



# The TMI Update

A Monthly Communication for the TMI Community

January 2019

## Implementing the Inquiry Model in the Montessori Elementary Classroom By Ankie Yip, TMI Elementary Student



The rapid growth and integration of inquiry-based learning methods in Ontario education has been evident and measurable. Inquiry-based learning is significant as it involves the practice of exploration and investigation conducted by students to the point of knowledge creation (self-creation of knowledge) within a given framework. Inquiry-based learning places students' observations and ideas at the centre of learning. This practice allows teachers to facilitate open-ended research while evaluating problem-solving skills. Scientific studies show that inquiry may give us insight into cognitive processing as students create logical pathways to discovery. As the classroom becomes a laboratory of scientific inquiry, teachers transition into co-learners. Student engagement rises as a result. The inquiry model is one of the foundational practices leading to the scientific method of research.

The Montessori elementary classroom (6-12) is ideally set up for the inquiry-based model with its methodological capacity to integrate both spontaneous moments of discovery as well as pre-planned formal lessons in a prepared environment. There is on-going potential for new knowledge to be discovered when a central point or lesson of focus has been introduced to the child in any Montessori area. They can propel themselves into further research tasks independently or with colleagues while integrating work in all areas.

For example, when students are introduced to the time-line of life, they are provided with an initial, visual framework that traces the origins of life on Earth based on historical periods and eras. How and why do we classify living things (kingdoms, taxonomy)? When did dinosaurs roam the Earth and what led to their extinction (geography)? How have birds evolved over time (zoology)? Montessori students are provided with an open forum (safe space) to create qualitative and quantitative questions (i.e. who, what, when, where, how, why and what if) that propel them towards deeper research on their topics of interest.

Inquiry-based learning is not bound by units of study or time limits typically found in conventional classrooms. The inquiry model is not linear or self-contained. Likewise, Montessori lessons and classroom activities overlap. This framework allows for research to advance in various directions simultaneously. Inquiry is an essential component of lesson presentation. Incorporating inquiry with the Montessori method of scientific pedagogy can facilitate a powerful mental model that will help students explore the roots and origins of existence, and to develop an abstract understanding of the practical world.

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**OPEN HOUSE DATES  
Every Tuesday  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**PERSONALIZED TOURS  
Wednesdays & Fridays  
Call to book yours!  
905.889.6882  
Ext. 2242**

# Professional Development Workshops

April 6, 2019

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## **Early Childhood Culture Workshop Connecting Montessori Culture Curriculum to How Does Learning Happen?**

In this workshop we will examine the connections between the children's learning in the culture area and the *Four Foundations of How Does Learning Happen: Belonging, Well-being, Engagement and Expression*. Through this workshop you will be able to demonstrate how the culture activities, and our Montessori practices within this area are connected to the Four Foundations as defined in *How Does Learning Happen?*, *Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*.



## **Summer Mode**

### **Certificate and Diploma Programs**

**Starting July 2019**

- **The Role of the Assistant (ages 18 months to 6 years) – Certificate Course**

This Assistant's course prepares the adult to work in early years classrooms for children ages 18 months to 6 years. This two part course consists of academic contact hours and a practicum.

The program combines in-class coursework, delivered by experienced instructors and professionals in the field, and a two-week practicum under the direction of the Montessori educator, plus four observations in a Montessori school.

- **Infant Toddler (Birth to 3 years) Diploma Program**

- **Elementary I & II (6 through 12) Diploma Program**

[Click here to learn more!](#)



**TMI**

**ESTABLISHED IN 1971**

Toronto Montessori Institute 8569 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill, ON, L4B 3M7

[www.tmi.edu](http://www.tmi.edu)