



"We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit." – Maria Montessori

February 2013

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

to our friends born in February: **Sam R.** (2/5), **Janie** (2/5), **Quinn** (2/6), **Sydney** (2/8), **Mia** (2/10), **Max Koransky** (2/11), **Murphy** (2/12), **Ms. Ellen** (2/19), **Sumner** (2/22), **Siri** (2/22), and **Vienna** (2/25).

Welcome new students starting in February!

Grace Abbott-Thompson (Primary 2), Wilma Wood (Primary 4), and Rainer Jones (Primary 3)

A NOTE FROM LISL ABOUT HER MATERNITY LEAVE

Baby Joie Lynn Lewis is growing quickly and already a little gymnast! I am so excited finally to be joining the rest of you in the special parenting club and can't wait to meet her! My due date is March 15th, so I will slowly be phasing out over the next month. We have been preparing for this time for a long while and have an excellent team in place to keep things running smoothly at Athena in my absence. Keyla Martinez will be acting as Interim Director for the remainder of the school year. Keyla is in her sixth year with me at Athena and completed her Director training and credential last April. She will continue to be Lead Guide in the P3 classroom for the remainder of the school year but will also be available for questions related to licensing and health department issues, accounts payable, and campus-related questions at Keyla@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com. Mandy Waid, P2 Lead Guide, will be working with Keyla to address any parent-related issues or concerns (mandywaid@gmail.com). My intention is to complete staffing decisions for summer camp and fall, as well as enrollment for summer and fall, prior to my leave. Keyla will direct summer camp while I learn how to be a working mommy as I ease back into my role as Director for next school year.

Contact Ellen at Ellen@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com regarding:

- Summer & fall primary enrollment
- Tuition and fee payments
- Student file questions or paperwork

- Waiting list
- Contact Rachel at Rachel@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com regarding:
- Tours
 - Casino RoyOwl tickets
 - Auction donations
 - Cookbook, t-shirt, and engraved brick sales
 - Daily and general office requests and questions

Contact Laura at Laura@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com regarding TOTs fall enrollment.

As always, your teachers will be your best resource for most of your questions regarding your child's experience at Athena.

ADDITIONAL STAFFING UPDATES FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

We are excited to announce that Brittany Smith, after three years of internship with Mandy Waid following her Montessori teacher training, is ready to take over Lead role in her own classroom! Brittany will be joining the P3 Sparrows team with Maia, officially starting in summer camp, and continuing into next school year. We will notify you as soon as we complete our interview process for Mandy's new Intern in P2.

In the fall, Keyla will continue working in an Administrative role, as well as supporting our Primary teaching team and our Spanish curriculum. Primary 2 and Primary 3 families will be receiving letters from Brittany and Keyla with more information in the coming weeks.

2013 - 2014 TUITION & FEES

We have published the tuition and fee information for the 2013-2014 school year. Follow [this link](#) to view it on our website. Paper copies are available in the office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FOR CASINO ROYOWL SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

Our 7th Annual Spring Fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, April 6th from 6:00-10:00 PM** at American Legion Hall. **Come ready to play the night away.** *Feeling lucky?* Games by Casino Knights. *Want to dance?* Music by DJ Bomber. *Need to recharge?* Food by Maudie's Tex-Mex, plus frozen margaritas and other adult beverages. *Love to shop?* Live and silent auctions, featuring artwork by Athena owlets. Call the office (512-494-6237) or email Rachel (Rachel@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com) to purchase your tickets. You can also make a payment via PayPal on our website: <http://athenamontessoriacademy.com/get-involved/>. (Please write Casino RoyOwl and number of tickets in space labeled "Donation Note".) \$50 per person in advance, \$52 through PayPal, \$60 at the door. *Vegas, Baby!*

FUND-RAISING? NOT WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

If you've already done so, **thank you for donating or soliciting donations of goods or services** for our upcoming spring auction fundraiser! Through the support of people like you and the generosity of Austin's business community, we were able to raise nearly **\$20,000 last year**. These funds were used to help complete our beautiful new play yard, fencing, and performance stage. Wonderful community-building events have been held in these spaces, and we look forward to many more in the future.

If you have not already donated, please consider ways you might support our fundraising efforts. Does your company provide a service that we might auction? Or is there a local coffee shop, restaurant or specialty store you visit regularly that might be willing to donate a gift card? If so, please give them a copy of the **donation form** and **request letter below**, and remind them that contributing an item or service to the auction is a **great way to market their business**.

4th Annual

**ATHENA OWL
COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!**

COME BY THE OFFICE TO PICK UP YOUR COPY
AND A COPY OF LAST YEAR'S COOKBOOK ON
SALE FOR \$10!

A GREAT KEEPSAKE OR GIFT!

*Thanks to the parent volunteers who
donated their time and talents!*

EDITED BY STEPHANIE OWENS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY KERRY GRAY
DESIGNED BY KRISTIN HOLLOWAY

For extra forms and request letters, email Rachel (Rachel@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com) or stop by the front office. Funds raised at this year's event will go towards continued school improvement and overall development of staff and student progress. **Our school budget depends on your fundraising contributions!**

NEXT STOP: VEGAS, BABY!

There are many ways you can **get involved** with Casino RoyOwl. Not only are we seeking auction items, raffle prizes and casino winner prizes—maybe you have season tickets or a vacation home you can donate, or perhaps you would be comfortable asking your favorite store or restaurant for a gift card or basket of goodies? If so, great. But we are also looking for volunteers who are willing to lend a helpful hand leading up to or on April 6th including writers, decorators, and more.

Either way, please let us know that you're **ready to roll...** email Stephanie at Stephanie@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com or check the [AthenaVolunteers message board on Yahoo!](#) to get started. And thanks!

Let your Kids Flip Out...

...while you party at Athena's
Casino RoyOwl Fundraiser

AGES 3 - 12
LOCATION Jump! Gymnastics
2919 Manchaca, ATX 78704
DATE Saturday, April 6, 2013
TIME 5:45pm - 10:30pm
PRICE \$50 / \$30 siblings
PHONE 505-8608
EMAIL info@jumpgymnastics.com
WEBSITE www.jumpgymnastics.com

GYMNASTICS • GAMES • CRAFTS • PIZZA & A MOVIE!

To Register: Email info@jumpgymnastics.com
with your child's name and age.



School Closed? We're Open!

Check out our Camps. School Closure Camps, Spring Break Camps, and Summer Camps.

"It's a happy talent to know how to play." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

A MESSAGE FROM MS. LAURA

Each month, I wonder what, if any, words I might offer to you that may help illuminate or spark some new understanding or way of being with your children. I can't help but feel humbled by the very question. Because when it comes to children, I often feel as if they have more to teach me than the other way around. I have a quote posted in my classroom which reads, "Each day I ask myself . . . What did I come to teach and what did I come to learn?" This question, coupled with the ever-changing fluid dynamics of an early childhood environment, remind me that no matter how old we are or how long we've been working with children, we never stop learning. It also reminds me of the sage advice Dr. Montessori offers to always "FOLLOW THE CHILD." We hear these words repeated again and again in Montessori circles, though how often do we really stop to consider what they mean?

For me, it's a reminder to stand back and truly observe the young child. As adults, we work hard to achieve balance between work and play. We schedule and prioritize and multi-task and set ourselves reminders to breathe. We even grow frustrated when our children seem to hinder our "progress." How many children do we observe working this hard? For children, work *is* play. Children are naturally drawn to the things they love. They work with determined resolve and remind us that life is not about the end goal, but about the journey itself. They also remind us to slow down and appreciate the beauty in the little things that we are surrounded by. For many of us, January is a time to set new resolutions. Unfortunately, some of us set such high expectations for ourselves to do more or accomplish more, we end up disappointed at our inability to meet our lofty goals by the time February rolls around. Maybe this time around, we'll pause just a moment to remind ourselves that we don't need to do more or *be* more (nor do our children), we merely need to BE. As our children so often remind us, if we travel too fast, we'll miss all we're traveling for. The ability to slow down and be present is a skill which takes a lifetime to cultivate and one you can even begin practicing with very young children. Here are some ways you can do so at home:

- *Create a quiet, comfortable space* at home where each member of the family can retreat when they need some alone time.
- *Model stillness.* Create moments in your day when you just sit and breathe, even 30 seconds will work wonders! As your child grows older and more curious, you can explain the benefits of stillness and silence in your life.
- *Light a candle.* Children love the warmth and light of a candle especially when they bear the responsibility of carrying the candle or blowing it out!
- *Play the Silent Game.* Challenge your children to sit in silence and see how long they can last. For an added challenge, they can close their eyes and notice what sounds arise.
- *Explore nature.* Go for walks, sit by a creek, watch the clouds or observe insects in your backyard. Young children are fascinated and calmed by the outdoors. Setting intention to appreciate nature's wonders helps cultivate an appreciation and respect for nature and stillness.

Recommended Readings:

Slow Family Living
by Carrie Contey

*Peaceful Children,
Peaceful World*
by Aline D. Wolf

*Parenting for a
Peaceful World*
by Robin Grille

*Nurturing the Soul of
your Family: 10
Ways to Reconnect
and Find Peace in
Everyday Life*
by Renée Trudeau

LEAVE YOUR IMPRINT ON THE ATHENA PATHWAY!

Athena is sponsoring a signature brick campaign to raise funds for teacher training and parent workshops. Please join us by having a name engraved for your child, for your family, or to honor someone. **Deadline to turn in your order to the office is February 28th!** Follow the link to download the order form from our website:
<http://athenamontessoriacademy.com/leave-your-imprint-on-the-athena-pathway/>





Annessa Baird, Amy Witte, Alice Saffer, Paige Kaner, Stephanie Owens, & Lisl at a Volunteer Parent Committee Meeting

Thanks to the TOTs 1, TOTs 2, and Primary 2 class parents for bringing staff appreciation goodies!

BABYSITTER LIST

(Friends of Athena)

Marley Ketter: 501-9882

Meghan Feffer: 771-6764 or

meghanfeffer58@gmail.com

Liz Hudson: 785-4897

Jess Williamson: (214) 535-5263

or williamson.jess@gmail.com

Corazon Renteria: 401-3471

(Athena Teachers)

Carla Ketter: 203-7234

Brittany Smith:

bsmith.montessori@gmail.com

BIRTHING WARRIORS WORKSHOP

Facing Fear Head on in Birth

Saturday, Feb 9th, 2013

10:30am – 12:30pm

Using movement, breath, story telling, journal exercises and MORE pregnant mamas will connect with their bodies, hearts, and inner resources to prepare for birth! This is an excellent way for pregnant mamas to connect with themselves and other women in our community! Journals, refreshments, and a Yoga Nidra Mommy-Centered meditation also included!

Facilitated by Elizabeth Mangum-Sarach and held at Soma Vida – 1210 Rosewood Dr. Austin, TX

Fee: \$35/person

Register now via email (elizabeth@birthfocus.com) or call 512.534.8425

PARENT WORKSHOP SERIES

A gift to our community...

BY BETHANY PRESCOTT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BIG FEARS, BIG TEARS, BIG ANGER

Emotion coaching with children

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH, 3 - 5 PM

It's hard to know what to do with a child's really BIG feelings. Whether it's a nuclear meltdown, rage, paralyzing frustration, weepy heartbreak, or fear and anxiety...it can leave us feeling our very own big feelings. We'll talk about how to honor, respect, and nurture your child's feelings AND keep the family moving.

Athena offers parenting workshops for Athena parents taught by Bethany Prescott throughout the school year. Bethany is a trained therapist, wife, and mother of three, and was previously a Montessori toddler teacher for eight years. She supports parents, couples, and teachers to lovingly guide and deeply connect with the children they share their lives with.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEB. 18TH PARENT CONFERENCES
STUDENT HOLIDAY

FEB. 19TH, 9 AM VISION & HEARING
SCREENING AT ATHENA

**JUMP! GYMNASTICS WILL BE OFFERING DAY
CAMPS ON FEB. 18TH, AND MAR. 11TH -15TH.**

MAR. 11TH -15TH SPRING BREAK
SCHOOL CLOSED

SEE THEIR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:

WWW.JUMPGYMNASTICS.COM.



February 2013

Drop-off and Pick-up Schedule:

P3 & P4 Drop-off (8:15-8:30) Pick-up (2:30-2:45)

T1, T2, P1, & P2

Drop-off (8:30-8:45) Pick-up (2:45-3:00)

Half Day Pick-up

TOTs (12:15) Primary (12:30)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				February Tuition Due 1	2
9:00 Jump! TOT PE 4 10:30–11:00 Jump! 2:15 – 3:00 Wee Little Arts 3:00 – 3:45 Wee Little Arts	Tuition Late After 5th 5 <i>Sam Robinson's Birthday!</i> <i>Janie's Birthday!</i> 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:00 – 2:35 Soccer Shots 2:45 – 3:20 Soccer Shots	<i>Quinn's Birthday!</i> 6 2:45 – 3:30 Yoga	9:00 – 11:00 Primary PE 7 2:45 – 3:30 Dance 3:45 – 4:30 Dance	8:45 Casino RoyOwl 8 Parent Volunteer Meeting in the Office <i>Sydney's Birthday!</i> 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:45 – 3:15 Jump! 3:30 – 4:00 Jump!	<i>Mia's Birthday! (2/10)</i> 9
11 <i>Max Koransky's Birthday!</i> 9:00 Jump! TOT PE 10:30–11:00 Jump! 2:15 – 3:00 Wee Little Arts 3:00 – 3:45 Wee Little Arts	12 <i>Murphy's Birthday!</i> 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:00 – 2:35 Soccer Shots 2:45 – 3:20 Soccer Shots	13 2:45 – 3:30 Yoga	14 Valentine's Day! 9:00 – 11:00 Primary PE 2:45 – 3:30 Dance 3:45 – 4:30 Dance	15 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:45 – 3:15 Jump! 3:30 – 4:00 Jump!	16
18 Parent Conferences STUDENT HOLIDAY	19 <i>Ms. Ellen's Birthday!</i> Vision & Hearing Screening 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:00 – 2:35 Soccer Shots 2:45 – 3:20 Soccer Shots	20 2:45 – 3:30 Yoga	21 9:00 – 11:00 Primary PE 2:45 – 3:30 Dance 3:45 – 4:30 Dance	22 <i>Sumner's Birthday!</i> <i>Siri's Birthday!</i> 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:45 – 3:15 Jump! 3:30 – 4:00 Jump!	23
25 <i>Vienna's Birthday!</i> 9:00 Jump! TOT PE 10:30–11:00 Jump! 2:15 – 3:00 Wee Little Arts 3:00 – 3:45 Wee Little Arts	26 9:45-10:30 Dance 2:00 – 2:35 Soccer Shots 2:45 – 3:20 Soccer Shots	27 2:45 – 3:30 Yoga	28 Last Day to order your Engraved Brick on the Athena Pathway! 9:00 – 11:00 Primary PE 2:45 – 3:30 Dance 3:45 – 4:30 Dance	<div> During Parent Conferences, we are providing childcare during your scheduled conference time slot only. </div> <div> Contact Jump! for Day Camp on February 18th: http://www.jumpgymnastics.com </div>	

For volunteer opportunities for community events, teacher appreciation, and fundraising efforts, sign up for our Parent Committee Yahoo Group by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/athenavolunteers> and clicking "Join This Group!".

January 2013

Friends and Neighbors,

Athena Montessori Academy’s 7th Annual Spring Fundraiser is almost here! “Casino RoyOwl” will be held on **Saturday, April 6, 2013** at the beautiful Legion Hall in downtown Austin with a catered dinner, casino tables, adult beverages, DJ Bomber and the always-popular **silent and live auctions**. On behalf of the students, staff and families of Athena we ask that you **donate an item or service or solicit a donation** from your favorite business to help ensure our auctions are a success. Our goal is to raise the needed funds for continued school improvement and overall development. **We hope you can help!**

As fellow members of the Austin community, we would love to show our support for you as well. What better way to **promote your business and generate new customers** than by reaching Athena’s demographic of influential Austin moms, dads and families? In exchange for your generous auction item(s), we will recognize your business in the event program as well as in our monthly school newsletter, which is sent out to nearly **1,000 families**. We are also happy to include any pertinent business information or **marketing materials** that accompany your donation.

Athena Montessori is dear to each of us, and we are **sincerely grateful for your support**. With your help, Athena will continue its evolution as an ideal environment for little ones to learn, grow and explore the world around them. Please call Athena’s office if you have any questions or need to arrange for a contribution to be picked up. Auction items may also be submitted in person, via fax or by email to Rachel@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com (additional details on **attached form**).

With gratitude,

Parent Committee
Athena Montessori Academy

Athena Montessori Academy provides a loving, diverse, holistic educational and experiential environment for children in order to nurture, stimulate, and cultivate healthy minds, bodies and souls. Typical outcomes of a Montessori education are academic preparation and readiness; intrinsic motivation; internalized ground rules and the ability to work with external authority; social responsibility; autonomy; confidence and competence; creativity and originality of thought; and spiritual awareness.

Out of the mouths of babes...

What the children say they love about Athena:

“I love everything!” –Malena, age 5

“It is fun and there is so much to do.”
–Naomi, age 3

“We like making maps.”
–Colin, age 5 and Owen, age 6

“I love making jewelry and finding treasures in the sandbox.”
–Beatrix, age 5

“I love snack and the Mouse work.”
–Max, age 5

“Turning on the music for Circle.”
–Diego, age 3

“I love doing mazes and making paper airplanes!” –Ryder, age 5

“I love to play in the kitchen.”
–Noah, age 2

“Play dough is my favorite.”
–Isabelle, age 3

“I like going on the big swings, the fire truck, and working with blocks.”
–Liam, age 4

“I like that I can do perforating.”
–Jack, age 4

“Recess and working outside.”
–Sam, age 4

“I get to play so, so much!”
–Evelyn, age 3

CASINO ROYOWL DONATION FORM

DONATION DESCRIPTION

Please describe the item(s) or service(s) you wish to donate including quantities, restrictions, contact information for buyer and any notes on how you would prefer it displayed:

Please provide **value** or estimate the fair market value of your donation(s):

\$ _____

**Please submit this form along with your donation to the Athena Office (M-F, 8-5pm),
via email to Rachel@AthenaMontessoriAcademy.com or fax to 512.693.0065 by
Monday, March 18, 2013.**

If you are unable to deliver your donation and you would like to arrange for it to be picked up,
please contact Athena’s friendly office staff at 512.494.6237 for assistance.

**Your support of the growth and transformation of the children and
programs at Athena Montessori Academy is greatly appreciated!**

DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name (as you would like it published): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Contact Name: _____

Phone: ____/____/____ Fax: ____/____/____ Email: _____

Purchase TICKETS

Tickets Requested: _____ x \$50 each = _____ Amt. Due

CASH DONATION

\$ _____

(Thank you!)