



The TMI Update

A Monthly Newsletter Written by the Toronto Montessori Institute

Dear Friends,

Thank you for providing TMI students the invaluable opportunity to observe in your classrooms. Observation in a variety of school prepared environments assists students in becoming more comfortable with the act of observing. You provide a tremendous service to the Montessori community as those who are able to observe the child are able to "follow the child".

Observation is an essential habit for every Montessori teacher to develop. Through the quiet days and the hectic ones, observation is a skill that helps to inform us as to where we need to be to support the children in all aspects of their development. Whether you are a natural observer, one who has developed the habit or someone who must still attend very consciously to the information gleaned from the children, it is essential to value this skill as a cornerstone of the Montessori approach. Many of us have been told we have 'teacher eyes' or 'teacher ears' because we see or hear things not intended for us, but how many of us have been told we have 'Montessori eyes' and 'Montessori ears'? The conscious act of taking in and recording the objective information within grasp of all our senses without judgment is a difficult skill to develop and an even harder one to maintain. As we observe we are often assessing our children: Have they grasped a concept? Where did they get lost in the lesson? What part has been interpreted incorrectly? We must quickly evaluate and if necessary clarify the presentation. Reflecting upon previously observed data in relations to more recent observations highlights patterns of behaviour and informs our planning to ensure the children's success.

Through the observation component of the Montessori training, TMI students come to recognize that observation is a learned skill which must be developed through practice. The action of observing involves more than just the eyes, it is a complete sensory experience. The incorporation of "observation summaries" into all programs as a tool to help address the challenges that student teachers face when learning to observe has been useful. Student teachers are submitting written observation summaries and reflections on various aspects of the children's adaptation to their classrooms. The classrooms that they observe in are being mapped out and then a child's movement through the classroom is being recorded for half an hour. With mapping, students observe how teachers arrange their classrooms in a variety of ways and how a child's movement fits into that physical set-up. Student teachers have found creative ways to re-use their maps so they can compare gross motor patterns from one observation session to the next. This is a valuable tool for experienced teachers as well. Have you considered what the traffic patterns in your classroom could tell you?

Your continued involvement is crucial to the success of our programs as we seek to ensure that our programs evolve in their ability to train teachers who are able to observe the needs of the Universal child in our ever changing society.

Yours truly,
TMI Faculty and Staff

November 2009

In This Issue

Events at TMI

Students are observing at various schools within the Montessori community.

Remembrance Day

Exciting news!
Our Virtual Tour is now on our web site
www.tmi.edu

Upcoming Professional Development

Please send us suggestions for workshops as we plan for the spring. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

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

Please e-mail any questions or comments to tmi@torontomontessori.ca

Events at TMI



Maureen Pesner

CAMT Conference November 6, 2009



**TMI students thank
LCol. Hirji CD, AdeC and his family
on Remembrance Day**



Elementary History Oral Exams

**A special thank you to all who assist
with oral exams!**

Upcoming Community Events

Everyone is Welcome!

to attend the

CCMA presentation of:

TREVOR EISSLER,

Author of *Montessori Madness*

**January 25, 2010 - Hamilton Area
Dundas Valley Montessori School**

**January 26, 2010 - Toronto Area
Bannockburn School**

**January 27, 2010 - Toronto Area
Venue : TBA**

**January 28, 2010 - Ottawa Area
Ottawa Montessori School**

To register contact CCMA @ www.ccma.ca

(more details to come)

Professional Development

**Please continue to forward ideas to
Trucilla Macedo at
tmi@torontomontessori.ca
Thank you**



8569 Bayview Avenue,
Richmond Hill, ON
L4B 3M7

**Tel: (905) 889 6882 Ext. 242
Fax: (905) 886 6516
www.tmi.edu**

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