Students' SAT results were impressive - far exceeding the National Average in every subject area!

All the students worked hard and deserve a big round of applause.



Staff Professional Development

Teachers at both schools have been working hard on their professional training. Renowned educator, Dr. Betty Ann Lue presented a workshop on the Montessori three-period lesson and child development. As well, all teachers completed 10 hours of Early Child Education in addition to the individual classes listed below:

- Ms. Rohini - Director Renewal Certification & VPK Standards

BMS Teachers:

- Ms. Danielle - 40 Hours of Child Care Training
- Ms. Jennifer - 40 Hours of Child Care Training & 15 Credit Hrs toward A.A Degree in Education
- Ms. Barbara - Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors
- Ms. Beth - Emergent Literacy for

VPK Instructors

- Ms. Sedoina - 12 Hrs Early Child Ed. - A.A Degree, Child Care Staff Credential Renewal, VPK Standards
- Ms. Laurie - Child Care Staff Credential & VPK Standards
- Ms. Cathy - VPK Standards

RMS Teachers:

- Ms. Lisa - VPK Standards & Emergent Literacy for VPK Instructors
- Ms. Sherri - 40 Hours of Child Care Training
- Ms. Alex - American Montessori Teacher Certification
- Ms. Maria - 40 Hours of Child Care Training
- Ms. Dominika - 40 Hours of Child Care Training

New Lessons

Students at both schools truly enjoyed the weekly additions to their studies. Among the favorites were the biweekly PE classes that motivated them to stay fit. Ms. Nita at RMS and Ms. Lisa at BMS had the children in ship shape. Also new this year, Ms. Wanda's Rhythm Class was a big hit to say the least. The older students at both schools were also introduced to Accelerated Reading. Many students advanced their reading skills dramatically. A well-rounded curriculum continues to be a priority for the schools. **(Below - RMS Elementary students warm up for PE)**



Riverview Montessori Builds Toddler Wing

Our Riverview Montessori School is excited to announce a new Toddler Program, with the grand opening scheduled for January 2010. The required capital is earmarked and financing has been secured through long time business champion, Jerry Kyle, CEO of Platinum Bank.

A RMS Montessori toddler will be surrounded by nurturing teachers in a unique environment that promotes development of their social skills, emotional growth, physical coordination and cognitive preparation. This toddler program promises to be the best in the region with highly trained and

skilled teachers. The Montessori environment will offer rich language experiences, meaningful social interactions and will inspire spontaneous moments of personal growth geared to each individual child. RMS will become a Montessori community of children ages 2 to 9 years.

Giving Back...Students Learn A Lesson For Life



We helped our friend Jacob with CF

The entire "Montessori Family", fondly referring to our parents, children and staff, collectively pulled together to make a difference in the lives of others. All told, \$5,500 was raised to help children battling cancer, leukemia and cystic fibrosis (CF). Children at Everyday Blessings Orphanage were thrilled to receive

over \$300 of brand new books, earned from the schools' book fair sales. As well, BMS and RMS students enjoyed lessons about our fragile rainforests and then rallied to save 4 acres of this endangered land. These kinds of lessons go beyond education, they help to grow good citizens. Well done all! More great efforts continue next year.

