

**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL &**  
***Happy 25th Anniversary Shaw Montessori Community***  
**What a Magical Year it Promises to Be!**

Welcome back, weeks into the school year? Well, yes, as of Monday Shaw Montessori's last group of prek2 friends had their last staggered start. It is wonderful to have everyone on campus.

Twenty-five years ago already, the beginning of our Montessori program was created at Phoenix Elementary #1's Kenilworth School. Twenty-six eager children and their amazing parents began the uncharted waters of a Montessori education. Staff, parents, and of course the children, were delighted to begin this new journey. Five very short years later our Montessori program outgrew those digs based on high parent interest. With the abundance of interest and the long list of new friends joining the nascent Montessori program, we joyfully moved to the lovely Faith North campus. What a happy group it was. So happy our parents kept spreading the word and four years in at the Faith North Campus we could not keep up with the demand and opened three classrooms at Monterey Park School. Five years later, we outgrew Monterey Park, and our rapidly growing program moved to the Augustus H. Shaw School, where we added four more classrooms. With a total of seven classrooms at Augustus H. Shaw and eight at Faith North, we operated on two campuses for 11 years. Today, after 25 years of growth, Shaw Montessori's 16 classrooms are finally together, harmoniously engaging in their works on our beautiful campus. What a wonderful journey it has been. In "wedding years" the 25th anniversary is celebrated with the metal silver, as it represents radiance and brilliance. What a perfect representation of all the light, creativity, and intelligence that the children of Shaw Montessori bring with them each and every day. Congratulations on the Radiance and Brilliance of Shaw Montessori.

What a fantastic history we have. Not only is our Montessori program honored to be welcoming it's 25th group of three-year-olds, it is also our 3rd year as a collective community—all together on one consolidated campus – so much to celebrate!

Good things do come in threes, and that especially applies to the three-year-cycles our students spend in their multi-grade level communities. Any Montessori teacher will tell you that the cycle of three is paramount in creating a solid Montessori foundation that will carry a child through an entire Montessori program. From this journey, teachers see their children begin as eager (& sometimes apprehensive) prek1 friends to confident, kind, extremely capable middle school student scholars. These three-year-cycles also bring teacher training, the carefully prepared classroom environments and the lessons to a beautiful culmination and is a dynamic time in shaping a teachers craft and a child's learning.

Our collective work on the grounds of the Shaw Campus has been mighty but is far from over. Our outdoor learning lab dreams this year are to install a weather station with all of the bells and whistles as well as a physics wall. The solar system is soon to be completed and if you have not met our new tortoise, Torty Banks, stop by and take a look! She is a beauty. We still have a whole lot to do concerning campus beautification. Join us on Saturday, September 16th for Parent Workday in the Gardens. This is a day of heavy lifting and moving to prepare the outdoors for the work that our children do. We will be here from 7 AM to 11 AM. Please go to [SignUp.com](http://signup.com/go/tjkcLi) to let us know you are coming: <http://signup.com/go/tjkcLi>

We are so thankful that you are here and a part of our rich, diverse learning community. You will experience many school and PTA events where you will meet new friends, as well as your child's friends. You will receive information weekly through the See Shaw Shine email that comes to your inbox every Monday or you can access the school interactive calendar on the school website at: <http://shaw.phxschools.org/> Our school newsletter, The Montessori Messenger, is published every couple of months and offers a more detailed view into the children's work in the classrooms and around campus, or join the parent Facebook page for a more social experience.

Our wonderful Montessori program would not be here without the commitment of past, current and future families.

Thank you for your commitment to Shaw Montessori.

***All the best, Susan Engdall - Principal***

On one campus as of Fall 2015



Principal Susan Engdall



**A FEW UPCOMING EVENTS/ITEMS THAT WE JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS:**

**AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup> (this coming WEDNESDAY)**  
**PASSPORT TO MONTESSORI –**  
**BEGINS AT 5PM / ELEMENTARY AT 6PM**

**SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> (this is a MONDAY)**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED – LABOR DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN**

**SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**LITERACY NIGHT – LIBRARY TBD**

**SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> (this is a SATURDAY)**  
**PARENT WORKDAY IN THE GARDEN**

**SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**FUN RUN FUNDRAISING BEGINS**

**SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SITE COUNCIL / PTA MTGS. START TIME 5:30PM**

**FOR A FULL LIST OF UPCOMING  
EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT:**

**[HTTP://PHXSCHOOLS.ORG/SHAW-MONTESSORI/FOR-PARENTS/SCHOOL-CALENDAR/](http://phxschools.org/shaw-montessori/for-parents/school-calendar/)**

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# We are the Shaw Stars



## OUR SCHOOL'S NAMESAKE

### Augustus H. Shaw

1914-1977



"Gus" Shaw received his degrees in education at Arizona State College in Flagstaff (Now NAU). His educational accomplishments were numerous: At Carver High he established & headed the PE department and was the

Dean of Boys. Under his auspices he formed a powerful team that won 9 out of 10 games in 1951, was undefeated in 1952 and 1953; with 2 of his players named All-State, All-American & was recognized by the Press Box Association for his outstanding contribution to AZ athletics. When Carver High closed in 1954, he joined PESD #1 as Principal at Dunbar until 1967, & then Principal at Bethune until 1977. He is included in "Who's Who in Education" 1951-1952 edition.

In addition to being an exceptional Principal, he served his community selflessly & extensively by serving on the board or as a member of numerous civic organizations: The Foundation for the Blind, Phoenix Urban League, YMCA, Valley Big Brothers, Jane Wayland Center, Girl Scouts, AZ Towne Hall, Phoenix Housing Authority, National & Arizona Educational Association(s). Besides "Gus" Shaw's reach & influence in education, he was also noted for his service during WWII & as the VA Educational Training Officer.

## FOUNDER OF OUR SCHOOL'S APPROACH

### Dr. Maria Montessori

(Maria Tecla Artemesia Montessori)

1870-1952



Dr. Montessori had many accomplishments just one being the Montessori Method. She became the first female physician in Italy upon her graduation from medical school in 1896. Shortly afterwards, she was chosen to represent Italy at two different women's

conferences, in Berlin in 1896 & in London in 1900. In her medical practice, her clinical observations led her to analyze how children learn. Her method of education developed, based upon her scientific observations of children's almost effortless ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings, as well as their tireless interest in the manipulation of materials. This simple but profound truth inspired Montessori's lifelong pursuit of educational reform, methodology, psychology, teaching, & teacher training—all based on her dedication to furthering the self-creating process of the child. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times—in 1949, 1950, and 1951. Her passion for education & peace live on in each child touched by the Montessori experience.

## Show your Shaw Montessori Pride.

Join the Shaw Montessori PTA and get your Shaw Sticker for your car.