

COVID - 19 Update, July 2020

Hello and thank you for your interest in Avalon. We are really pleased you would consider Avalon as you explore alternative forms of education for your children. Choosing the right school for your child and your family is one of the most important decisions you will make and we look forward to speaking with you about our programs.

As we continue to manage the global pandemic, I wanted to let you know a bit about how we managed the recent school closure and remote learning. Avalon began offering an online programme immediately following March Break. The transition was seamless for us as our faculty was committed to providing meaningful work that built upon the school curriculum while allowing students the opportunity to connect and engage with their classmates. The learning curve was steep as our philosophy is based upon a hands on experience however the creativity, collaboration and ingenuity of the students, staff and parents ensured an extremely positive outcome. In addition to fulfilling their required school curriculum, our students developed resiliency, enhanced their communication skills and acquired valuable experience with emerging technology during the mandated school closure. **Our students are well prepared for the next grade in September and are ready to soar into the next challenge.**

In mid April, I had the opportunity to discuss the school closures and the ensuing challenges with Barb DiGuilio of Newtalk1010 (link posted below). I hope you will take the opportunity to listen as I believe it gives you a sense of our school and the way in which we responded.

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/newstalk-1010/audio/podcasts/how-the-owner-of-a-sm-all-montessori-school-is-taking-on-unique-challenges-when-it-comes-to-education-1.12050412?mode=Article&fbclid=IwAR2hrboDaqc0-7d5SDw2iW9p2YMXTyS4nQQZqkk0PIr4dB0BcduVHnuFzbQI>

A much loved tradition at Avalon is our annual elementary school production. This year, we were not able to perform onstage so we moved rehearsals online. The cast, made up of students in grades 4 - 8, met 3 times a week and we 'filmed' the play in late May. We all had so much fun working together as we adapted a stage show to film, without ever being in the same room!

Here is one of many bloopers, enjoy:)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOm1zvooUds&feature=youtu.be>

Regarding our plan for September -- which will of course be dependent upon what the government allows us to do -- we are ready and able to return to the classroom September 8, the safety and well being of our students and staff as our priority. Due to our small class sizes, Avalon students and teachers are planning to be together full time in the classroom. Additional measures will be taken in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health, details will be finalized closer to the start of school. Rest assured that we will continue to offer the unique and dynamic education for which we are known in a safe and healthy environment.

We currently have limited space available in Grade 1, 2 and 7 and hope to have more space available in our preschool and kindergarten programs as the health guidelines change. Please email Angie at registrar@avalonmontessori.ca for more information and to set up a time to chat, by telephone or ZOOM as you explore Avalon as an option for your children.

We look forward to helping you meet the challenges of educating your children in these difficult times. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Sherry VanderKooi,
School Director,
Elementary School Principal*