



# The TMI Update

A Monthly Newsletter Written by the Toronto Montessori Institute

Dear Friends,

At TMI we are fortunate to witness many individuals' first foray into Montessori education. Interested parties come to TMI to investigate what the Montessori approach is and begin to discover what it offers the child. Prospective students get a glimpse of teaching that is marked by joy, excitement, enthusiasm and peaceful relations. Through their observations those seeking to work with infants and toddlers describe the child's quest for independence, thirst for sensorial exploration, refinement of movement and the development of language as enticing qualities. It is the inquisitive nature, sense of wonder, attention to detail and continued quest for independence of the child of 2 ½ through 6 that draws applicants to the Early Childhood Program. The sky is the limit for those looking into teaching at the Elementary years, recognizing the child's developing intellectual independence and social importance. Teachers interested in the second plane of development wish to question with the child. They encourage research skills that push the child beyond the parameters of the classroom. They marvel at Montessori's integrated approach in which concepts are introduced and connected through a scaffolding or spiraling process that assists the acquisition of knowledge and promotes the development of executive thinking skills.

The Elementary I & II Diploma Programme provides teachers with the necessary academic understanding, experience and the methodology required to facilitate an Elementary environment. Incorporating both levels, 6 through 9 and 9 through 12, allows the student to make the curriculum links that are fundamental to the Montessori approach. With story as a catalyst, TMI students explore cosmic education. They become storytellers who call to the child's imagination and sense of wonder. The search for why and how are integral for this developmental stage and provide the framework around which the teacher may build the child centered curriculum. Successful experience unlocks the door to future learning. The Elementary teacher must ensure the child is able to manage the information available and develop the work habits necessary to support research.

The Montessori Elementary Program provides an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Concepts are revisited throughout, provided context and enhanced at each new level. The 9 through 12 component allows the child to consolidate his/her learnings and apply this knowledge in novel ways. What began at 6 through 9 is enriched, explained, clarified and given a new place in the child's understanding. *If this is true of the children, it is also true of the teacher.* The continuation of the 9 through 12 for the Montessori teacher is no different than the continuation of Elementary for the Montessori child. The 9 through 12 curriculum is the culmination of the Elementary child's education that prepares the child to enter a new plane. It is the completion of the teacher's preparation to work with the Elementary child at all stages of the second plane.

Together, the 6 through 9 and 9 through 12 age components help teachers realize Montessori's goal:

*"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. We do not want complacent pupils, but eager ones. We seek to sow life in the child rather than theories, to help him in his growth, mental and emotional as well as physical, and for that we must offer grand and lofty ideas to the human mind." – Maria Montessori*

The opportunity is ripe to further your Montessori Elementary training this summer. This will ensure that the 9 through 12 classrooms continue to be alive and vibrant. If the prospect of following through your 6 through 9 Elementary training with the 9 through 12 is the direction you want to take, please contact our Registrar today!

Yours truly,  
**TMI Faculty and Staff**

April 2010

## In This Issue

**Making connections: The Elementary Programme**

**Upcoming Open Houses:  
Tuesday May 4, 11, 18, 25  
10 am to noon**

**Integrated Open House  
Saturday May 8  
10 am to noon**

**Deadline Extension for  
applications for all our  
courses for the 2010/2011  
Academic Year**

**If you are hiring teachers  
for the 2010/2011  
Academic Year, we would  
be pleased to post your  
listing on our Web site.**

**Please e-mail the  
advertisement to our  
Registrar at  
[tmi@torontomontessori.ca](mailto:tmi@torontomontessori.ca)**

## Upcoming Professional Development

**Save the date!  
Saturday October 2, 2010.**

**Art & Culture Workshop  
with sessions for Early  
Childhood and  
Elementary teachers**

**Details to come.**

Visit our Web site for regularly updated job postings, as well as information about professional development workshops.

## Events at TMI



TMI Early Childhood students are in the midst of making connections as they continue their practice teaching.



TMI Summer and Full Time Elementary students enjoy fun and educational sessions with specialists in subjects such as music.



Thank you to TMI alumni and current students who so generously and enthusiastically volunteered their time to share their experience with those interested in pursuing a career in Montessori education at our Integrated Open House event on Saturday April 10! Open House participants appreciated the opportunity to meet past and present students from our Infant Toddler, Early Childhood and Elementary I & II Diploma Programmes. Your warmth and enthusiasm assisted in highlighting the sense of community at TMI.

## Community Events

### Mary Flewelling-Pinchen of CAMT presents Strategies for September

Saturday June 26, 2010  
9 am – 3 pm  
Cost: \$75.00

Hosted by Toronto Montessori Institute  
Location: 8569 Bayview Ave. Richmond Hill

“Strategies for September” is a workshop designed for new and “nearly-new” Children’s House teachers who are eager to assist the children with a smooth transition into the classroom in September. Participants will learn how to plant the “seeds for success” by undertaking a thorough examination of what needs to happen in the Children’s House classroom during the first few critical weeks of September. This seminar will explore how to prepare the classroom environment for the new school year, how to plan for orientation, how to foster parent readiness and support, and how to establish the necessary framework for normalization and a child-centered classroom. Specific, step-by-step instruction involving important introductory exercises and activities will be demonstrated and discussed in detail. Participants will receive a sample orientation plan and parent education outline in addition to song, story and finger-play suggestions.

If you think you might experience September “stagefright”, this workshop is for you!

To register please go to <http://www.camt100.ca>



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