



# GAMS

Greater Atlanta Montessori School  
*Butterfly News*



January 2013

**Happy New Year! 2013 Brings New Students  
& Opportunities for Growth!**

### Important Dates

- 1/1: January Tuition Due
- 1/3: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 1/4: Students Return
- 1/21: Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### From the Director's Desk...

I hope the holidays were enjoyable for you and your families. The new year is upon us and we're looking forward to 2013 with excitement and anticipation. We begin this year with some wonderful new additions to our classrooms! With this great news, we're feeling optimistic and enthusiastic for the New Year. We see our school growing quickly and expect our enrollment to increase in the near future. Very soon we'll be expanding to absorb the upstairs space in our building, and creating Montessori lower elementary school classes. This is my vision, and I'm confident we can achieve it. It is my dream that long after your child has finished our program, you will look up the time spent here with pride and satisfaction, knowing that your child has gotten a firm basis in learning for life.

We are having an exciting school year and the children are learning new and exciting things. It is that time to start planning for the 2013-2014 school year. Secure your child's place at Greater Atlanta Montessori School by enrolling now. Existing families will have the opportunity to enroll first along with any siblings. After that, enrollment will be open to the public and will be on a first come, first serve basis. We strive to keep our tuition costs down and are comparable to other schools in the area; however, with our economy and expanding school, a slight increase is to be expected in the annual tuition. The 2013-2014 tuition schedules will be sent to our current families in a separate correspondence.

~Hannah Gentry

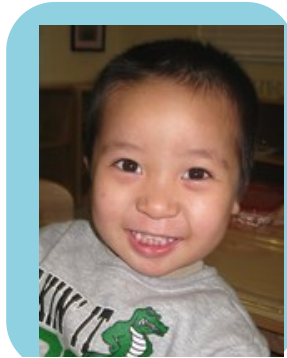




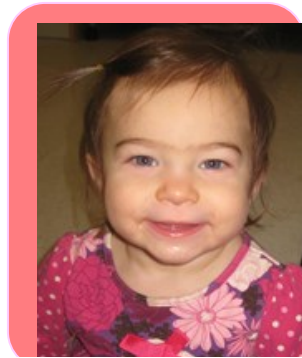
Welcome to our new students!  
We are so happy to have you at GAMS!  
Look how our school is growing!

Welcome Ms. Jocelyn!

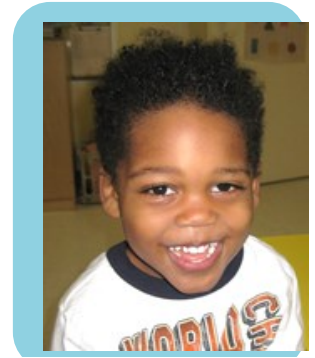
Jocelyn Weissinger is a wonderful new addition to the team of teachers at GAMS. Ms. Jocelyn is currently working on her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Brenau University. She is helping us to get our new toddler program up and running and sweet little Mara has already grown quite attached to Ms. Jocelyn!



Aaron



Mara



Kingston



Pre-Primary Class Update:

Happy January parents, we are off to a great start this first week back to school. We have some fun lessons planned for this month. We will begin with learning about our body parts, and our 5 senses. We will experiment with different tastes, smells, textures, sounds, and beautiful art work. The second week, we will learn about the different seasons, especially winter, and forest & ocean animals. The third week, we'll learn about different fruits and veggies, as well as animals that live in the desert & artic.

A few things we've been learning are: days of the week, months of the year, counting to twenty, and ABC's, all to the rhythm and beat of some awesome music. I introduced two new songs this week: the Letter A and the Letter B. See if your child can remember the lyrics. We are also making letter cards. Those will go home at the end of the week.

We will continue incorporating other activities into our day to reinforce concepts. We are also continuing to learn how to: use scissors & paste, sort, identify colors, shapes, body parts, follow directions, be kind to one another, and explore our world, just to name a few.

~Ms. Vanessa



Mr. Bruce Bernstein of Music is Magic will be returning to GAMS for another fantastic performance entitled "Differences Make a Difference" on Wednesday, February 13th at 11:00 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend the performance as well, which lasts approximately 45 minutes. You are welcome to take videos and photographs, as this is a very interactive production! To defray the cost of the performance, we ask that each family pay \$10.00 per student. Please look for a permission form in your child's folder or cubby!



## Primary Class Update:

We are getting students ready for the New Year by reviewing the months, year, and end of 2012. Our focus was on introducing new words and attitude for our **New Year's resolution: kindness towards others and altruism**. Also, we have been working on metamorphosis and transformation in frogs and butterflies. In addition to the Montessori program, we are participating in various themes throughout the year. This gives children a well-rounded education that will carry over into their school and home lives.

In December, we focused on the many holidays around the world including Christmas, Diwali, Kwanza, and Hanukkah. We also practiced holiday songs and out on a fantastic performance for family and friends. We did resistant painting to increase students' awareness of how science and art are connected.

This month we plan to introduce decoupage and puppetry to increase fine motor, storytelling, and art skills. We are telling the story of *The Tortoise and the Hare* to teach children lessons for life...consistency, persistence, and determination...slow and steady wins the race!

~Respectfully from Your Teachers, Ms. Gentry & Ms. Lorraine



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*Here's a look back at some of the memories from the wonderful holiday season. The Holiday Family Potluck was enjoyed by all... the children loved spending time in their school with their parents, eating the foods of the season and sharing in fellowship with one another.*

*We hope everyone's holiday season was a happy and peaceful one, and we are anxious to continue learning and growing in the New Year!*

