



# The TMI Update

A Monthly Newsletter Written by the Toronto Montessori Institute

March 2009

Dear Friends,

Participants as well as the TMI staff had a great time on February 28, 2009 at the *Simple Pleasures: Arts and Crafts Workshop*. Creative juices were flowing and all were enthusiastic about the vast array of materials available for artistic exploration. Coloured rice and pasta, foamies, googlie eyes and sparkles were used to collage on covered cans and primed flower pots. Various painting techniques such as finger painting, easel painting, marble painting, shaving brushes with sand and watercolours were highlighted. Gadget painting was the most joy-filled experience for the teachers; one can only imagine how their students will react to toy vehicles dipped in paint rolled over paper leaving tracks behind! Kitchen gadgets like potato mashers printed and sprang out gorgeous patterns! Many participants brought samples from their own classes to share. Arts and crafts are expressive mediums that develop the hand and assist story-telling in children of all ages.

The cultural diversity at TMS and TMI was evident in the array of traditional outfits worn by the students during Montessori and Heritage Week celebrations. TMI students shared their admiration of Dr. Maria Montessori by performing a skit highlighting key aspects of her life as a doctor and teacher during an assembly in her honour. A TMI student invited her brother to TMI and TMS to perform a few musical pieces on his baglama, a Turkish stringed folk instrument. Young students at TMS were intrigued to hear this unusual sound and happily clapped and sang along to the familiar tune of Jingle Bells. In keeping with TMI tradition, tasty treats from many cultures were shared during a potluck lunch.

Part time Early Childhood students recently shared their favourite 'Sensorial Sensations' with each other. Each person brought in something that spoke to their senses, giving pleasure and joy. Of course there was an array of food, from breads and teas, to savouries and sweets as well as intriguing photographs and pictures, stirring music and poetry, alluring smells.

Early Childhood students arrived one morning to find a surprising but valuable assignment ready for them. Thanks to the handy work of the Part time Early Childhood students, all materials had been removed from the shelves and placed on the tables randomly. The look on the students' faces when they entered the classroom was priceless! Students rose to the challenge and began placing all materials back in their appropriate positions on the shelves. This activity is one they will surely appreciate in August when they are setting up classrooms of their own for the first time!

Many thanks to all who have spread the Montessori word and encouraged others to explore the possibility of a career in Montessori education by promoting TMI. Our Open Houses have been extremely well attended. We have received a great number of applications to all teacher training Diploma and Certificate programs. Please note we are still accepting and continue to review applications. Our Registrar, Trucilla Macedo, is always ready to answer questions or address concerns that prospective candidates may have.

If you are hiring teachers for the 2009/2010 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). If you are an alumnus looking for employment, job postings may be found at [www.tmi.edu](http://www.tmi.edu) as well as [www.ccma.ca](http://www.ccma.ca).

Yours truly,

TMI Staff

## In This Issue

### Events at TMI

**Arts and Crafts Workshop  
Montessori and Heritage  
Week**

**Extension of deadline for  
applications for all our  
courses for the 2009/2010  
Academic Year**

**Open House Dates:  
April 7, 14, 18, 21, & 28**

### Upcoming Professional Development

**Strategies for September  
Saturday June 20, 2009**

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](mailto:tmi@torontomontessori.ca)

## Events at TMI



## Professional Development

A tentative date of Saturday October 3, 2009 is planned for our Arithmetic Refresher Course.

We would like to provide a program that will be convenient and helpful to all. We appreciate your feedback on the best time for this program.

We recognize that conducting a refresher course such as this in the last term during April or June is too late in the year for you to begin implementing some of the strategies presented. The last week in August presents different challenges due to the setting up of classrooms and finalization of plans for the school year. Taking all aspects into consideration, we are proposing a date far enough away from the excitement of the first days of school in September but early enough into the school year, so that strategies may be implemented for the benefit of students throughout the coming year. Our Registrar Trucilla Macedo welcomes your ideas and suggestions as we plan the Arithmetic Refresher Course. Thank you.

## Community Events Board

**Mary Flewelling-Pinchen of CAMT**

presents

**Strategies for September**

Saturday June 20, 2009

9 am – 3 pm

Cost: \$75.00.

Toronto Montessori Institute

Location: 8569 Bayview Ave. Richmond Hill

“Strategies for September” is a workshop designed for new and “nearly-new” Casa/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 Casa/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 “stage-fright”, this workshop is for you!

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

Use the link to CAMT on our homepage at [www.tmi.edu](http://www.tmi.edu)  
under the Professional Development tab.

### Environmentally Friendly Initiative

If you have a colleague who would like to begin receiving The TMI Update by e-mail, contact our Registrar at [tmi@torontomontessori.ca](mailto:tmi@torontomontessori.ca)



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