



Southern African Montessori Association

February 08

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Message from the President

Dear SAMA Members

With this being our first newsletter of 2008, I would like to wish you all well for the New Year and hope it has begun positively and productively.

At SAMA the year has begun with full energy and excitement. Plans for the conference are well into their final stages, we welcome a new administrator to the SAMA National Office, Deirdre Gower and, as an Exco, we are beginning work for the AGM, including preparing voting and nomination procedures for 2008/2009. We have sadly accepted the resignations of Ally Connelly (Schools representative), Coral Yelseth (EC Rep) and, most recently, Emma Medell (WC Rep). We wish all of them well for the future and thank them for the time and energy given to SAMA.

I had the privilege of joining some of our Cape Town Heads of Schools for their SAMA breakfast recently and thoroughly enjoyed engaging with them. Their appreciation of the morning as well as the work of SAMA is doing was motivating and I thank everyone involved for this special time.

As it is a new year, it is always a time for reflection on how we can do things more effectively and with more compassion, more energy and more commitment.

Bill Clinton, former US President, has written an inspiring book called "GIVING" and it is a call to action; a way of looking at how each of us can change the world and make a difference. In it he says "I want to encourage you to give whatever you can, because everyone can give something. And there is so much to be done, down the street and around the world. It's never too late or too early to start...We all live in an interdependent world in which our survival depends upon understanding that our common humanity is more important than our interesting and inevitable differences and that everyone matters."

To all of you who give to SAMA (and everywhere else!) – be it through a simple gesture of appreciation, time, energy, financial and other support – thank you! You are helping us make a difference!

Warm regards

Sam Streak

SAMA President

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“Entering the Ecozoic Era through Authenticity, Sustainability, Community and Mentorship”

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Tim Seldin, President of the Montessori Foundation and Chair of the International Montessori Council.

Other Speakers include:

- Dr Lindsay van den Berg – The Imaginary Island
- Professor George Ellis – Teaching Out of the Box
- Susanne van Niekerk – Move to Learn...Learn to Move
 - Sam Streak – The Outdoor Classroom
- Sharon Caldwell – Science in the Primary Classroom
- Heidi van Staden – Practical Life in the Middle School
 - Taddy Beyleveld – Timelines as Your Thread
 - Mathew Rich – Compassion in the Casa
- Dr Margo de Kooker – Stress Management and Emotional Intelligence for Educators
 - The Childhoods Network – Sustainable Communities

Several well-known Montessori Equipment and other suppliers will be present to show you their latest products.

Download booking forms and further info at www.samontessori.org.za or email admin@samontessori.org.za

2008 Annual SAMA Conference
in partnership with the International Montessori Council (IMC)
26th April to 28th April 2008 in Knysna, South Africa
Management Training and Professional Development Workshops to be held from 29th April to 1st May 2008

Why is the 2008 Conference special? For lots of reasons...

- It is the first time SAMA is partnering with another Montessori organisation. We are pleased to have formed such a partnership with the International Montessori Council and have Tim Seldin as our keynote speaker.
- It is the first time the conference will be hosted in the SAMA Eastern Cape region, at the Knysna Montessori School. We all know Knysna is an idyllic setting for a Montessori conference and know that the beautiful surroundings will contribute to a successful event.
- It is the first time that 3 regional organisations are working together through SAMA to ensure the success of the conference: Port Elizabeth Montessori School staff will prepare everything for the conference, up to and including registration; Operation Upgrade (a member of the Childhoods Network) will present the opening and closing ceremonies and Knysna Montessori School will host us in their venue, provide meals and accommodation and assist with conference duties during the conference.
- It is the first time we will record (audio) all speakers' presentations for both conference delegates and those unable to attend. This will also allow us to have a more eco-friendly, paper-less conference and ensure the learning continues long after the conference ends.
- Post-conference professional development workshops will be run to further extend and enhance your learning experience.
- We will have speakers from almost every SAMA region – Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KZN, Gauteng and Namibia – as well as our International Keynote speaker, Tim Seldin.
- The Exco will, at the AGM, report back on a very successful and productive year in SAMA.

16 Positive Reasons to attend the SAMA Annual Conference:

Expand your network of like-minded people and true peers.

Gather insights into your profession that are both inspiring and practical.

Participate in meaningful discussions and work with colleagues and mentors.

Sharpen your own leadership skills.

Contribute to the growth and development of Montessori Education.

Engage with leading suppliers of Montessori and other material related to education.

Continue your own process of life long learning experiences.

Access resources such as presenters' notes, audio recordings and other material.

Meet leaders in the field – mentors and experienced colleagues.

Show yourself and your staff the value in investing in your own professional development.

Conferences are an opportunity to ask questions, get detailed insights and share your own experiences.

Gather unique information that you won't get in one place, at one time again!

Become more productive and up to date with the latest developments in Montessori Education, locally, regionally and globally.

Through certificates of attendance, build your portfolio of evidence regarding Continued Professional Development (strongly recommended by SACE and SAMA, among others)

Build relationships.

Have lots of fun!

Knysna 2008 Conference Speakers

Keynote Speaker: TIM SELDIN



Tim Seldin is the President of the Montessori Foundation and Chair of the International Montessori Council. His almost forty years of experience in Montessori education includes twenty-two years as Headmaster of the Barrie School in Silver Springs, Maryland, which he attended as a child from the ages of 2-18. He has also served as the Director of the Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies and as Head of the New Gate School in Florida. He earned a B.A. in History and Philosophy from Georgetown University, a M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Supervision from The American University, and his Montessori certification from the American Montessori Society. Tim Seldin is the author of several books on Montessori Education, *The Montessori Way* with Dr. Paul Epstein, *Building a World-class Montessori School*, *Finding the Perfect Match - Recruit and Retain Your Ideal Enrolment*, *Master Teachers - Model Programs*, *Starting a New Montessori School*, *Celebrations of Life*, and *The World in the Palm of Her Hand* and his latest, *How to Raise An Amazing Child*.

PROFESSOR GEORGE ELLIS



Professor George Ellis, a highly respected speaker in the field of cosmology, and is well known for his work as an academic and activist.

Professor George Ellis has a BSc (Hons) and PhD (Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics). He has held various lecturing and research posts locally at UCT as Professor of Applied Mathematics and internationally at Cambridge University, University of Chicago, University of Hamburg and many others.

Professor Ellis has extensive experience, won major awards and has published over 300 scientific papers, mainly on relativity theory and cosmology. Professor Ellis has received the Order of Mapungubwe in Silver for his excellent contribution in the field of science and putting South Africa on the world stage. We are honoured to have him as a speaker.

Science and Maths: Teaching Out of The Box will be topic of Professor Ellis' presentation. He has come highly recommended as a speaker by several members.

DR LINDSAY VAN DEN BERG



Dr Lindsay van den Berg is happily married to a fantastic man. She has two children, two wonderful grandchildren with one on the way. Lindsay has 25 years experience in Montessori. From Pre-primary teacher through to teacher-trainer. Bachelor degree in psychology and education; masters' degree in Educational Counselling; Doctorate in Educational Management. Montessori diplomas, 0-6; 6-12; Special Needs and English Second Language. Lindsay is the author of *Open Distance Learning 3-6 Course* and *6-12 Course Plus Montessori Primer Volume One – Volume Two* coming in January. She spends her time, writing, lecturing, counselling, supporting and assisting students, teachers and schools both within and outside of the Montessori community. Lindsay is dedicated to raising the standard of teacher education in Southern Africa, both Montessori and mainstream.

The Imaginary Island Project

Take a small bay, a cape, a lake and a mountain. Put them together with a river, a valley a plain and an isthmus! Place them as one in the middle of an ocean. Mix carefully with people, animals, flora and fauna, chosen for their specific biome properties. What do you have? The start of an imaginary island! You will be presented with the opportunity to create your own world...

TADDY BEYLEVELD

Taddy is the founding head of Knysna Montessori School. She has extensive teaching experience and is committed to Montessori education.

Timelines as Threads is a presentation based on Taddy's experience of integrating all learning into timelines and using these as the springboard for investigation, discovery and exploration.

SAM STREAK



Sam Streak qualified as a Montessori directress 16 years ago and is the owner and principal of the Port Elizabeth Montessori School. She is a director at The Academy for Montessori Teacher Training and runs their Port Elizabeth Centre. Sam has held the positions of General Secretary, Formal School representative and Eastern Cape Regional Representative for SAMA. She is currently the SAMA President and serves as General Secretary on the Eastern Cape Joint Liaison Committee.

The Outdoor Classroom

Sam will share her experiences and ideas for creating an outdoor classroom. There is nothing more significant to give our children than the experience of nature. By falling in love with nature, our children are more likely to protect it with everything in their power.

HEIDI VAN STADEN



Heidi van Staden has more than 20 years experience as a Montessorian. She is currently the principal of the Montessori Academy and College in Pretoria and is a director with the Montessori Academy for Teacher Training. Heidi has served on the SAMA Exco for several years, as both training representative and General Secretary.

Heidi has a BA degree and PGCE as well as holding Montessori qualifications for 2 ½ to 6; 6-9 and 9-12 years. She works extensively in disadvantaged communities and has presented both locally and internationally.

Practical Life in the Middle School is based on a presentation Heidi attended at the Centenary Conference of AMS in New York.

SUSANNE VAN NIEKERK



Susanne van Niekerk founded The Brain Connection, centre for Neuro-Educational Assessment and Learning Efficiency in 2005. Susanne holds Montessori 3 – 6 year Diplomas, is an Audiblox and THRASS tutor, and Brain Gym trainee. She is an Integrated Learning Therapy practitioner and has a special interest neuro-educational development.

Move to Learn...Learn to Move

Susanne has set up an in- and outdoor movement programme based on neuro-educational brain development. The workshop has been presented with great success to educators both nationally and internationally. Susanne will offer an introduction to the using movement in education in her talk and then present the full programme as an optional professional development workshop.

THE CHILDHOODS NETWORK



Delegates from Woz'obona at the 2007 Durban Conference

The vision of the Childhoods Network is growing sustainable communities through focusing on children. Our approach is rooted in ecological learning, healing and transformation. Our shared Montessori based learning programme is accredited by the ETDP SETA to offer a Level 5 National Diploma in Early Childhood Development. The network is at this stage a partnership between 4 non-profit organisations working to eradicate poverty through the empowerment of women and children. These organisations are Operation Upgrade in Plettenberg Bay; The Sustainability Institute in Lynedoch, near Stellenbosch; Wonderkids Montessori Centre in Durban and Woz'obona Early Childhood Community Service Group in Johannesburg.

EMMA MEDELL

Emma is the principal of Chameleon's Montessori School in Cape Town and is an experienced Montessori directress. She completed both her pre-school and Assistants to Infancy training at the Maria Montessori Training Organisation in London.

Emma will share with us her experiences in working in the Infant/Toddler Community and help us understand the importance of many aspects of this age group.

JESSICA VIVIER

Jessica runs New Beginnings Montessori School in Johannesburg. She is committed to and has extensive experience in inclusive education.

Jessica will share her experiences from her own school with us and help us understand the value of true inclusivity in education.

MATTHEW RICH



Matthew Rich is a Montessorian based in East London. He works together with schools and other organizations in the areas of communication, mediation, and governance. Matthew is erstwhile director at the Nahoon Montessori School (a decade long experiment in democratic Montessori education affiliated to the International Democratic Education Network (IDEN) and the International Montessori Council (IMC)). He remains a dedicated Montessorian and is involved with both the Montessori Leadership Institute and the

Centre for Guided Montessori Studies. Matthew has received extensive training in Nonviolent Communication (NVC) through training at the NVC Academy (www.nvcacademy.com) - where he consults in instructional design and moderates the forum discussion -, with Centre for Nonviolent Communication (www.cnvc.org/) founder, Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, in Switzerland, and through other organizations worldwide. He participated in BayNVC's 9 month Parent Leadership Program and is a student in their year long Leadership Program, a five month leadership program with Kathleen Macferran, and mediation training with John Kinyon.

Compassion in the Casa

In this presentation you will be introduced to a simple and powerful approach to building and sustaining a compassionate, life enriching environment. See further details in the newsletter.

SHARON CALDWELL



Sharon is the founder and erstwhile principal of the Nahoon Montessori School. She writes and speaks on a variety of aspects of democratic and Montessori education, having spoken at conferences in Africa, the USA, Asia and Australia, and her writings have appeared in a range of international publications. Sharon currently works for the Montessori Foundation and the Centre for Guided Montessori Studies; she is the South African representative for the International Montessori Council. She is a co-instructor on the Montessori Leadership Institutes Online Courses.

Science in the Primary Classroom A hands on workshop focusing on how to put science experiments on your shelves for children to do themselves. While this will mostly related to 6 - 9 there are some of these activities, which you could use with the older children in a 3 - 6 group.

Compassion in the Casa - A presentation on the uses of Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication in the Montessori Casa dei Bambini

By Matthew Rich, B-t-B Consultants

At the heart of Montessori's vision is a world where everybody's needs matter and where every person has the skills to live together in a way which nurtures peace, pleasure, and human connection. This is why - as a Montessorian - I propose that from birth we begin helping children to be masters of their environment and do things for themselves. In the Casa dei Bambini and elementary environments this takes the form of a Practical Life 'curriculum' (for want of a better word).

The personal autonomy that this approach creates is an essential part of developing the concentration and self-empowerment that leads towards normalization, but it needn't stop there. Oh no, the world that Dr. Montessori envisaged will not be brought about by expertly tweezing lentils from one bowl to another (care of environment), nor by the meticulous wiping of noses or trimming of nails (care of self), nor by the ability to exchange courteous greetings or even - dare I say it - use a peace rose (care of community). These skills are certainly sign-posts on the road to normalization, but these are not the skills by which a new world is brought about.

At the heart of practical life training is the very wisdom of nature itself: sustainability. How is it possible for me to remain connected with what is life-enriching and life-sustaining in myself, in my environment, and in my community? How can I

uphold that which is beautiful, true, and good? What skills would I need to possess in order to do this? For this reason I see modeling skills such as dealing with anger and conflict in the environment, learning to say and hear no, transforming the dogma of punishment and reward, dogging for our needs, and – as the Buddha says – relinquishing our “addiction to strategy” as essential to the practical life component of any (Montessori) classroom. Unfortunately though, we can’t draw up an album page of a presentation in dealing with anger; we can only nurture connection and discipline in ourselves to the point where we are able to maintain an intention which seeks to serve life.

This presentation is about how to nurture a life-serving consciousness which is congruent with the assumptions and intentions of Montessori education. I will introduce you to a different modality of communication based upon Marshall Rosenberg’s Nonviolent Communication. I will explore the key assumptions of this approach with constant reference and comparison to Dr. Montessori’s work. We will then explore a few tools for applying this consciousness in everyday situations. Thankfully you won’t just have to listen to me talk, though, as we will also have the opportunity to play with applying these tools in some role-plays from your own classrooms.

Tim Seldin’s Presentations:

Preserving Dr. Montessori’s Legacy - The Essence of Montessori Practice

Having reached its centennial, the public in most nations are more aware of, and in general more confused about Montessori education than ever before. Distinctly different messages about Montessori practice and belief contradict the widespread impression that Montessori is a tightly organised and unified approach. There is a great need to clarify our message and public image at every level, from the individual Montessori teacher attempting to answer parent concerns, to our schools as they seek to recruit and retain supportive families, and to our national Montessori organisations. Furthermore, if we are going to use Dr. Montessori’s name for what we do, we need to be clear on what she actually said and did.

Building Communities - The Montessori Way of Decision Making

Montessori schools often talk peace, but do not necessarily practice it in our relationships among teachers, parents, school administrators, boards, and even among Montessori schools and various Montessori societies. In this talk, I will confront one of our greatest challenges: the need to take our theme of peace education to a much higher level through a tapestry of new programs, traditions, and practices that bring our dream of the Montessori ideal into reality. We will explore means of encouraging a true sense of community among the adults and children within our schools by improving lines of

communication and creating a much more partnership-oriented and harmonious approach to problem-solving and decision-making through the use of the Montessori Way.

Inspiring a Sense of Wonder Montessori is far more than a set of expensive materials and endless series of cards on a shelf. This presentation will explore how to make the Montessori curriculum come alive for children in an atmosphere of celebration and enquiry.

The Montessori Inspired Home - Supporting Parents of Children 0 – 6

Drawing from his book, **How To Raise An Amazing Child - The Montessori Way to Bring Up Caring and Confident Children**, Tim Seldin will describe how families can prepare their homes to be in line with the insights and magic of the Montessori Approach. Tim will give practitioners guidance on how to support parents in bringing their homes into harmony with principles provided in Montessori schools and toddler environments through preparing their homes for their children from birth through to age six. He will focus on family traditions, celebrations, activities that encourage independence and responsibility, and techniques of teaching children kindness, courtesy, and great values.

The Climate Project - What do we tell the Children? Tim will present the facts on what each of us can do right now in terms of environmental education including how to explain global warming to children. Based on a curriculum of hard science, and the inter-dependence of all life, Tim will provide us with a keen appreciation of the environment and hope for the future. This workshop will focus on specific things that children can do to make a difference in the world right now. This will include a PowerPoint presentation of the Climate Project.

International Montessori Council Workshop: Building World-class Montessori Schools

World-class Montessori schools are schools that have achieved a level of excellence, stability, and widespread public appeal that makes them highly attractive to prospective parents and teachers. So often though, schools struggle - primarily because they continue to compromise their programs and principles in hope of becoming more attractive to parents. Tim Seldin will bring the conference to a close by making the case for courage, conviction, and consistency. His premise is that there is a Montessori way that we can and must follow to produce, time and time again, the results that made Montessori schools famous around the world.

“If we value independence, if we are disturbed by the growing conformity of knowledge, of values, of attitudes, which our present system induces, then we may wish to set up conditions of learning which make for uniqueness, for self-direction, and for self-initiated learning.”
- Carl Rogers

Conversations with Montessorians



Su Cunningham has inspired many of our Montessori educators today, particularly in the primary classes.

1. How did you become involved with Montessori education?

In 1989 when I was working for St Joseph's School. Montessori parents approached the school about opening up a pre-school department.

2. Describe your involvement in Montessori over the years. Has it evolved? Stayed the same? Declined? What is your involvement today?

I was involved in starting two Montessori pre-primary classes at St Joseph's in 1989 and instigated the opening of a Montessori 6-9 class in 1991 followed by a Montessori class in 1994. Also in 1994, through the needs at St Joseph I ran a 6-9 Training course with guidance and mentorship of Sr. Aloyse and Sr. Jacinta; Sisters of Mercy from Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. I have continued training from then onwards. In 2003 I moved to my own premises and now run full time training.

3. Did your Montessori training have a significant impact on your philosophy of education? A significant impact on who you are now?

Involvement in Montessori education confirmed my belief in an empowering system of education. It confirmed my belief in using a horizontal curriculum approach in all classrooms. It made me understand the satisfaction you get from working with children.

4. Has experience in the classroom altered your philosophy or view of yourself?

I realise more and more just how much children can teach you. I now enjoy taking a back seat and letting the children lead.

5. What do you see as the most significant accomplishment of the Montessori movement in South Africa in the past 50 years?

The re-establishment of SAMA and the annual conferences.

6. The most significant failure?

Failing to get our qualifications recognised by the Department of Education. We need to get our qualifications in line with all the other teaching disciplines.

7. What is your favourite book written by Maria Montessori?

The Secret of Childhood

8. **What is your favourite book or resource of any type that you use or refer to often?**

The Secret Garden

9. **Describe a favourite Montessori memory (from class, conferences etc)**

The story of the Tangram as told by Michael Dorer at the Kentucky Montessori Conference

10. **Did you have a mentor, supervisor, teacher or student who has significantly affected you?**

Sisters Aloyse and Jacinta are my mentors and inspiration.

11. **Do you have any particular memories of your first day(s) of teaching?**

Having to write lesson plans for every lesson and handing them to my Department Head every Friday.

12. **What more could we as Montessori educators be doing?**

Bring more awareness of the Montessori Method to both parents and the public at large.

13. **What do you think the future holds for Montessori education?**

Montessori has the opportunity to play a leading role as an alternative method of teaching in the 21st Century.

Thanks Su for sharing your personal thoughts, looking forward to seeing you at the SAMA annual conference in Knysna.

Exciting News for SAMA from a Global Perspective – Sam Streak

I have been invited by the American Montessori Society to represent the Southern African region at the AMS 2008 Annual Conference in Washington, DC and to serve on the panel for the Second Annual Global Forum: Impacting Governments with Policy Leadership.

This year's Global Forum objective is to share experiences and potential strategies for Montessorians to individually and collectively impact public policy, both locally and globally. Each panelist will be introduced and asked to share a 5-6 minute overview of the state of the present relationship between their government and Montessori education and briefly describe one specific area where they have had – or are trying to have -- an impact on public policy (e.g. testing, school accreditation, teacher education preparation, funding, etc.). This will then be continued through

discussion and engaging members of the audience and concluding with thoughts about how we might work together to become a growing public advocate for Montessori education globally.

At SAMA we have made significant progress in this area, forming good relationships with people at SACE, Umalusi, Naisa and within the Department of Education.

Although I am attending the conference in my personal capacity, I am very excited to use the opportunity to represent SAMA on this panel, ensuring our voices are heard at a global level and will give feedback both at the Knysna Conference and in the Annual Report to be presented at the AGM.

Organic farming is rooted in ancient knowledge passed down through generations. Long before science could tell us why certain farming methods would produce greater crop yields, organic farmers were learning the hard way what worked and what didn't - and sharing their knowledge with others. - David Suzuki

Who gets to go?!!!

How do we choose who gets to attend the conference? For those of us in the fortunate position to have their school, budget or even fundraise through the year, so that all of their teaching staff is able to attend, I salute you.

There are many of us who have to pay our own way, often making it very difficult to attend.

I challenge you all! Make provisions for this time of the year or any other conference/workshop that could be a worthwhile contribution to your teaching experience. I know of one school that has a weekly cake sale (goodies made by the parents and sold by the children during break) and these proceeds go to helping the teaching staff attend conferences.

It could be a school policy whereby your deserving staff has an incentive to attend one way or another.

Yet the buck does not stop here! What do we do with this newly gained knowledge with which we come home laden? Do you allow those inspiring thoughts to slowly become a distant wistful memory or do you bring into play, those golden nuggets? Create the opportunity through staff meetings to share your experiences and discuss how you can apply your new insights. Maybe they are not as relevant to your classroom as you thought or the new process you try leads to something else that works, as well as the possibility of involving and motivating your assistant.

List your new ideas and plan to implement them over a time period. Avoid implementing all at once; it becomes unsettling for your learners. If there were just 3 new ideas then set about sharing and doing constructively.

Keep in contact with new peers. Try the recommended reading. Find ways to keep the inspiration alive. Network with the schools in your area. Give your feedback to those who could not attend, set up afternoon/evening meetings to pass on what you gained (remember the 6 year olds in your class and how they consolidate their knowledge by sharing it with a younger class member).

Think of what you can offer by reflecting on your own teaching experiences and maybe in the near future you too have something valuable to share at the next conference!

Jacky

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it. - Margaret Fuller

Please send outstanding “100 Steps” articles to SAMA administrator for final compilation to be made available for conference.
admin@samontessori.org.za

Lesson plans for teachers for National Water Week and World Water Day

National Water Week (17-22 March) and World Water Day (22 March) will soon be here!! A series of lesson plans from Grade R to Grade 10, focusing on water and water-related issues, developed in collaboration with **ShareNet** (a project of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa [**Wessa**]). These lesson plans are also available on the **Envirolearn** website. Funded by the Water Research Commission, are available on www.wrc.org.za -publications/education

Good Read:

Physical Activities for Improving Children’s Learning and Behaviour. A guide to Sensory Motor Development –written by Billye Anne Cheatum and Allison A. Hammond. Published by Human Kinetic.

This is a valuable resource for teachers who look beyond the “learning difficulties labels” for support in helping their learners in the classroom. It is filled with sensory motor development information in an easy to understand level and gives practical ideas to incorporate motor skills into your everyday programme. The language is clear and easy to understand and allows one to bring parents on board in providing further support at home.

- Available from Kalahari Books

Training



Montessori early childhood education for assistants in classrooms and others who work with children

Workshops to introduce the basic philosophy and children's activities

Thursday afternoons from 2.45 – 4.00
starting on 17th April 2008
at Auburn House School, Kenilworth

Please contact Xoliswa Bala on 021 797 7872 to book a place or for more information

Forthcoming additions:

Letters and comments from members as well as your questions and answers.

"Our dependency makes slaves out of us, especially if this dependency is a dependency of our self-esteem. If you need encouragement, praise and pats on the back from everybody, then you make everybody your judge"

Anon; from Joburg's Child, February 2008 Issue

The Montessori Academy for Teacher Training

New Training Programme Starting for 6-9 Course Supported Independent Study

- This exciting new development in the options offered by the Academy allows for students who have previously not been able to access training to now do so.
- All lecture blocks are held in the school holidays, with independent study continuing at home during the term.
- Our 6-9 Training Programme will begin on 25th March 2008 from our Pretoria Campus
- Lectures and practical workshops will be made up of theory, presentation of materials supervised practice sessions and overview of philosophy.
- At each lecture block, students will be given a Course manual to work through as we actually do the presentations – they will have to complete manuals independently as well as observations, assignments and research.
- Elective Modules offered will be informative, progressive and compliant with regulated standards. These will include such things as First Aid, HIV/Aids Education, Nutrition, Trauma and the Brain, Working with Special Needs Learners, Inclusion in Practice, Introductory Child Psychology and Development, School Management, Classroom Management, Montessori and the NCS, Leadership in Education, and several more exciting topics.

For further details, visit our website at www.montessoritraining.co.za or email course directors: Heidi van Staden academy@netactive.co.za or Sam Streak sam@pemontessori.co.za

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If you would like to advertise in
the SAMA Newsletter, please
send the relevant information
through to

admin@samontessori.org

Vacancies

Village Montessori School in Pretoria has a
vacancy from May 2008 for a Junior Primary
Educator. If interested please email your CV for
attention Liselle: montessorivillage@gmail.com

Alex Blaikie Montessori in Table View requires
a 3-6 yrs Assistant. Please contact Rebecca on
021 5568564 (ph or Fax) or **0837038451** or
rebecca@puremontessori.com

Little Angels Montessori, Table View.
Directress required for our 2 to 3 age class.
Applicant must have experience, be passionate
about Montessori and love working with
children. Position from 1st March 2008. Please
call Claire: **082 348 3665**.

Chameleon's Montessori School, in
Durbanville Cape Town is looking for an
Afternoon Program Co-ordinator. For more
information please contact Emma on **(021) 976
9611** or email
montessorichameleon's@hotmail.com.

For more information on Job Vacancies, Associate
Member(suppliers), Member schools and more, visit
SAMA website www.samontessori.org.za

Please ensure that all your SAMA staff members have the opportunity to read this newsletter.

The following products are available:

- **The SAMA Recommended Curriculum** – an integration of A Montessori Recommended Curriculum with the Revised National Curriculum Statement. For queries and to order, contact the SAMA office. The curriculum is printed and bound, and is available to paid up SAMA Institutional Members for R250.00 and to all other categories of membership for R1000.
- **SAMA Policies and Procedures CDs** – a comprehensive compilation of government laws, acts, and policies on CD 1 and examples from various Montessori schools and resources to use in school management on CD 2, at R50.00 each. These prices are for school members only. All other categories of membership may purchase the CDs for R500 per set.

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Focus for March issue: Quality and Standards in Montessori Schools; Leadership in Montessori

Deadline for submissions: 10 March

All articles were contributed by SAMA members. We would love to hear from our readers. Please send interesting snippets, valuable insights and amusing anecdotes to share with others and help make this newsletter an exciting and interesting one. If you feel you would like to contribute, please send to Jacky via: admin@samontessori.org.za