



Association Montessori Internationale

Elementary Alumni Association



AMI-EAA is a member-run, professional association of AMI elementary teachers and trainers, provides a supportive community for the exchange of ideas and promotes the principles of Montessori education.



From the board

- Bold Goal Update
- Annual Financial Report
- Information about the 2018 Summer Conference in Boulder, CO

Who's on Board

- Allyson Creel, Chair
- Gayle Waner, Vice Chair & Treasurer
- Rachel Eberhard, Conference Coordinator
- Amanda Cade, Secretary, Membership & Archives
- Anna Discenzo, Publications, Communications
- Wendy Tye, Outreach Coordinator

What's Inside

- **How to make Intention Hearts**
- **A Song to Share**

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Got work?

Do you have something to share with your colleagues? Send your photos, stories, ideas, special extensions, or questions for inclusion in the next edition.

communications@ami-eea.org

Thank You

To all of our members who contributed their time and effort to make our summer gathering a great success. Thank you to the writers contained in these pages, the volunteers who facilitated sharing sessions, those who organized rides, contributed to the closing ceremony, and all the many tasks that make a conference run smoothly and well. Each of our hands contributed to a memorable experience for everyone.

Coming soon...

Reflections on the 2018 AMI-USA Refresher Course from Phoenix.

Looking forward to AMI-EAA Summer Conference in Boulder, CO

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

January 2018

As I write this a new calendar year has begun. I enjoy telling the children stories of the origins of the names of the months of the year. I particularly enjoy the story of January because of the way the past and the future are linked.

A Roman ruler, who decided to add two months to the year, looked for names for the new months. He settled on “Januarius” based on the name of the god Janus. This god had two faces, one which looked into the past, and another which looked toward the future. During this month, the ruler thought that his people could look back at the past year, and look forward to the year ahead.

This story has a personal meaning for me this year my time on the EAA board comes to a close.

I look back and I see the faces of so many passionate and dedicated Montessorians who work tirelessly to guide the development of children. It is from this group that I have learned not just how to be a stronger teacher, but how to be a better person. I am reminded of all the cities, states, and countries this work has brought me to. And in each and every place there are people championing the work of Dr. Montessori and striving to make Montessori education accessible to more children.

As I look forward I see hope and strength. I have hope that the voice of the Montessori movement will grow louder and that more children will be able to learn in environments designed to meet their developmental needs. I see strength in the collective wisdom of our membership and our commitment to supporting teachers in this work.

As I look forward I see love.

Best wishes for a peaceful start to 2018.

Warmly,
Allyson



News and Notes from Planet AMI

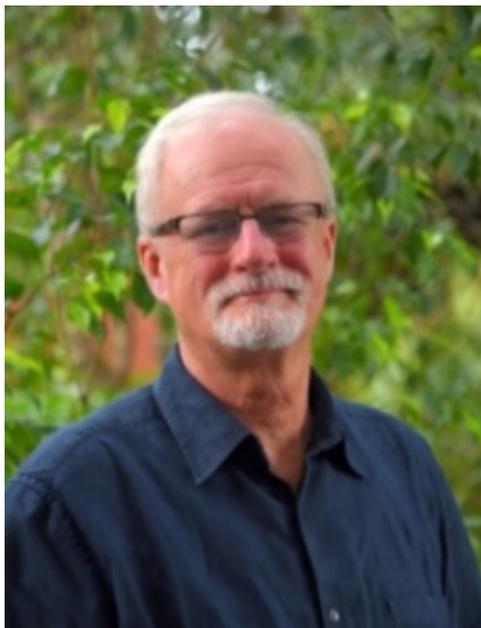
"Montessori Authority, Experience, Confidence and Commitment are our key words for 2018."

AMI President Philip O'Brien reflects and shares his hopes.

Reflecting on 2017 I am struck by how much interest has been shown in education. Acknowledgements abound of the tremendous achievement in getting more children to school, and of the significant investment in early childhood care, together with tabling the importance of the continuum of education in many international fora.

Major international organisations have joined a growing chorus of positive and engaged voices making a case for rethinking the approach to education. Those voices resonate with ours; for they, like us, recognise the importance of a child's start in life. They acknowledge that many more children have access to pre-school than ever before. They recognise, as we most emphatically do, that the outcomes of education need to be measured in human and social terms, not just in academic ones, and that children need to be front and centre in the education process, whether they are babies, toddlers, elementary school pupils, adolescents, or students in higher education. And our Montessori voices can be heard.

We can speak with **authority**, as we are increasingly provided with the evidence that the Montessori approach can mitigate the effect of low income and disadvantage on children's education and development.



Authority

the power to influence others, especially because of one's recognised knowledge about something

Experience

the knowledge or skill acquired by a period of practical experience of something, especially that gained in a particular profession

Confidence

the feeling or belief that one can have faith in or rely on someone or something

Commitment

the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity

We can speak from **experience**.

For more than 100 years, our teachers, with tremendous dedication, and often not great material reward, have provided enabling environments for hundreds of thousands of children; and we now know that a Montessori approach can be, and has been, successfully adapted to disadvantaged communities.

We can speak with **confidence**, in the knowledge that the demand for Montessori education is growing worldwide; that there is an AMI presence in one form or another, in over 130 countries; and that in the past 7 years, the number of our national affiliates has grown from 20 to 38, across 31 countries.

We can speak from **commitment**, because children not having access to a quality education flies in the face of Maria Montessori's commitment to the realisation of child rights. The still pervasive violence of today's world is at odds with her commitment to a just and peaceful one.

All of us who carry the name Montessori in our qualifications, our organisations or affiliations, have inherited those commitments.

Maria Montessori was by any standards a tremendous agent for social change in her time.

And change is still needed. Today over 250 million children are not in school and many millions more are in schools that are not places where children can learn, including in high-income countries, where 1 in 5 children aged 15 do not reach what is termed baseline competency in reading, math and science. And 1 in 5 live in poverty. And our world is poorer for that.

Our work goes beyond the classrooms. We must be effective advocates for all children helping ensure that all of them have access to a quality education, one which helps build a greater commitment to peace.

2018 should be a year of hope for every child, and I look forward to working with all of you to play our part in making it so.



Philip D. O'Brien
President
Association Montessori Internationale

Register for AGM and Montessori Forum
April 13-15, 2018

<https://ami-global.org/registration-agm-montessori-forum-weekend-13-15-april-2018-amsterdam>



Territory: Field Notes

News from colleagues on this continent and beyond



Congratulations to Ana Camilla Jimenez Borbolla on becoming an AMI Elementary Trainer.

AMI-EAA Annual Business Meeting

Please join the AMI-EAA board at our Annual Business Meeting at the 2018 AMI-USA Refresher Course in Phoenix, AZ on Sunday, February 18, 2018 from 7:30-8:45. Information on location in the hotel will be available at registration.

It is a wonderful opportunity to hear what the Board has been working on this year and to share questions, thoughts, and ideas. Come meet the new board members, Melinda Nielsen and Regina Sokolowski (née Cyvas) and say thank you to retiring board members Allyson Creel (Chair) and Wendy Tye (Outreach Coordinator).

Bold Goal Update

by Wendy Tye-AMI-EAA Outreach Coordinator

On behalf of AMI-EAA, both Gayle Waner and myself attend the Bold Goal meeting in Seattle, WA. There was a pretty extensive representation of AMI elementary in the room; there were elementary trainers, EToT's, and guides. Some of the elementary people attending included:

Liesl Taylor, Amy Eshelby, Chris Trostel, Ellen Lebitz, Debbie Riordan, and seven elementary trainers: J MacKeever, Elise Huneke Stone, Alison Awes, Allyn Travis, Jamie Rue, Crol Hicks, and Gabriela Lopez Gomez.

The host school, Pacific Crest, was beautifully adorned with children's decorations and included welcome notes as well as special drawings made just for us. One offering was a poem written by a member of the school's adolescent community, Grant Fellows. Grant used a quote from *The Secret of Childhood* by Maria Montessori.

MONTESSORI

When the child walks **In**
to the Montessori classroom, **the**
child's **mind**
is full **of**
new possibilities. **the**
child's hands trace the sandpaper letters, the **child**
her face set in concentration, walks the line. **we**
must protect the place so that she **may**
grow up to **find**
her place in **the**
world. In her lies the **key**
to happiness, to hope, **to**
peace, to **progress**



Word and Song

Resources from off the shelf and songs of note



Weeping Pilgrim by Natalie Merchant

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqlG4_xXYFI

If you see them father
please tell them
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

Well I weep and I moan
and I move slowly on
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

If you see them sister
please tell them
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

Well I weep and I moan
and I move slowly on
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

If you see them brother
please tell them
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

Well I weep and I moan
and I move slowly on
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

If you see them mother
please tell them
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

Well I weep and I moan
and I move slowly on
I'm a poor mourning pilgrim
bound for Canaan land

*In a discussion with Chris Trostel, she shared that you can change "mourning" to "hoping" and 'weep and moan' to 'hope and love'.

Here is a link to Natalie Merchant's Tiny Desk Concert at NPR. Start at 18:50 to hear her thoughts on singing at work and watch how she guides the NPR staff to sing with her. Look familiar?!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOdsAE8Mq7I&sns=em>

Collaboration

Activities, Stories, and Ideas from your minds to our classrooms

Intention Hearts

by Anna Discenzo

How I came up with the idea-

I found some precut felt squares on Amazon one night. I thought that they would be perfect to make a craft with when we returned from Winter Break.

I live in Cleveland, OH and January is typically cold, grey, and pretty dreary. It is a great time to introduce new handwork and to build on our sewing skills. In the spirit of a new year, I thought it might be nice for the children to reflect on what they would want to set as their intentions for the year. Then it hit me: they could make Intention Hearts—felt hearts that held their intentions for the new year. They could reflect on their intentions as they sewed.

Then, I thought the children could write their intentions and sew them into their Intention Hearts. They could keep their Intention Heart in their cubbies or they could bring them home. My hope was that if I showed a group of 4 students, then they could guide the other interested children in how to create their own Intention Heart. The biggest difficulty was keeping their needles threaded, but that was a wonderful opportunity to talk about how sometimes we have to try things again and again to finally make them work the way we envision.

Here is the link on Amazon to the precut felt squares: https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01NCQIG81/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o06_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1 Because there were 42 different colors, we discussed that if everyone took a favorite color and a not so favorite color, it would be fair so that everyone had 1 of their favorite colors—it worked!



To begin, I made a heart template on a piece of card stock. I made it as large as possible so that there would be minimal waste of felt.

I modeled how to hold the template and felt in my non-dominant hand and cut around it. My students felt it was more comfortable to trace the template onto the felt and then cut, so I showed them how to place the sides with ink on them face to face so they could be on the interior of their hearts and the ink wouldn't show.

Once they had their two hearts and the hearts were oriented correctly, I showed them how to do the blanket stitch. Here is a link to a helpful tutorial for you to follow: <http://www.womansweekly.com/craft/how-to-do-blanket-stitch-14034/>

We used a complete strand of embroidery floss (all 6 strands together) so that the blanket stitch was quite thick (hence, the unthreading of the needles!).

Sew 3/4 of the way around your heart.

Add your intention(s) that you wrote on beautiful paper to your heart.

Stuff with a bit of stuffing/fluff.

Sew the remaining 1/4 of the way around your heart.

Decide how to hang your heart—you can make use beads on beading wire, embroidery floss, a bit of jute, a crocheted chain of yarn, follow your bliss! Attach it to your heart at the top using your needle.

Show a friend!

Materials Needed:

- 6 inch or larger squares of felt
 - a heart template made to fit your felt squares
 - embroidery floss
 - large eye sewing needles
 - beautiful paper to write your intentions
 - scissors for paper and for felt
 - stuffing/fluff filling
- optional: beads, beading wire, yarn, leather cord, etc.



AMI-EAA 2018 Summer Conference

Join the AMI Elementary Alumni Association for our annual summer gathering. Come to be refreshed, gain inspiration, and connect with our vibrant community!

“Work of the Hand : Sewing Seeds”

BOULDER, COLORADO
at The University of Colorado
July 17 - 22, 2018



Featuring...

The Work of Wool presented by Carol Palmer

This workshop aims to show teachers what an important element of Cosmic Education Handwork is and how they can integrate it into their curriculum. The workshop is suitable for complete beginners and those who already craft, but would like ideas on how to structure their Handwork program and add a “Montessori lens.”

Participants will be introduced to several methods of working with wool in order to develop their knowledge, excitement, and confidence in this area of Handwork. They will gain a basic understanding of the traditional and commercial processes of wool. Participants will also learn the basics of spinning, knitting, crochet, and felting, beginning with making tools and leading to projects that they will be able to repeat with their students.

As well as giving a practical understanding of wool crafts, this workshop aims to inspire a love of handwork and to demystify it as a concept, so that participants feel able to introduce both the work of wool and other forms of Handwork into their environments.

Read more about Carol’s work on her blog montessorihandwork.com !

**Stay tuned for more information about additional presenters
 and registration!**

Please email questions to events@ami-eaa.org



Association Montessori International Elementary Alumni Association

PROFIT AND LOSS

October 2016 - September 2017

TOTAL

INCOME

Advertisements 3,015.00

Donations -1,490.00

Membership Dues 20,225.53

PayPal Income -36.93

Refresher Course Income 33,919.33

Summer Conference Income 26,263.00

Housing and Meals 1,642.00

Total Summer Conference Income 27,905.00

Total Income \$83,537.93

GROSS PROFIT \$83,537.93

EXPENSES

Accounting and Legal 196.00

Affiliates 6,222.67

Bank Charges 162.75

Filing Fees and Taxes 1,047.50

Insurance 2,762.00

Member Services 5,304.34

Refresher Course 7,466.75

Summer Conference 5,713.19

Uncategorized Expense 500.00

Total Expenses \$29,375.20

NET OPERATING INCOME \$54,162.73

OTHER INCOME \$8.54

NET OTHER INCOME \$8.54

NET INCOME \$54,171.27

Advertisements

California:

Join our team of dedicated professionals!

Our growing school is accepting applications for a Lower Elementary Guide for the 2018-2019 school year. The positions will begin on August 6, 2018.

The Bergamo Montessori School is AMI affiliated and the oldest Montessori school in the Sacramento area, serving children from infancy through adolescence since 1975.

Our school is a good match for those who wish to teach according to their training. Our administrative team provides consistent support and classrooms are well equipped for use.

Sacramento is a great place to live. A temperate climate allows year-round outdoor activity and we are close to many areas of interest including San Francisco, the Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite. Our community is diverse and we enjoy a relatively low cost of living.

The preferred candidate will have an AMI diploma and at least 3 years of experience in a Montessori environment.

We seek loving, curious and self-motivated guides who are committed to creating classrooms that embody Dr. Montessori's vision. Nice people only, please.

We offer a generous compensation package including a competitive salary, medical/dental/vision insurance, a professional development stipend and a retirement program with a yearly employer match.

Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to Matt Hillis, Executive Director, at Matt@BergamoSchools.com.

Colorado:

Fort Collins Montessori School is seeking a Head of School with demonstrated strong commitment to classic Montessori. FCMS is a public charter school in our 4th year serving 135 children from 3-years-old through 6th grade. When fully developed, we will serve 350 students through 8th grade. The ideal candidate will be a collaborative leader who inspires staff, families and community while embodying the spirit, values, and practices of Montessori education. The ideal candidate will also have experience with school administration, including curriculum oversight, staff supervision and coaching, and budget management. He/she should hold an advanced degree and Colorado State Administrator certification. For the full job announcement, visit <https://focomontessori.org/wp-content/uploads/FCMS-Head-of-School-Job-Announcement-2017.11.17-FINAL.pdf>. To apply, submit your resume and cover letter to jsanderson@focomontessori.org by January 14, 2018.

Florida:

Casa Montessori School seeks an AMI elementary teacher for our new and small school. We are located in Lady Lake, Florida, about one hour from Orlando. We are a warm and welcoming, family-owned school.

Currently our elementary program serves 6-12 year olds in one classroom. Our classroom is equipped with AMI-approved materials, a full kitchen, transportation for Going-outs, and classroom support from administration. We are expanding to one lower classroom (6-9) and one upper (9-12) classroom and look to fill the position soon.

If you are interested, please email your resume to primary@casamontessoriladylake.com.

For more information visit our page at casamontessoriladylake.com

Or on FB: Casa Montessori Schools.

Oregon:

Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School seeks a Montessori-trained lower Elementary Guide to begin immediately for the 2017-18 school year.

Celebrating its tenth year, LCMCS is an Oregon Charter School serving 380+ children just to the east of Portland, Oregon with a high-fidelity, tuition-free Montessori program. Located in the beautiful agricultural area of Damascus, 30 minutes' drive both from Portland and from Mt Hood, our fully-implemented AMI Montessori program includes three Primary classrooms, four Lower Elementary and four Upper Elementary classrooms, as well as a lively 55-student Adolescent program.

LCMCS has a warm, positive staff culture that supports professional learning. Guided by AMI-trained, experienced Head of School and Director of Education, the school's mission in practice is dedicated service to the community in all ways. The sponsoring school district is supportive of the school and its mission, and the school has garnered the respect and support of the surrounding Montessori community. All classrooms have a full complement of Montessori materials and furnishings, and funds are provided for individualized needs.

The position fills an unexpected opening in one of our established Lower Elementary classrooms. The ideal candidate has three or more years of Montessori Elementary experience and Oregon State Licensure, or eligibility to obtain this credential or Oregon Charter School Registry. Salary is commensurate with credentials and experience, and competitive with schools in the locale. The compensation package includes professional development opportunities, medical/dental insurance, paid days off, a Wellness Allowance, and eligibility to enroll in the Oregon PERS retirement fund. Resettlement funds also available for a move of 100 miles or more.

Interested candidates may email a cover letter and resume to:

Melissa Harbert, Executive Director

Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School

Phone: 503.427.0803 – Fax: 503.855.3017

Email: mharbert@LCMCS.org

Website: <http://LCMCS.org>

Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School seeks a Montessori-trained Elementary Guide to lead an established Elementary classroom, beginning the fall of the 2018-19 school year.

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2018, Lewis & Clark is a Public Charter School serving children in the east Portland, Oregon Metropolitan area with a fully-implemented, tuition-free Montessori program. Located in the beautiful agricultural area of Damascus, just 30 minutes from both Portland and from Mt Hood, our robust Montessori program includes two Primary 3-6 year old classrooms, a Primary class for 5 year olds without prior Montessori, four Lower Elementary and four Upper Elementary classrooms. We also boast a lively 60-student Adolescent program for 7th & 8th grades.

LCMCS has a warm, positive staff culture that supports professional learning. School leadership is AMI Montessori-trained and has broad experience in both the classroom and in administration. There is additional Montessori-trained staff to assist learning through our Student Support Services team. The school's sponsoring school district is highly supportive of the school, and classrooms have a full complement of Montessori materials and furnishings.

The ideal candidate has three or more years of Montessori Elementary experience and Oregon State Licensure, or the ability to obtain this credential or Oregon Charter School Registry. Salary is commensurate with credentials and experience, and competitive with schools in the area. The compensation package includes professional development opportunities, medical/dental insurance, paid days off, a wellness allowance, and eligibility for the Oregon PERS retirement pension plan.

Interested candidates may email a cover letter and resume to:

Tami O'Kinsella, Director of Education

Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School

Phone: 503.427.0803 – Fax: 503.855.3017

Email: tokinsella@LCMCS.org*protected email*

Website: <http://LCMCS.org>

Virginia:

The Springs, A Montessori School is seeking an Elementary I/II teacher for the 2018-2019 school year and beyond. Established in 1966, The Springs, A Montessori School is located in Northern Virginia, a stone's throw from the nation's capital and everything it has to offer. The elementary program was added in 2016 to the over 50 years of primary, infant, and toddler education the school has been providing in the Northern Virginia area. The Springs is committed to the development of the whole child and his/her lifetime love of learning. We strive for peaceful environments that respect and respond to the individual needs of each child.

The Elementary program features a full complement of materials, brightly lit classroom, an experienced classroom assistant, and access to the learning opportunities afforded by our proximity to Washington, D.C. In addition to professional development opportunities offered to the entire staff, the Elementary I/II teacher has the support of Elementary trained administrative staff as needed.

The qualified candidate will provide an authentic Montessori education to an anticipated 10-20 students for the 2018-19 school year in a mixed age group setting (grades 1-4) with the support of a full complement of materials and an additional assistant. The enrollment is expected to grow in the coming years. He or she will continue the legacy of The Springs by encouraging confidence, independence, and peacefulness in the students. Applicants must have Elementary I and II (lower and upper) credentials from a MACTE, AMS, or AMI training center.

The Springs offers a competitive salary starting at \$45,000 (based on experience) with additional benefits that include medical insurance, 401k matching, and potential bonuses.

For more information or to apply please contact us at Clifford@springsmontessori.com or at 703-255-1000.

Japan:

Seeking 6-9 Lower Elementary AMI qualified Guide, The Montessori School of Tokyo

The Montessori School of Tokyo (MST), is now receiving applications for a lead teacher in an established Lower Elementary (6-9) classroom for the 2018/19 school year (August 18 to July 19).

MST offers AMI trained candidates an opportunity to join a dynamic and international learning community. Situated in the heart of Tokyo, MST is a close-knit community of over 100 families with a Toddler through Adolescent enrolment. Our truly international school represents over 30 countries and we enjoy a vibrant parent community and an experienced and diverse faculty, contributing to the cultural, recreational and educational enrichment of life at MST. Accredited by the International Montessori Council and a member of the Japan Council of International Schools, MST offers a competitive salary and benefits package and a supportive work environment with regular professional development opportunities. Our core values of Confidence, Respect & Compassion, guide our interactions throughout the community.

Qualified candidates should forward their resume/CV to employ@montessorijapan.com by 20 January 2018.

Detailed job descriptions are available upon request. For more information about MST, please visit our website at www.montessorijapan.com

Thailand:

Kasemsasna Montessori School (KSS) is situated in the heart of Chiang Rai, Thailand. It is founded in 2014 aiming to provide a high quality Montessori education. In a beautiful garden-like environment designed by architects who applied Montessori concepts in the design process, children surrounded by nature and a home-like environment which helps them relax and feel free to learn. Although KSS is small in terms of numbers of students, we offer a full-range of classrooms: Toddler (2-3), Primary (3-6), Lower Elementary (6-9) and Upper Elementary (9-12).

Currently, we are looking for a Montessori guide for an Upper Elementary Class.

Candidate qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- AMI diploma (6-12 course)
- Fluent English

If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, please send your C.V. to Methinee at kasemsasna@outlook.com

Website: kssmontessori.org

AMI-EAA Winter Newsletter

The AMI-EAA newsletter provides a vehicle for professional communication, discussion, and argument. It contains articles which are written by, and for, its own membership. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of AMI-EAA or AMI.

Join us at the Annual Summer Conference in Boulder, CO!

Your national and international organizations can be reached online:

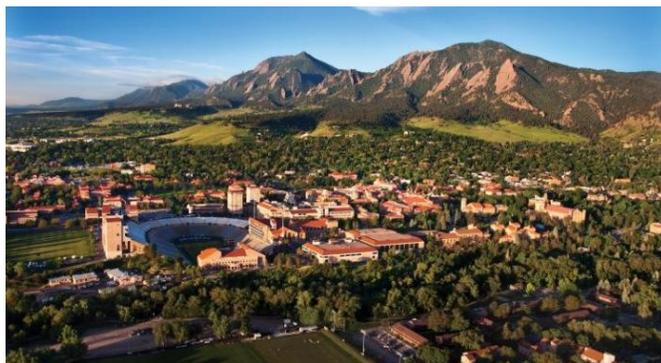
AMI-EAA www.ami-eea.org *newly updated!*

AMI www.montessori-ami.org

AMI-USA www.ami-usa.org

Twitter Subscribe to EAA's twitter feed: [@AMIEAA](https://twitter.com/AMIEAA)

Friend us on Facebook! [facebook/MontessoriElementaryTeachers](https://facebook.com/MontessoriElementaryTeachers)



Email Contacts for the AMI-EAA board

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TO