



The TMI Update

A Monthly Newsletter Written by the Toronto Montessori Institute

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude that we recognize your contributions to Montessori training as our students begin the last term of their Montessori education. We thank you for the gift of mentorship. A successful educational experience includes contact with a strong mentor. Many of us can recall a time when we benefited from the care and guidance of a more experienced teacher. We grew thanks to someone who was willing to take the time to listen to our concerns while gently guiding us through constructive criticism. It is this type of relationship that assists student teachers in the transition from student to professional and can prove to be personally rewarding for both student and mentor.

The three qualities of experience, empathy and courage are essential to an effective mentor.

Experience lets you know what needs to be done, why it needs to be done and how the classroom is run. Just like the children, we learn from our mistakes and now have a better understanding of what is expected of us in our professional role. We can anticipate and better plan for the needs of our students. Mentor teachers are role models in their demonstration of the acquisition and application of critical thinking skills. Their use of observation in the classroom and subsequent reflections are invaluable to gain a deeper understanding of the child as an individual within the context of the class dynamic. The ability to communicate and model this process to a student teacher can only come through experience.

A successful mentoring relationship also requires empathy. In order to be a responsive mentor it is necessary to reflect upon one's own teacher training. The ability to understand the perspective of the developing teacher leads to a mutually rewarding relationship built upon trust. Student teachers are often struggling with various aspects of classroom life, whether it is lack of confidence, lesson planning or classroom management. They look upon their teaching placement as an opportunity to work through their challenges. A strong mentor is one who takes the time to recognize and support the process of individual growth with compassion for the learning process.

Open, honest feedback and leadership are crucial to a positive mentor-student relationship. Constructive criticism facilitates confidence and is encouraging to the student teacher who relies upon the mentor for feedback. It takes courage to intervene in a tactful, positive manner when necessary. It may be difficult at times, but feedback is necessary in order to learn how best to meet the children's developing needs. Our ultimate purpose and the reason we all have chosen a career in Montessori education is to serve the child.

As you welcome a student teacher into your classroom this spring or in the future we hope that you will realize the gift of mentorship. Successful mentors benefit professionally by enriching the collaborative nature of education and cultivating relationships. The seeds we plant today are the flowers of tomorrow. Thank you for your continued support as we learn and grow together.

"It is my belief that the thing which we should cultivate in our teachers is more the spirit than the mechanical skill of the scientist; that is, the direction of the preparation should be toward the spirit rather than toward the mechanism." Maria Montessori

Yours truly,
TMI Faculty and Staff

March 2010

In This Issue

The Keys to Successful Mentoring

**Upcoming Open Houses:
Tuesday April 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Integrated Open House
Invitation for
Saturday April 10
(attached)**

**Extension of deadline 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**

Upcoming Professional Development

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

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



TMI Early Childhood students have begun their 9 week practice teaching block in local schools.



A TMI Elementary student helps a TMS Elementary student prepare for a science experiment demonstration.



TMI Early Childhood full time students enjoy assisting in the TMS Toddler room during lunch time. This exciting lab school volunteer opportunity allows TMI students to mentor our youngest TMS students while receiving mentorship from experienced teachers themselves.

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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