


since
2000

avalon

children's montessori school



Our mission is to provide quality education that embraces the unique characteristics of each and every child, developing in them a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

• **SENIOR SCHOOL** •
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“Our aim is not only to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core.”

- Maria Montessori

AVALON CHILDREN'S MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Located in the heart of the Beach, Avalon is a small, independent, co-educational school that embraces the unique characteristics of the adolescent, providing support in the important period between elementary school and high school.

The Senior School at Avalon is a place where teachers and students work and study together. Avalon is committed to providing an educational program that respects the individual learning styles of the students, encouraging them to be active participants in their own education. Students are encouraged to think outside the box, to develop leadership skills and become responsible global citizens.

The Senior School has been prepared specifically for the adolescent students, to provide them with opportunities and experiences that contribute not only to their academic growth but also their social and emotional development.

Scheduling permits long, uninterrupted work periods that encourage focused concentration and personal reflection while allowing for questioning, discussion and debate. Class meetings and discussions give students first hand experience in teamwork, conflict resolution and personal responsibility.

“What has impressed us most is the time you took to get to know our son, to understand him, to listen to him and to respect his learning style. The greatest gift you have given him is his love of learning.”

Main Goals of the program are to provide opportunities to:

- develop a love of learning
- gain confidence and independence
- enable students to be active members of their community
- develop positive habits and attitudes
- develop community awareness, empathy and tolerance
- become flexible and motivated learners in a secure and supportive learning environment
- become responsible and co-operative decision makers
- joyfully explore and learn about the world around them
- prepare for secondary school

Opportunity for introspection and **reflection** is built into the curriculum. Students reflect on their work and their learning styles, discovering ways to build on their areas of strength and develop their areas of weakness. Teachers support the students through out this process, both formally and informally.

An important aspect of the Montessori curriculum involves **'going out'**, whereby students are encouraged to take their education out of the classroom and gain practical, real life experience. Students may venture outside of the classroom for short or extended periods of time. Trips evolve from the work that the students are exploring in the classroom and will vary from year to year.

All students attending Avalon are required to wear a school **uniform**. A uniform instills respect for self, for peers and for the learning environment while eliminating stereotypes among peers.

Community involvement is an integral part of the school philosophy. Students are actively involved in local, national and global initiatives including Share a Christmas, Second Harvest, Terry Fox Run and Free the Children

*"My daughter felt like she belonged after her first day at Avalon in Grade 6.
We have never looked back."*

CURRICULUM

The curriculum at the Senior School at Avalon is based on the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. It is interdisciplinary, centered on topics that have personal and current relevance and that allow for discussion and debate, as well as for the examination and discussion of values.

Independent activity constitutes a great percentage of the work done by Avalon students. This philosophy respects the student and better reflects the expectations of secondary school, post secondary school and the work environment.


The areas of **Mathematics** listed in the Ontario curriculum are number sense and numeration, measurement, geometry and spatial sense, patterning and algebra, data management and probability. While our students explore each of these areas, the rate at which the material is discovered is based on the individual student, taking into account his or her strengths and weaknesses.

The overall goal of the **Language Arts** program is to develop skills that will enable the student to become proficient in the use of language and to develop critical thinking skills. Students are encouraged to express ideas confidently, appreciate literature and develop a love of reading and writing.

Our reading list includes *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Giver*, *Animal Farm*, *Izzy Willy Nilly*, *Word Nerd*, *Mockingbird*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Romeo and Juliet*.

Students have opportunities to develop their **Science** skills using the scientific method of investigation. They practice identifying problems and possible solutions, observing, and drawing conclusions. Students make appropriate records of procedures, observations and conclusions.

"The staff at Avalon provides a supportive, challenging and inspiring school environment where my child can be herself and flourish."



Students are encouraged to explore **History** with an open mind. A cross-curricular approach is utilized to cover the material outlined in the Ontario curriculum and build a deeper understanding through novels that connect well to certain history units. Students are asked to use critical thinking while learning about history and to consider the various points of view for each event we study.

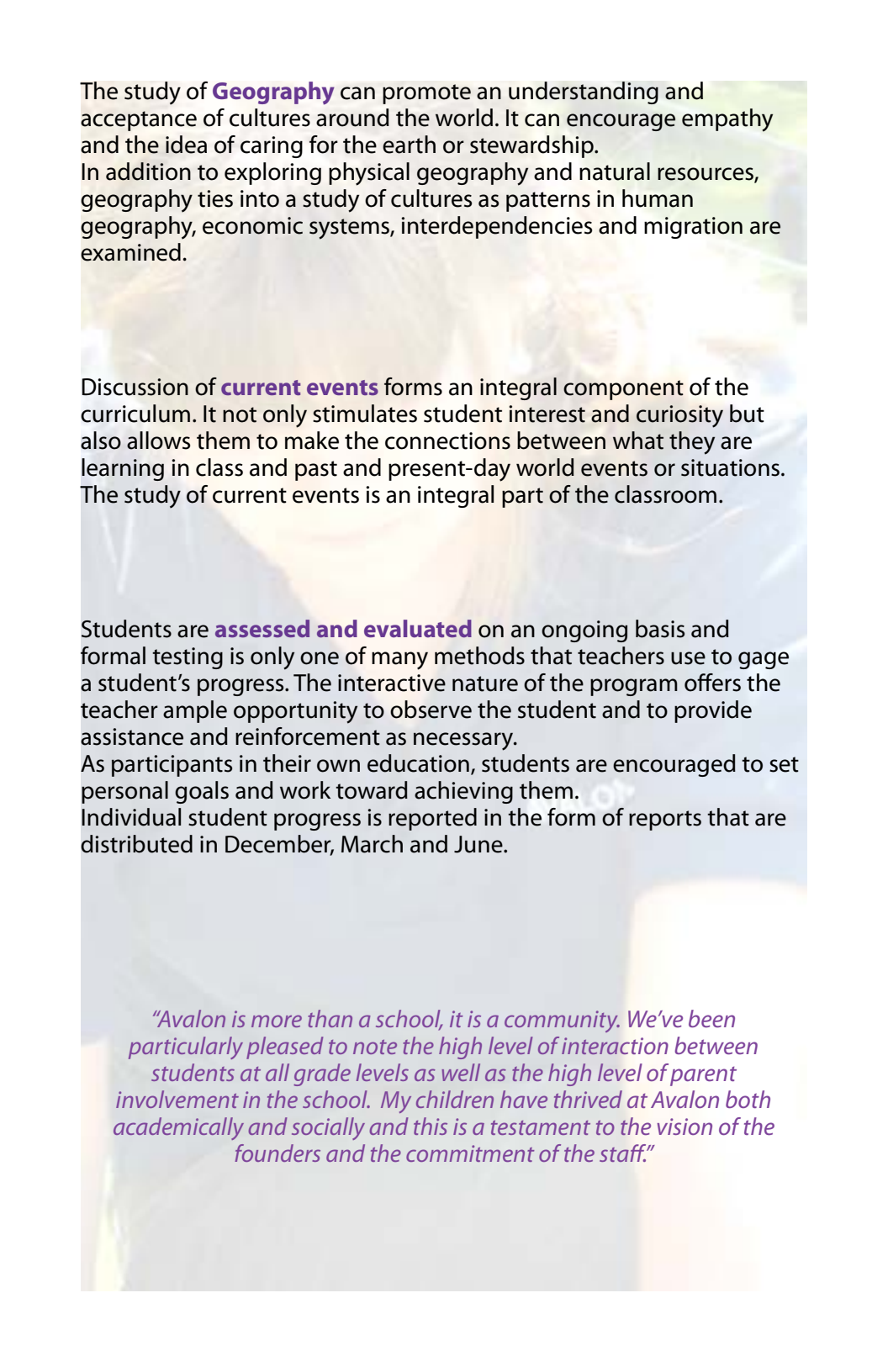
The Arts are studied as both specialty topics and are incorporated into all aspects of the Montessori class. Through visual, dramatic and musical forms, students are encouraged to explore, create and produce. Avalon has a very active drama program and past productions include Peter Pan, Anne of Green Gables and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

The overall objectives of **Physical Education** are to develop creativity, confidence and physical fitness, fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, balance, strength, agility, endurance, speed and effort, to work independently and co-operate well with others, to demonstrate positive sportsmanship at all times, to promote the spirit fair play and enjoy being active.

In addition, there is a strong leadership component in our physical education program as senior students assist the gym teacher with the younger elementary students and are required to contribute to the curriculum by planning and implementing a component of the gym class.

French as a Second Language is explored through traditional instruction as well as through AIM (Accelerated Integrative Method). The focus of our French program is to develop strong communication skills, emphasizing oral communication.

"We made the move to Avalon in Grade 7. Our son easily adapted to the small school setting and continues to thrive in the challenging and dynamic learning environment."



The study of **Geography** can promote an understanding and acceptance of cultures around the world. It can encourage empathy and the idea of caring for the earth or stewardship. In addition to exploring physical geography and natural resources, geography ties into a study of cultures as patterns in human geography, economic systems, interdependencies and migration are examined.

Discussion of **current events** forms an integral component of the curriculum. It not only stimulates student interest and curiosity but also allows them to make the connections between what they are learning in class and past and present-day world events or situations. The study of current events is an integral part of the classroom.

Students are **assessed and evaluated** on an ongoing basis and formal testing is only one of many methods that teachers use to gage a student's progress. The interactive nature of the program offers the teacher ample opportunity to observe the student and to provide assistance and reinforcement as necessary. As participants in their own education, students are encouraged to set personal goals and work toward achieving them. Individual student progress is reported in the form of reports that are distributed in December, March and June.

"Avalon is more than a school, it is a community. We've been particularly pleased to note the high level of interaction between students at all grade levels as well as the high level of parent involvement in the school. My children have thrived at Avalon both academically and socially and this is a testament to the vision of the founders and the commitment of the staff."

FAQs

1. What kind of student succeeds at Avalon?

One who is:

- An independent, creative problem solver.
- Tolerant
- A leader
- Curious and excited about learning
- Socially conscious
- Able to think outside of the box
- A student who takes responsibility for his/her own learning

2. What about small class size?

Avalon's small school environment lends itself to developing leadership, greater self-confidence and a love of learning.

3. Do you have to be a graduate of a Montessori school to be a student at Avalon?

Avalon accepts students from all educational backgrounds.

4. Is there an entrance exam to enroll at Avalon?

No, a positive attitude and desire to learn are the prerequisites for admission to Avalon. Students are required to meet with the teacher and spend a day in the classroom as part of the process.

5. What kind of extra curricular activities are offered at Avalon?

Avalon offers a variety of student led and teacher supervised co-curricular activities that vary from year to year and student's interests. They have included choir, Free The Children, Games Club and student council.

6. Where do Avalon graduates go to secondary school?

Our students have applied to a variety of high schools from neighbourhood collegiate to any number of schools with specialized focus on the arts, athletics or science and mathematics. Avalon teachers work closely with students and parents to help with the transition to high school.

A person is climbing a rock face, secured by a rope. The background is a clear blue sky. The person is wearing a red shirt and dark pants. The rock face is light-colored and has some climbing equipment visible.

ADMISSION APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Submit an application package, including:

- Application form
- 2 reference letters- academic and personal
- Student questionnaire
- Copy of student's 2 most recent report cards
- Copy of most recent IEP, if applicable
- Recent photo of the applicant
- \$100 non-refundable application fee

2. You will be contacted with a date and details regarding your child's Orientation Day which includes:

- Meeting students and participating in classes
- Interview with the Admissions Committee
- Informal Math and Language assessment by class teacher

Applications are accepted on an on-going basis until all spaces are filled. Enrolment will be completed when all paperwork and cheques have been received by the School. This must be completed within 10 days of acceptance to Avalon.