



# The TMI Update

A Monthly Newsletter Written by the Toronto Montessori Institute

Dear Friends,

November has been a month of reflection and connection as TMI students, staff and faculty have engaged in University Career Fairs, observations in the community and the CAMT conference.

Our participation at University Career Fairs and Education Expos helps advance Montessori education. The surplus of teachers in the traditional system and limited employment opportunities in the public school has created challenging times for teachers in Ontario. TMI's 96% rate of employment within six months of graduation has inspired many university students to explore Montessori teacher training as an alternative to teacher's college.

The inclusion of a few key Montessori materials along with the informative pamphlets on our display table has proven enticing to all. We have repeatedly witnessed how Montessori materials "call to the child", or in some cases the child within. A number of university students who were once Montessori students have gravitated to the TMI table to touch the materials and reminisce on the nurturing experience they received during their early years. One young man at the University of Western Ontario began to roll the ellipsoid in his palms with his eyes closed while his buddies looked on mystified by his behaviour. When asked if he was interested in a career in Montessori education he replied that he is currently studying engineering but was drawn to our table by an early childhood memory of working with the geometric solids. He then proceeded to enthusiastically explain to his friends the brilliance of the Montessori curriculum while tracing the sand paper "X" and teaching them how to isolate and say the "X" sound correctly. The passion in his voice inspired others nearby to ask about the philosophy behind the Montessori magic. This highlights the instrumental relationship between the child and the material in the learning process. These life-long connections are truly preparation for life.

Human connections are equally important in Montessori and, as always, it was a pleasure to reconnect with many of you at the CAMT conference. Many alumni expressed their gratitude for the holistic training received at TMI. Recent graduates shared stories of their first parent – teacher interviews and how their training at TMI prepared them for this essential component of teaching. Past students marveled at the way in which simple details suggested during training such as placing comfortable chairs in a circle all with a clear view of the clock, table cloths, plants, flowers, box of tissues and a bowl of candy helped to create a welcoming environment. Two recent TMI graduates who are now co-teachers spoke of strategizing the evening before and reflecting on each child as they asked each other "what would our instructors at TMI suggest we do?" As a result of the preparation received at TMI new teachers were able to empathize and relate with parents in order to gain a better understanding of each student enhancing their ability to make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

We know how rewarding a career is in Montessori education at every age level. Share the joy of Montessori with others who are passionate about children and the future. Have them phone TMI today to set up a tour of our lab school facility and a meeting with our Registrar to discuss the options for Montessori teacher training.

TMI's door is always open, whether you are returning alumni wishing to share your experiences or interested in furthering your Montessori credentials.

*Yours truly,*  
**TMI Faculty and Staff**

November 2010

## In This Issue

### Events at TMI

**Connections  
That Last a Lifetime!**

**University Career Fairs**

**Reconnecting at the  
CAMT Conference**

**Montessori Education  
whether in Childhood or in  
Teacher Training is  
"Preparation For Life"**

**Opportunity Knocks!  
Please send Those Interested  
in Teaching to TMI**

## Upcoming Professional Development

### To Help Us Serve You Better:

**Send us your Ideas and  
Suggestions for our  
Early Childhood and  
Elementary  
Refresher Course  
on February 26, 2011**

Please continue to visit our Web site [www.tmi.edu](http://www.tmi.edu) and direct those interested in learning more about Montessori teacher to arrange a personal appointment with our Registrar!

We welcome your feedback and questions, please e-mail any questions or comments about our courses or ways in which we may improve our web site to [tmi@torontomontessori.ca](mailto:tmi@torontomontessori.ca)

Thank You!

## Community Life at TMI



*Congratulations to one of our Early Childhood Diploma students who became a Canadian Citizen on November 16, 2010. To celebrate students baked and shared a "cupcake" Canadian flag*



*TMI Registrar True Macedo with a TMI student volunteer at the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus Professional and Graduate School Fair*



*It was lovely to reconnect with alumni at the recent CAMT conference! Recent graduates commented on how privileged they felt to be part of such a welcoming community.*

## Community Events

### CCMA Evening Presentation

*"Good At Doing Things- Montessori Education and Higher Order Cognitive Functions."*

Wednesday, February 23, 2011  
Dr. Stephen Hughes

### Early Childhood and Elementary Botany and Sensorial lunch

Taking the botany and sensorial curriculum to new heights! TMI Early Childhood and Elementary students prepared and enjoyed a communal vegetarian lunch. From the root soup appetizer to the wheat sprout dessert students worked together to create a meal that creatively incorporated and classified various parts of a plant (seeds, roots, stems, leaves and flowers) and explored sensorial experience with a variety of colours, smells, textures and tastes. They even included a crystallized rhizome (ginger).

Hands-on learning, organization and activity based fun!



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