



Birdsong

As 2010 quickly speeds to a close, I reflect on how quickly decades go by while I experience daily life with the children: their amazing cognitive abilities, their true joy in learning, their emotional tenderness, and their heartfelt desire to help others.

I was a mere 24-years-old, out discovering what this new profession had in store for me, when Donna first interviewed me for a guide position in Austin. The school was quite young as well and we grew together. It was through Austin Montessori School and its deep understanding of Dr. Montessori's work that I became an adult.

I was an import from Minnesota via Brownsville who had, through the deep desire to be around children, stumbled on a life work so immense it continues to be awe-inspiring thirty plus years later! This work is not something left at the office at the end of the day; it is a whole life experience assisting the whole child.

Each day Sasha and I contemplate what transpired, and we are humbled and inspired by the children and their work. There is growth and hurdles are overcome regularly. We see confidence being built in new developmental avenues; as well as affections, feelings, and understanding expressed. We examine the children's individual needs; try new strategies and hopeful solutions to make life in our community more unified, cohesive, and consistent. It is a work that changes daily, one that offers much contemplation and tremendous reward.

I ask that you join me in making a contribution to the Austin Montessori School annual fund. The annual fund has helped this once small Montessori school grow into the nationally-known school it is today, one that provides the best possible environment for children to develop and learn. The annual fund assists guides in furthering our work with the children through the annual Refresher Courses and conferences, the purchase of classroom Montessori materials, and physical improvements to the buildings and grounds.

I want to thank those of you who have already taken the opportunity to contribute. It is through the annual fund and the wonderful parent body that Austin Montessori School is able to continue to assist in developing the full potential of each of child. I look forward to Birdsong reaching 100% participation by the end of the year.

Let's make this year's annual fund drive a success!

Mary Long Geil