



Greetings everyone!

2016 has been a great year at Alpha School with many new developments.

Alpha school has a whole new look and feel - fresh and beautiful! During this past year, we've had months of construction and building repairs, the painting of classroom walls and shelves, and the installation of new carpeting. All the classrooms are revived and there is a new energy in the school. The children and teachers love the changes and want to spend time there, even more than before. In order to keep the classroom environment clean and spotless, the children and staff are extremely conscientious. The children have developed a new regimen of taking their shoes off and storing them gracefully before entering the classroom. Please watch the sweet video on our website at www.igniteafl.org/latestnews.



Another wonderful improvement at our school are the ten new signs on the doors; all wood with laser cut Montessori symbols pertinent to each learning space. The process began with Ms. Vel Hulton, the founder of our computer lab, making a sign for the lab, after which she suggested each of other rooms be given signs. The teachers collaborated in suggesting the symbols, and a collective decision was made for each sign. A special thanks to: Alex Hughes for his contribution and design work, Meka Stithies, Maria Montessori Elementary School, and Ada's Technical Books, for their contributions and to Vel Hulton for facilitating the project. We thank you all for your expertise, generosity, time, and love.



The elementary education program continues to grow. Education up to the 5th grade (traditional standard) is well established and we are working towards expanding it up to 8th grade. To fulfill the needs of this level of education, a new elementary teacher, Ms. Rosy Khera has joined us. Her strong Math skills are a huge asset for us, and we are extremely happy to have her join our team. In addition, Ms. Hulton has been consistent in her biyearly visits to the school to give computer education to the elementary children. We are grateful for her generous gift.

The roof top garden continues to thrive. It is a place of pure joy for the children. They love learning how to garden, growing vegetables from seeds and observing insects and plant growth. It's a delightful experience for them everyday! Please watch a short video of the children in the roof top garden on our website at www.igniteafl.org/latestnews.



We are currently working on our library and the selection of books is growing. The children routinely check out library books in response to their ever increasing knowledge from their classroom learning. Their wide ranging interests are reflected in what they check out, from literature and science to general knowledge. A free range of interests is generally not practiced or encouraged in traditional Indian culture, much less in this community. It is a great pleasure to see how their interest in learning is mirrored, as the children use our library!

Thank you again for your continuing support in creating this wonderful space and for making this beautiful, loving school happen.



With Love and Gratitude,

Amita

