

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ELLERY HOLLINGSWORTH

We are delighted to have re-connected with Montessori alumna, Ellery Hollingsworth, accomplished athlete and member of the 2010 US snowboarding Olympian team. As cited by *The New York Times* last year, “If the likes of Kelly Clark, Hannah Teter and Gretchen Bleiler represent the foundation of women’s snowboarding in the United States, Ellery Hollingsworth represents the potential.”

In speaking with Ellery, her gentle, humble spirit is obvious and it is not only her potential but her accomplishment and grounded life perspective that are clear. Below is a brief interview between Ellery and The Montessori School (here referred to as TMS). We look forward to welcoming Ellery as a guest speaker at our Middle School this coming year.

TMS: *How do you feel the various stages of your education have informed the personal and professional goals you’ve set for yourself?*

Ellery: As a professional athlete goal setting is a big part of achievement. I’ve always been a big goal setter and I’m sure that comes from my Montessori upbringing. It’s hard to achieve something if I don’t have a goal and a set plan to get there. Montessori always taught me to set my goals high and then you can do whatever you put your mind to. I try to live by that every day.

TMS: *What is most important to you as you continue to break new ground in this sport and as you’ve become a role model for other athletes and women?*

Ellery: I’m very fortunate to be in the position to be a role model for younger girls. As far as snowboarding goes, it’s important for me to always be pushing the progression of the sport. Personally it’s important for me to know that people see me as a kind, thoughtful, hard-working woman.

TMS: *Please share some of the lessons that this demanding and sometimes overwhelming life has taught you.*

Ellery: One lesson that I have learned is that life moves by incredibly fast and it’s important to appreciate each moment—the good and the bad. I always go back to this one quote I remember from my teacher at The Montessori School, Aruna (Aleem). When I was four, I wanted to be older so I could have more responsibilities and hang out with my brothers. She said to me “Ellery, enjoy being four, because you’re only going to be four once, and you can never get that year back.” I’m 19 now, and time sure does fly. I love the path that I have chosen, and I definitely would not be on this path if it hadn’t been for Montessori, and all the people there who helped mold the early years of my life.

TMS: *What are your goals for the coming season and the next stage of your career?*

Ellery: My goal for this next season is to continue to progress women’s snowboarding and snowboarding in general. I hope to travel and meet new friends along the way, and to appreciate what life has to offer.

We continue to follow Ellery’s adventure through her website: www.elleryhollingsworth.com.

