



# THE PYRAMID

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF N. HOFFMAN & LOTUS MONTESSORI  
SEPTEMBER 2007 - PTO NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR!

Hope everyone had a great summer! Welcome back! If you have not already signed up to join the PTO, please stop in the office to get a sign-up sheet.

The PTO often sends notices to parents regarding upcoming events and activities at the school. Please add [PTO.MSNH@gmail.com](mailto:PTO.MSNH@gmail.com) to your email contacts to ensure that you receive our communications.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

Event/Activity	Date
Movie Night at MSNH	"The Last Mimzy" - Friday, September 14 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:30 PM at MSNH
Ice Cream Social	Thursday, September 27 <sup>th</sup> - Lotus event will take place from 5:00-7:00 PM. MSNH event will take place from 3:30-6:00 PM.
Rummage Sale	Saturday, September 29 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday, September 30 <sup>th</sup> 10:00-3:00 at MSNH
Sally Foster Fundraiser	Packets will be distributed September 7. Orders are due back by September 28.
Market Day	Packets will be distributed late-October. Delivery will be November 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Adopt-A-Family Program	The school adopts 5 needy families from the Palatine Township. Gift requests will be posted in November.
School Gala	Date and location are still being finalized. Event will occur in early 2008.
Book Fair	The book fairs are run in conjunction with Parent/Teacher conferences on November 8/9 and March 13/14.
International Day	Saturday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>

**PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OFFICE TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS UP-TO-DATE ON YOUR CHILD'S EMERGENCY CARD!**

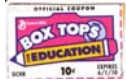
## CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS

It takes a lot of work to ensure that everything runs smoothly at our schools. The following is a list of current volunteer opportunities:

- **Lunch Assistants** – If you are willing/able to come to the school to help during lunch hour, please contact your child's teacher to see if help is still needed in his/her classroom.
- **Field Trip Chaperones** – Field trip chaperones are always needed, especially for the preschoolers. In mid-October, the children will be visiting a pumpkin farm. Please specify that you are willing to chaperone on the permission form when it is distributed.
- **Website Maintenance** – A volunteer is needed to update/maintain the MSNH.org website. Responsibilities include posting monthly PTO and Scrip updates, monthly newsletters, and other miscellaneous updates and improvements. If you have the skills and the interest in helping, please email [PTO.MSNH@gmail.com](mailto:PTO.MSNH@gmail.com).
- **Ice Cream Social** – Volunteers are still needed to help at the Ice Cream Social on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Please sign-up for a time slot on the sign-up sheets in the front entrance at MSNH and at Lotus.
- **Rummage Sale** – Volunteers are needed to help run the rummage sale on September 29/30. Please sign up for a slot on your child's classroom door.

## FUNDRAISING—EASY WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP!

As a not-for-profit organization, our school is dependent on fundraising dollars to support the extra things that make our school special. This year, funds will be used for staff development, tuition assistance, building and classroom improvement, and the development of the new facility which will house our Erdkinder middle school program and will also include 3-6, 6-9, and 9-12 classes. There are several ways that you can help with our fundraising efforts:



**Clip box tops** – You will find Box Tops on hundreds of products that you already buy! Clip these 10¢ box tops and bring them to the school. They add up fast!

- **Participate in the ShopWithScrip Program** – Our goal is to have at least 175 families participating in the Scrip program on a regular basis. If we have 175 families purchasing all of their groceries with Scrip gift certificates for Jewel, Dominicks, etc., we will be able to earn over \$5,000 for our schools. Additional information on the Scrip program is included in this newsletter. There are some changes since last year. Orders can now be submitted online at [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com), and the school is now splitting 50% of the profit from your sales with you! Read more in the ShopWithScrip section!
- **Do your online shopping through the Box Tops for Education marketplace** – If you register with [www.BoxTops4Education.com](http://www.BoxTops4Education.com), you can link to the websites of hundreds of online retailers. Each time you shop online at one of these retailers by starting with the link at [BoxTops4Education.com](http://BoxTops4Education.com), the school will receive a percentage of your purchase. You're already buying it anyway—why not help the school at the same time?
- **Bring in used toner cartridges** – The school recycles used toner cartridges from your home and work printers and gets a small amount of money for each cartridge. Recycling—it's good for the environment and helps the school earn cash!
- **Participate in school fundraisers like Sally Foster and Market Day** – Various fundraisers are offered throughout the year. Please participate in as many of these fundraisers as possible and try to get family, friends, and neighbors to participate as well. Sally Foster packets will be coming home shortly and our first Market Day delivery date will be November 9.
- **Attend the Gala** – The annual school gala is our biggest fundraising event of the year. It is a wonderful social event, an opportunity to buy great stuff at great prices, and an outstanding fundraiser for our school. With so many benefits in one package, who could resist? Information regarding this year's gala date and location will be included in an upcoming newsletter.
- **Rummage Sale** – The school will be having a rummage sale on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-3:00 at our MSNH campus. Please drop off donated items to the school by Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will accept household items, small furniture pieces, small appliances in good working condition, books, clothing, and other items you think would sell and benefit the school. Please make sure that your donation meets the following guidelines:
  - Clothing must be free of rips, tears, and stains and must be clean.
  - Furniture must be free of rips, tears, and stains. Due to space limitations, we cannot accept large furniture items.
  - All electronic items must be in working order. No outdated software please.
  - All household items and dishes need to be clean and free of chips and breaks.
  - No toys or puzzles with missing parts or pieces.
  - No exercise equipment please. It is difficult to sell and the school will have to pay for disposal.
  - Sorry, but stuffed animals cannot be accepted.

All donations are tax deductible. If you would like a receipt, please request one from the school office. We also need assistance sorting/organizing donations and running the sale. Please see the sign-up sheets on your child's classroom door to sign up to lend a hand. Spread the word to friends and neighbors about the sale! This is a great opportunity to get gently used items at a price that is easy on the wallet!

- **Share your ideas** – If you have a great idea for a fundraiser or for an improvement to an existing fundraiser, let the PTO know. We're always looking for fresh ideas!

**PTO MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**AT 6:00 PM AT THE LOTUS CAMPUS.**

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

# SHOPWITHSCRIP FUNDRAISER

Scrip is an on-going fundraiser for the school. Because the school is a not-for-profit organization, we are able to purchase gift cards from participating retailers at a discounted rate. Basically, the Scrip program works like this:

Participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates (the same ones that they sell in their own stores) to our School at a discount. Member families buy the certificates for full face value, and they redeem them for full face value. And, the School keeps the difference as revenue.

Many popular retailers participate in our Scrip program. In fact, Scrip can be used for just about any household purchase, including groceries, clothing, entertainment, electronics, gasoline, dining out, books, and travel. A complete list of participating retailers is available at <http://glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx>.

The beauty of Scrip is that our families can earn money for the School without spending a single additional penny. And, as an added bonus, the school returns a portion of the money they earn from your purchases back to you at the end of the school year in the form of a tuition voucher. For more information on this and many other frequently asked questions about the program, please read our Scrip FAQ. Also be sure to check out the Scrip Calendar and the latest Scrip News!

If you would like to start participating in the program, you can order one of two ways:

- Orders may be placed on-line at [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com). You will need to create a user account to place your orders on-line. The School's code for registration is **L573BF857773**. After placing your order on-line, simply drop your check off at the school and your order will be available for pickup the following week. This is the preferred method for placing orders as it ensures the accuracy and timeliness of your order.
- If you do not wish to order on-line, you can complete a ShopWithScrip Order Form and return it to the school office with your check. Please be advised that the printed order form does not include all available retailers. The form includes a write-in section for any additions that you would like to make. Refer to <http://glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx> for a complete list of offerings.

If you have any questions about the program, you can contact the Scrip coordinator at [Scrip.MSNH@gmail.com](mailto:Scrip.MSNH@gmail.com).

Not sure if there is something for you? The following is a list of current retailers available through our Scrip program.

1-800-Flowers	Carlos O' Kelly's Mexican	GFS Marketplace	Menards Home Centers	Rosebud Bar & Grill
A Pea in the Pod	Café	GNC	Men's Wearhouse	Ross Dress for Less
Ace Hardware	Carnival Cruises	Gordman's	Mobil	Ruby Tuesday's
Advance Auto Parts	Carson Pirie Scott	Great Harvest Bread Co	Motherhood Maternity	Sally Beauty Company
Afterthoughts	Casual Male XL	Gymboree	Mr. Goodcents Subs &	SamGoody
Amazon.com	Champps Americana	Harry & David	Pastas	Sears
AMC Theatres	Cheesecake Factory	Hickory Farms	Mrs. Field's Cookies	Sephora
American Airlines	Chevron	Home Depot	Mt. Olympus Theme Park	Shaw's Crab House
American Eagle	Chevy's Fresh Mex	HomeGoods	Tickets	Shell
Amoco	Chili's Grill & Bar	Honey Baked Ham	Napster	Shoe Carnival
Applebee's	Chipotle Mexican Grill	Hyatt Hotels	Nine West	Shutterfly
Arby's	Chuck E. Cheese	Icing	Noodle's & Company	Sleep Inn
AT&T 120 minute card	Circuit City	iTunes	Office Depot	Spa Finder
Auntie Anne's	Claim Jumper	J.Crew	Office Max	Speedway
Avis Car Rental	Claire's	Jamba Juice	Old Country Buffet	Sports Authority
Babies-R-Us	Clarion	JCPenney	Old Navy	Spring Hill Suites
Bahama Breeze	Cold Stone Creamery	Jewel-Osco	Olive Garden	Staples
Baja Fresh	Comfort Inn	Jo-Ann Fabrics	Omaha Steaks	Starbucks
Banana Republic	Courtyard	Joe's Crab Shack	Outback Steakhouse	Steve & Barry's
Barnes & Noble Bookstores	Cracker Barrel	K Mart	P.F. Chang's China Bistro	StoreName
Baskin Robbins	Crate and Barrel	KB Toys	Panera Bread	Subway
Bass Pro Shops	CVS Pharmacy	KFC	Papa John's	Suncoast Video (f.y.e.)
Bath & Body Works	Damon's Grill	Kohl's Department Store	Payless Shoes	Sunglass Hut
Bed Bath & Beyond	Dave & Busters	L.L. Bean	Pep Boys	Sunoco
BedandBreakfast.com	Denny's	Lands' End	Pier 1 Imports	Sweet Tomatoes
Bennigan's	Dick's Sporting Goods	Lettuce Entertain You	Pizza Hut	T.J. Maxx
Best Buy	Disney Gift Card	Lillian Vernon	Pottery Barn	Talbots
Best Western Int'l	Dominick's	Limited	Qdoba	TCBY
Big Bowl	Domino's Pizza	Linens 'n Things	Quality Inn	TGI Friday's
Blockbuster	Dream Dinners	Long John Silver's	Quizno's	The Children's Place
Bloomingdale's	Dress Barn	Lord & Taylor	Radio Shack	The Great Indoors
Bob Evans	Dunkin Donuts	Lou Malnati's	Rainforest Café	Toys-R-Us
Bonefish Grill	Eddie Bauer	Lowe's Home	Red Lobster	Ulta Salon
Borders	Express	Improvement	Red Robin	Uno Chicago Grill
Boston Market	Express for Men	Macaroni Grill	Regis Salons	Value City Department
BP Gas	Exxon	Macy's	Renaissance	Stores
Brooks Brothers	Fairfield Inn	Maggiano's Little Italy	Residence Inn	Walgreens
Brookstone	Fannie May	Marathon Gas	Restoration Hardware	Wendy's
Buca di Beppo	Fazoli's	Marcus Resorts	Ritz Camera	White Barn Candle Co.
Budget Car Rental	Finish Line	Marriott Hotels	Ritz-Carlton Hotel	Wildfire
Build-A-Bear Workshop	Foot Locker/Lady Foot	Marshalls	Company, LLC	Williams Sonoma
Burger King	Locker	Maurices	Rocky Mountain	Wolf Camera
California Pizza Kitchen	Gap	Max & Erma's	Chocolate Factory	

## **MOVIE NIGHT – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 PM**

Our first movie night will be Friday, September 14 at 6:00 at MSNH. We will be showing "The Last Mimzy" which is rated PG. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Parents are always welcome to stay. Popcorn, water, and snacks will be provided. Please have children bring socks, sleeping bags and pillows so they can relax and enjoy the show. The price is \$5 a child or \$10 for families of two or more. Pickup is at 8:30. Please be prompt! See you at the show!

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR FACULTY & STAFF**

The faculty at MSNH and Lotus is a large part of what makes our schools such a wonderful place for our children to grow and learn. It is with great pride that we introduce them to you.

### **LOTUS MONTESSORI**

#### **Mrs. Shiva Ahanchi**

Mrs. Ahanchi has been a head teacher at the primary level for the last six years. Having had two children in our program, Mrs. Ahanchi fell in love with the Montessori philosophy and began her life as a Montessori educator. Mrs. Ahanchi enjoys the love and honesty that children exude. To her, a compliment from a child is like no other in the world. In her free time, Mrs. Ahanchi enjoys interior design, music, shopping, and spending time with family and friends.

#### **Mrs. Zenaida Bansil**

Mrs. Bansil has been with MSNH since 1990 and has been teaching for 40 years. She is from the Philippines and taught in the public schools there for 23 years before coming to the United States. She is certified by the American Montessori Society to teach at the Infant and Toddler level. She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from G. National Colleges – Philippines and completed the educational requirements for a Master's Degree in Elementary Education in Pampanga, Philippines. At present, she is the Head Teacher in the Infant class at Lotus Montessori. Her hobbies include reading, gardening, collecting important data about countries, and watching religious movies and historical documentaries. One of her goals is to help prepare the child to become a useful member of his community "because the youth is the hope of every country."

#### **Mrs. Krystyna Gajek**

Mrs. Krystyna has been teaching for six years and has been at Lotus for three years. She has a Master of Science in Elementary Education from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She taught at a public elementary school in Poland for two years. Currently, Mrs. Krystyna is an assistant teacher in Mrs. A 3-6 classroom at Lotus. She also teaches third grade at J.H. Dabrowski School of Polish Language in Chicago on the weekends. Her goal is to obtain a teaching degree in the U.S. She likes to travel, dance, and listen to music. She is also interested in Psychology.

#### **Mrs. Shelley Haskins**

Mrs. Haskins has over 30 years experience in Montessori education. She is a certified Directress for the primary level. She has worked in the Northwest suburbs primarily at the 3-6 level, but also directed a 2-3 yr. class for four years and was the first directress in the MSNH infant program. She spent eight years as a real estate broker during which time she helped secure the original Freeman site. More recently, she was the Infant/Toddler Coordinator and the Administrative Coordinator at MSNH. She has been on the board of directors for 15 years and this past year served as PTO treasurer. Mrs. Haskins received her Illinois Director's Credential in 2003 and became Lotus Montessori's Site Director when the school opened in 2004. Her love for Montessori comes from her belief in empowering children and her respect for the prepared environment. She grew up in a family that encouraged independence and a "do-it-yourself" mentality. She has been married for 32 years and has two grown daughters. She loves working on home improvement projects, is a great bargain shopper, loves art fairs and watching movies at home, and enjoys the Summer boating season.

#### **Mrs. Veronica Henderson**

Mrs. Henderson was born in New York City; however, she was raised in Richmond, Virginia. She attended Hampton University in Virginia where she received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. After graduation, she worked for seven years in sales for Marriott Corporation. Later, as a stay-at-home mom raising her only son Justin (who is now 15 years old and was a student at this school for eight years), Mrs. Henderson discovered her second career in teaching. She has been with the school for over ten years. Most recently, she decided to take the training in our 3-6 year old program. However, her desire

is to remain a toddler teacher. Mrs. Henderson enjoys her church activities where she is the Director of a children's choir, Boy Scout leader, and Sunday school teacher. She likes to travel, enjoys country living, going to the movies, a day at the spa, and eating out at ethnic restaurants.

### **Mrs. Anees Ishrati**

Mrs. Ishrati teaches in the young toddler classroom. She has a Bachelor of Science from Osmania University in Hyd, India. In addition, she completed a six month training course in Conservation of Cultural Property with UNESCO in Lucknow, India.; she attended two years of Intermediate Govt Junior College in Hyd, India; and she completed a certificate course in Library and Information Central Library Science AP Library Education in Hyd, India. Her hobbies include teaching, cooking, spending time with her family, and traveling. She likes doing work and cannot stay idle.

### **Mrs. Veena Mayani**

Ms. Mayani is currently working as an assistant in the Infant room at Lotus. Previously, she was an assistant in Mrs. Lakshmi's 3-6 class. Ms. Mayani has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She enjoys listening to music and reading. Along with that, she enjoys working with the kids in various activities such as artwork. Her future goal is to complete her Montessori certification. She is enjoying working with the babies.

### **Mrs. Lakshmi Nookola**

Mrs. Lakshmi has been at Lotus Montessori for a year. Prior to coming to Lotus, Mrs. Lakshmi taught at Newton Montessori School in Boston, Massachusetts for 4 years and in India for 6 years. Mrs. Lakshmi is certified through the American Montessori Society (AMS) and did training in AMI, AMS, and at MTRC in India and at the Northeast Montessori Institute in Massachusetts. She has a Bachelor's degree from Andhra University in India in History, Economics, and Politics. She also has a Master's degree from Andhra University in Hindi Literature. Additionally, she earned a Bachelor of Education at Annamalai University in English and Social Studies. Mrs. Lakshmi is a Primary teacher (3-6) at Lotus. Her hobbies include vegetarian cooking, listening to India and other music, and making Montessori materials.

### **Mrs. Jo Olson**

Mrs. Olson is an assistant teacher at Lotus in Mrs. Lakshmi's class and in Mrs. Bansil's class. Mrs. Olson was born at the Air Force Base in Seoul, Korea. Her father met her mother while stationed in Korea, where she and her younger brother were born. After her father retired from the Air Force after 25 years, their family moved to Illinois. Mrs. Olson graduated from William Fremd High School in 1992 and has a degree in Culinary Arts. She has been teaching Religious Ed (Faith Class) in the Catholic Church for over 11 years. She has two children and they too attend MSNH. Mrs. Olson has traveled almost all over the world. She enjoys traveling; cooking; reading British mystery novels, the classics, and any other books she can get her hands on. She also enjoys photography, scrapbooking, playing with the kids and taking day trips with her family, and being with friends and listening to music. Her passions are history, marine biology (an interest that came with living in Hawaii for 4 years), archeology and biblical archeology.

### **Mrs. Shalini Rao**

Mrs. Rao is an assistant teacher in Mrs. Ahanchi's afternoon class at Lotus. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Madras in India. She also has a diploma in Systems Management from NIIT and a diploma in Business Administration from Annamalai University. She has also taken courses in Early Childhood Education at Harper College. Mrs. Rao enjoys reading, music, taking long walks, and cooking. Her goal is to enhance her teaching skills and she hopes to use her knowledge in computers in teaching. Mrs. Rao likes learning new languages, loves cooking for large crowds, and enjoys being with children.

### **Mrs. Vahideh Safari**

Mrs. Safari has an Associate Degree in Literature. She taught for twenty years in her home country of Iran. She was a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teacher there. She taught ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade for a few years as well. Mrs. Safari has been an assistant teacher in the infant room at MSNH/Lotus for seven years. She likes to cook, go shopping, and loves reading romantic books, especially in her own language. In her free time, she tries to spend as much time as possible with her husband and children. She loves to come to work every morning and see the babies in the infant room. They are like her own children to her. Mrs. Safari has three children. Her oldest son is in the Navy. Her daughter is currently attending Harper College, but is transferring to Loyola University. Her youngest son is in fifth grade at MSNH.

### **Mrs. Divya Vidhyabaskar**

Mrs. Divya is an assistant teacher in Mrs. Lakshmi's class. She completed her Montessori teacher training at MECA in Spring of 2007 and is completing her internship at Lotus. She has a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting from Periyar University, Tamilnadu, India. She also has a Master's degree in Human Resources and Finance from Bharathiyar University, Tamilnadu, India. Prior to starting her teaching career, she worked for BP Corporation in Naperville. She turned to teaching because of her staunch belief in the Montessori method of education. Her goal is to help the school and faculty members provide high-quality education and help in the overall development of the children. Her hobbies are singing (Indian classical music and light music), interior decorating, and playing sports. She has been a national level player on a women's throwball team. She likes quizzing and solving Sudoku puzzles. She is the mother of a 14-month old baby boy and her husband is an accountant.

### **Mrs. Sanije Veseli**

Mrs. Veseli (Mrs. Sanije) has been working in the infant room at MSNH/Lotus for eleven years. She received her education in Macedonia and is currently attending English classes. Mrs. Veseli enjoys working at the school and loves all of the staff and families. To Mrs. Veseli, the babies are a blessing to work with and she loves each and every one. Mrs. Veseli has been married for 25 years and has three daughters and one son. Her two oldest daughters attend the University of Illinois and Eastern Illinois University. She enjoys being with her family and is very proud of their accomplishments.

## **MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF NORTH HOFFMAN**

### **Mrs. Fakhra Ali**

Mrs. Ali has been a Preschool/Kindergarten teacher at MSNH since 1997. She is Montessori certified for ages 3-6. She has a Bachelor of Arts from St. Joseph's College-Karachi, a Masters in General History from the University of Karachi, a Bachelors of Education from Govt. College of Education-Karachi and a Montessori Diploma from MECA-Seton (Illinois). She has an interest in art, history, archeology, and antiques. She enjoys reading and listening to music.

### **Miss Maria Aragon**

Miss Aragon is the assistant teacher in Mrs. Mersedeh's primary class and is also the school's Spanish teacher. Miss Aragon has been working with different age levels in the field of Education for many years, starting in her home country of Brazil. She came to the United States in 2004, following her daughter here. Her first teaching job in the United States was at a Chicago Catholic school. Her teaching approach is based on effective interaction between teacher and child and listening to parents about their child's characteristics and expectations. She is proud to be a part of our Montessori school. She feels that the Montessori philosophy cultivates important values for life and builds a solid foundation of knowledge for children.

### **Mrs. Zahida Bahrainwala**

Mrs. Bahrainwala is an assistant teacher in Mrs. Scale's Upper Elementary class. She has a Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences from Bombay University in India. She also teaches algebra in Erdkinder. Her hobbies include traveling, cooking, reading, needlework and exploring new ideas. Mathematics and Science are her strong points.

### **Mrs. Lana Bezugla**

Mrs. Bezugla has her Montessori certification for the Primary level (ages 3-6). She has a degree in Engineering/Mathematics from Polytechnic University. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her family. She has two children; Danny who is four and Katya who is seven. Both attend MSNH. Mrs. Bezugla likes sports and travel and tries to combine these interests together. In the summer time, she enjoys canoeing with family and friends. In the winter, she likes to go skiing. Another hobby of hers is yoga and fitness exercises. As a young child, Mrs. Bezugla remembers visiting a daycare. She still remembers the problems, mistakes, and imperfections of the educational system. This is what led her to a career in teaching. She tries to do her best to make today's children happier and help set them on their way to discovering the world.

### **Ms. Sabita Bhaumik**

Ms. Bhaumik is the assistant teacher in Mrs. Haider's Lower Elementary class. Ms. Bhaumik has over 25 years of teaching experience, both in India and in the United States. She graduated from St. Mary's Covent High School in Kanpur, India and

continued her education at Kanpur University India where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Education. Her hobbies include reading, traveling, and listening to music. Ms. Bhaumik has also taught yoga to Kindergarten through third-graders. She moved to Illinois from Pennsylvania in January of 2006. Prior to moving, she taught in a school district in the suburbs of Philadelphia. She plans to complete her elementary Montessori certification next summer.

### **Miss Kristin Breheim**

Miss Kristin teaches American Literature and English Skills for Erdkinder as well as assisting Miss Motlagh and Mrs. Scales elementary classes. She was born and raised in Racine, WI. She completed her Bachelor of Arts at Columbia College Chicago and studied for two years at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. She interned for six months as a journalist with Privilla Inc. Her writing can found on many special interest websites. She is currently working on a collection of short stories and a novel. As an older sister of a Montessori student, the philosophy and values in Montessori teaching are very close to her heart.

### **Mrs. Meenal Dewan**

Mrs. Dewan is the assistant teacher in Mrs. Ali's primary class. Mrs. Dewan has a Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine from India (BHMS). She has been a Montessori mother for six years now. She loves reading and enjoys traveling and working.

### **Mr. Andrew Eagan**

Mr. Eagan is the assistant teacher in Miss Motlagh's Lower Elementary class. Mr. Eagan is Montessori certified for 6-9 and 12-15. He graduated from the University of Iowa in the Spring of 2007 with a degree in Cinema. He attended Montessori from ages 3 to 12. His goal is to facilitate the child's learning to the best of his ability. He also plans to go back to school to complete his master's degree and his PhD. In his spare time, he enjoys writing, football, softball, photography, and playing the guitar. He has lived in three different regions of the USA, traveled to Europe and Asia, and is always looking to expand his horizons. He also earned an Eagle Scout award in 2003 from the Boy Scouts of America.

### **Mrs. Saba Haider**

Mrs. Haider teaches Lower Elementary at MSNH. She has been with MSNH since 1994 and has taught both Preschool (ages 3-6) and Lower Elementary (ages 6-9). She is Montessori certified to teach at both levels. Mrs. Haider has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Federal Government College in Pakistan and a Masters in English Literature from Punjab University in Pakistan. She received her Montessori training at the Midwest Montessori Teacher Training Center (MMTTC). Mrs. Haider loves traveling, especially visiting different countries and exploring diverse cultures. Her hobbies include reading and home improvement.

### **Mrs. Akemi Kawase**

In high school, Mrs. Akemi lived in Sydney, Australia where she attended a private girls' high school. In college, she majored in English literature and received her teacher's license for junior high and high school. She graduated from Koka Women's College in Kyoto. In 1989, Mrs. Akemi moved to America and attended Harper College as an ESL student. She has taught at a public high school and at a learning center. Additionally, she has worked as a private tutor and has taught Japanese at a language school in Arlington Heights. She cannot believe that she has been teaching Japanese at MSNH for nearly 13 years now! She enjoys teaching and spending time with her students. She hopes that they will continue to study Japanese throughout junior high school, high school, and college.

### **Mrs. Ararti Mishra**

Mrs. Mishra was born and raised in India, where she attended high school and college. She has a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from India and has attended Early Childhood Education classes at Harper College. She has been with Lotus/MSNH since 1995. Currently, she is teaching with Mrs. Bezugla. Prior to that, she was an assistant teacher in the Toddler class for a number of years. Family is extremely important to Mrs. Mishra. She has one sister and three brothers and tries to spend all of her free time with her family. She loves children and enjoys reading.

### **Miss Sara Motlagh**

Miss Motlagh has been exposed to Montessori her whole life. She was a Montessori child herself, attending Long Grove Montessori School, then later our elementary program. Miss Motlagh attained her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Roosevelt University and is currently working towards her master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. Miss Motlagh is certified for 3-6, 6-9, 9-12, and 12-15 and is currently our Erdkinder Coordinator. Additionally,

Miss Motlagh is Vice President of AIMS (Association of Illinois Montessori Schools), one of the largest state Montessori organizations in the nation. Having had Montessori so close to her heart, she strives to increase visibility for Montessori programs on a global level so that more children can benefit from the joy, peace, and love for learning that Montessori education instills in children. Miss Motlagh is currently teaching Lower Elementary.

### **Dr. Molood Naghibzadeh**

Ms. Naghibzadeh founded the Montessori School of North Hoffman in 1989 and Lotus Montessori in 2004 and still serves as the head of both schools. She has over 40 years of teaching experience and is Montessori certified to teach Primary (ages 3-6) and Elementary (ages 6-9). She has a Masters degree in Preschool Education from Shemiran University in Iran. She also attended George Washington University and Texas Women's University. She completed her Ph.D in 1987.

### **Mrs. Mali Safari**

Mrs. Mali has been teaching for over thirty years, and has been with MSNH/Lotus for seven. She currently works as an assistant in Mrs. Sher's 3-6 class at MSNH. In her home country of Iran, she taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade History, Geography, Literature, and Social Studies. Mrs. Mali has an Associate degree in Social Sciences from the University of Mashad in Iran. She has also taken courses in Early Childhood Education at Harper College. She enjoys reading, knitting, and traveling. She also enjoys learning about different cultures. Mrs. Mali has a daughter who is graduating from medical school next year and a son who is in eighth grade. She loves her job and looks forward to coming to work each day.

### **Mrs. Bridget Scales**

Mrs. Scales is the Upper Elementary teacher at MSNH. She is Montessori certified by Xavier University to teach both Elementary I and Elementary II. She attended Indiana University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She also has a Masters from Xavier University-Med in Montessori Education. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending quality time with her family, and listening to music. She is very excited to be a part of our school both because it is a diverse and peaceful community and because her son is also a member of this community.

### **Mrs. Corinne Sher**

Mrs. Sher teaches Preschool/Kindergarten at MSNH. She has her AMS (American Montessori Society) certification for ages 3-6 and has been with MSNH since 1991. She has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Loyola University. She enjoys reading English mysteries and spending time with her family which includes a granddaughter.

### **Mrs. Sushmita Vohra**

Mrs. Vohra joined MSNH in 2005. She has a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from India, and she has been working with preschool children for the last five years. She likes cooking, watching movies, dining out, and listening to music.

### **Mr. David Wiskowski**

Mr. Wiskowski is the Physical Education teacher for Upper and Lower Elementary. In addition, he works in the MSNH office. Mr. Wiskowski was born and raised in New Jersey. He attended Loyola University Chicago where he studied Biology. Currently, he is studying photography at College of DuPage. For the last few summers, Mr. Wiskowski has been teaching sports (primarily soccer and basketball) as part of the school's summer program. Mr. Wiskowski's hobbies include photography, sports, computers and technology, traveling, camping, and movies. He has three dogs (one Yellow Lab and two rescued Golden Retrievers) and is married to Mrs. Mersedeh.

### **Mrs. Mersedeh Wiskowski**

Mrs. Mersedeh is certified by MECA (Montessori Education Centers Associated) to teach ages 3-6. Prior to becoming a lead teacher, Mrs. Mersedeh worked for eight years as an assistant teacher in the Infant/Toddler program at MSNH. She has a Bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Biology from Northeastern Illinois University. She loves traveling, camping, reading, and shopping. She and her husband love animals and have three dogs (two golden retrievers and one yellow lab).