



National Newsletter

Southern African Montessori Association

December 2010

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Message from the President:

Dear All

We are at the end of yet another year! Having been in contact with many of you through SIG meetings, the annual conference, primary school forums and the like, I know that it has been a busy and full year for most. Congratulations for getting through to the end!

My special thanks goes to the past Exco who helped with the organisation of our wonderful Ses'fikile conference this year – especially Sam Streak and Suanne van Niekerk. Thank you to the current Exco and Trustees. Your support through this year is really valued. To Sharon Caldwell, our NAISA representative – thank you for the travelling you do all over the country to represent SAMA and for keeping our Montessori name 'out there'. Thank you to Jacky Price for her tireless work compiling the newsletters that are so well received, and last but not least, an extra-special thanks to Irmgard Pringle – our wonderful and amazing administrator who keeps SAMA running smoothly, and who often acts as my personal alarm clock and calendar! This year would have been so much less organised without you!

I would like to share some wisdom from Dr. Montessori herself to keep in the back of your minds during our December holidays.

“Through the study of children I have scrutinised human nature at its origin both in the East and the West and although it is forty years now since I began my work, childhood still seems to me an inexhaustible source of revelations and –let me say– hope. Childhood has shown me that all humanity is one.” (Maria Montessori, letter to all governments, 1947)

Bearing in mind that Montessori lived through two world wars, and had seen the atrocities and fled the persecution – her faith and belief in the child remained at the forefront of her work. This is the work that we continue everyday in our schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the work you do with our children. For the support you have shown to SAMA, and the kind words that we receive after the newsletters have gone out. Thank you too for distributing the parent newsletters – the feedback from your parents is also appreciated, and certainly gives them a feeling of security and confidence in the method they have chosen for their children.

I wish you all a very happy holiday. Rest well. Take time for yourselves and your families. Don't lose sight of the fact that your well-being promotes the well being of those you work for and with.

Mahatma Gandhi, addressing Montessori's students in London in 1931 said, *“You have truly remarked that if we are to reach real peace in this world and if we carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have the struggle, we won't have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered, with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering.”*

Peaceful blessings to you all, Heidi

Holiday and Fun Ideas

HOLIDAY FUN !!!

A few tips on what simple FUN things to do with your children in the holidays that will cost very little, if anything at all:

- Take an adventure walk in the forest with a treasure map and a small hidden treasures
- Have a picnic in the garden in the shade of a lovely tree
- Go for a drive along a road never travelled...find a river to swim in
- Pitch a tent in the garden and have a camp out with roasted marshmallows as a treat
- Go to the beach with some fun games: frisbee, cricket, balls etc...
- Turn your dining room into a restaurant and your child can be chef for the day. Baking is always a fun activity.
- Give children big cloths, blankets, pillows etc and send them out into the garden to build a fortress.
- If you have a paved area, let the children paint with water.

MOST IMPORTANTLY ENJOY YOUR LITTLE ONES AND HAVE FUN !!!

Greenwood Montessori

If in **Cape Town** here are some activities to include:

- Barnyard animal visit in Tokai
- Tokai forests and Arboretum walk and picnic
- Liesbeeck River in Bishops Court –play and picnic
- Ferndale’s Nursery, in Constantia: maze, play and feed ducks and picnic
- Greenbelt walks in Constantia
- Cat walk from Muizenberg to St James could incorporate train ride to Muizenberg and back.
- Fishhoek beach walk
- Lovely big park in Brocker Road Tokai, play and picnic
- Silvermine Dam walk and picnic
- Visit to The Giraffe House near Stellenbosch www.giraffehouse.co.za
- Theatre at <http://www.artscape.co.za/>
- The National Museum <http://www.iziko.org.za/>
- Two Oceans Aquarium
- The Clay Café [Hout Bay]
- Scratchpatch, Glencairn, a must for a gemstone experience!
- Kirstenbosch [run, jump, smell fynbos programme
- Boulders Beach Penguins
- Die Oog in Bergvliet play, feed ducks and picnic
- Imhoff farm petting zoo, Noordhoek/Kommetjie
- Blue Train Mouille Point – there is also a fabulous jungle gym
- Taking the train from Muizenberg to Fishhoek and back to St James Beach for a play and back to Muizenberg
- Table Mountain
- Butterfly World [near Paarl/Franschhoek off N1]



Holiday and Fun Ideas

Old Fashioned Games

Family games are what make memories and it does not take long to rope slightly reluctant participants in. There is nothing more memorable than those fits of laughter of the silly antics of uncool aunties whilst trying to immitate superman during a bout of charades. Go on I dare you! With the spate of party planning options I find I am driven to encourage our school's parents to go back to the old fashion way of party games. Children respond instantly to the treasure hunts, sardine hide and seek and dodge ball games so much more positively than just another 'jump and dump, on a jumping castle.

So you ask, "what is *sardine* hide and seek?" Well when you have witnessed your teenagers playing this with the younger family members then you know it is a winner....

With this game one person goes to hide and all the others try to find.

When you find, you quietly hide with them, until the last remaining person is left looking and what he finds is... yes! Squashed bodies.

Board games, cards, dress up, creating your own 'reality' shows like sharp shooter, the amazing race, chefs etc with a cooperative ethos, adapted to the age of the children can bring hours of fun. Oh and remember "skop die blok"!

Try your library for books of ideas, search the internet or ask your friends; the ideas are unlimited. Collect and make a book of ideas that you can give to parents for holiday times.

Anyway

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centred,

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies,

SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight,

BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help but may attack you if you help them,

HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth,

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY.

author unkown

This was taken from a sign on the wall of Shishu Bhavan, the children's home in Calcutta.

Start your very own tinkering school

Take a look at

http://www.ted.com/talks/gever_tulley_s_tinkering_school_in_action.html.

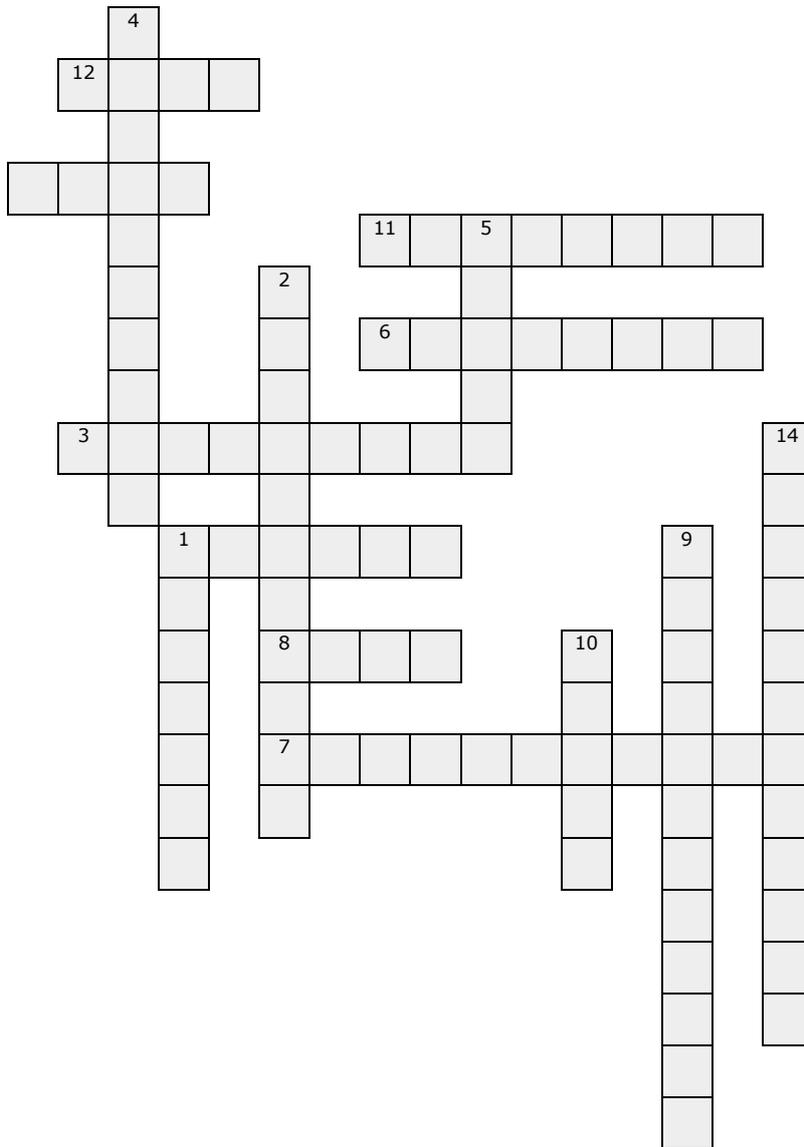
Here you see Gever Tulley talk about how he co-started a tinkering school where children attend for the week and have access to carpentry and building tools in which they can build whatever they design. You see some visuals of some of the projects done by children attending.

The goal he has in mind is to allow the child access to the power tools to use creative and problem solving skills in "tinkering" with ideas and bring them to fruition. He believes that children should be empowered to handle dangerous tools in better managing their interaction with their environments. Sounds familiar doesn't it.

On another of his talks he encourages children to take apart appliances in further understanding there workings, so instead of throwing the old toaster away give it to the children to take apart. From using a screw driver to learning the language of materials used to make an appliance gives the child many needed skills.

Jacky

Happy New Year!



Across:

- 1. People you are related to
- 3. Popular Drink
- 6. Shredded Paper
- 7. December 31st
- 8. Touch Lips
- 11. Time to Celebrate
- 12. A Noisemaker
- 13. May Old _____ Be Forgot

Down:

- 2. Popular Resolution (b)
- 4. Popular Resolution (a)
- 5. Move to music
- 9. January 1st
- 10. Gathering of People
- 14. Phrase said at midnight

Regional Meetings

Western Cape:

With Auburn House having hosted the regional meetings for the last 2 years it was with some reflection that we would no longer be visiting this gracious home of Montessori Education. Sally has always warmly opened their embracing school, encouraging us to take a peek and to learn from not only what they have to offer, but from each other as well. Thank you Auburn House (we'll miss those delicious muffins!)

For the last meeting of the year we shared ideas of gifts and goodies that the children could create and take home. It was not limited to just the Christmas theme, but to other areas of celebrations as well as how to bring our craft and art areas alive. Sharing of art techniques and using this in our crafts.

We learnt many different ways to make decorations, angels and various ways of weaving, quite a mixed bag! Felt was a common denominator with children from the age of 3 sewing their own creations. We spoke about gauging certain activities for the differing abilities of the children as well as encouraging the older ones help the younger ones; to having belief in each child's desire to try and do.

What was mentioned in a couple of the schools was the concept of the peace table, Children's Studio have a peace corner where doves are made by each child which is then hung with an agreement to help make the classroom a safe and peaceful place.

It is also positive to see new members and schools joining us in our meetings.

Jacky

SAMA 2011 CONFERENCE

BOTANIC GARDENS – DURBAN

28/29 APRIL 2011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2011

THEME – PLAY & NATURE

We hereby make a call for presentation proposals around the above theme.

We intend to include presentations on:-

Montessori & play, heuristic play, importance of play in overall development, play therapy.

Montessori's cosmic plan, biodiversity and sustainability, recycling, food gardens, permaculture and the outdoor classroom

Please submit any proposals as soon as possible to enable us to finalise the limited number of presentations that will be available.

Please submit to: admin@samontessori

Holiday and Fun Ideas

Host Schools for 2011



O'Summit Montessori Pre and Primary School - Gauteng South

O'Summit Montessori was founded in November 2008, in the original farmhouse of the O'Summit farm, now part of the prestigious area of Bryanston. Situated on 6000 m², the school has kept its country feel, with ample space for children to learn and play in peaceful surroundings, yet only 10 minutes from the heart of bustling Sandton. Our teaching staff are all passionate and qualified Montessorians and our environments are well equipped, spacious and very conducive to child led learning.

The school was started by a shortage of quality Montessori Primary education in the Sandton area, since there is a prolific number of Montessori Preschools in the area but very few Primary schools for children to feed into.

There are 3 different areas, toddlers (2 – 3 yrs), pre-school (3 – 6 yrs), and Primary (6 - 9 and 9 – 12 yrs in 2012). It is a multi-culturally diverse school with one goal in mind, to create a community of children and parents who have firm belief in the benefits of the Montessori Method of Education, producing well rounded individuals, who are intrinsically motivated and self-disciplined.

The school has grown in leaps and bounds since it began and is a registered Primary School with the Gauteng Department of Education and active members of SAMA.

The school is very proud to have been invited to be the Host School for 2011 for Gauteng South and we look forward to hosting the meetings and interacting with fellow Montessorians in 2011.



Montessori Life - Kwazulu Natal

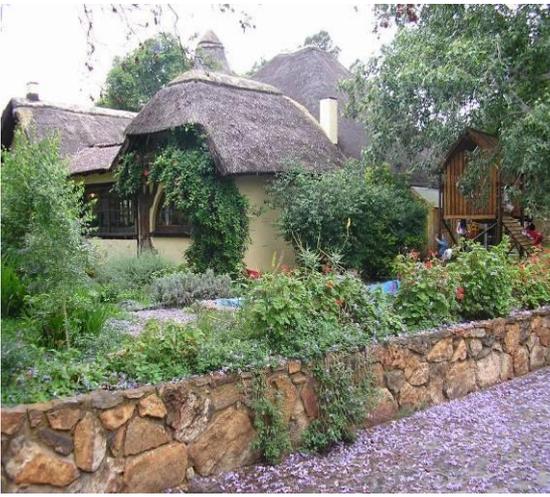
Nicky Rodseth, the principal of Montessori Life, always dreamt of opening a Montessori pre-primary school. Born in Italy she attended a Montessori pre-primary in Rome and as a university student graduated with an honours degree in psychology. She subsequently acquired her diploma in early childhood education. In early 2006 she realised her dream and established "Montessori at the Sands" in the Village of Umhlanga. The School was officially opened by the Italian Consul, Dr. Ugo Ciarlatani.

The School grew rapidly and quickly established itself within the local community. By mid 2008 the School had outgrown its leased premises and in November 2008 Nicky relocated to new premises in the Village of Sunningdale. The School was renamed "Montessori Life" and can be seen in the attached photograph.

"I needed to find a house with character, a sizeable and level garden, well established shade trees and that special 'something' which would give it a sense of homeliness with which children could identify. When I first viewed the property I immediately knew it would make for the perfect school." says Nicky.

Montessori Life is deeply committed to the upliftment of the South African community, socially economically and educationally and the school and its parents regularly provide educational support to underfunded schools in the local community. Educational assistance is also granted to disadvantaged children to attend the school on the premise that a sound education can positively impact individual lives.

The School looks forward to hosting its KZN Montessorian colleagues during 2011 and promises a warm welcome to its guests.



Little Oak Montessori

Gauteng North

Little Oak Montessori school is located in the calm and tranquil suburb of Irene, directly opposite the Oval in Centurion. We take children from 18 months to 6 years.

The Toddler Unit (18 months – 3 yrs) is separate from the preschool and is surrounded by its own fence. The Pre-school unit is in the main building and houses the 3 – 6 year olds.

The school has for many years been owned by Jane Slater who has just recently sold a major share holding to Marike Viljoen who is the Principal as well
We have 5 teaching staff and two domestic workers.

Our after care facility is run by Cynthia Vermaak who is also a mother from the school. Cynthia also runs the holiday care program.

Little Oak boasts a beautiful school with a sensorial garden. It contains many different textures and indigenous plants, some of which were planted by the children themselves.



Blue Moon Montessori Preschool

Western Cape

From humble beginnings in part of my home, it took two years to realise that a larger home was needed for the children and hence we were happy to find this purpose built school building that had been a therapy centre for children who were intellectually challenged.

We opened up the floor space to accommodate one larger class and from 18 children in January this year to 40 children for January 2011 we feel very fortunate.

We have 2 directresses and grow to three teaching assistants next year. We offer half day or full day Montessori Programmes.

We are pleased to be asked to host the regional meetings and look forward to a very productive 2011

Principle, Jacky Price

Extract from Montessori Madness; the author's first ever observation in a Montessori classroom.
Page 43:

"I remember setting foot in that Montessori classroom. I sat down on a chair-a very, very small chair-near the door. I had just stepped into someone's living room. Or was it a science laboratory? Or maybe an office building? I couldn't put my finger on exactly what was different at first, but this was unlike any classroom I had ever seen. It felt different too. Peaceful. Purposeful."

Montessori International Preschool Swaziland

Celebrated their Annual Cultural day on the 22nd October by showing off the diversity in our various cultures and customs. The children and teachers arrived at school in their National attire and the school was set around the various continents. Many artworks, as well as music and dance were shared, and the parents enriched the day by sending National food dishes from around the globe. Our day ended by planting an indigenous tree in the school grounds.



Best Wishes

Shida Sinaei
Principal



SAALD Congress 2011

From Inclusion to Belonging: The Language of Learning

30th March to 2nd April 2011 in Cape Town

For more details contact: UCT Conference Management Centre

Email: Belinda.Chapman@uct.ac.za Tel: +27 (0) 21 406 6407

The Congress will deal with issues of Language and Communication Skills, Reading and Literacy, Written Expression, Multilingualism, Literacy Issues amongst Children with Hearing and Visual Impairments, Dyslexia, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Inattentive Behaviour, Social Stories and Academic Challenges that arise when children experience barriers to learning.

The Congress will present aspects of best practice both nationally and internationally.

Book Review

A delightful book that I am so pleased to have purchased is *Montessori Madness! A Parent to Parent Argument for Montessori Education*. Written by Trevor Eissler with forward by Rebecca Lowe. Published by Sevenoff, LLC. Georgetown, Texas.

What caught my eye was that on the back cover with his introduction of himself he ends off by saying that when he grows up he wants to be a Montessori student. This resonated with me because over the years, so often we hear the parents of our school bemoan the fact that they would prefer to stay for the morning. And how often do we wish ourselves that we could have had Montessori schooling ourselves.

Anyhow, this is easy reading from a father's perspective of watching his three children go through Montessori Education and allows us as teachers to not only identify with his perspective and positive experiences but to also refresh or reflect on our own motives and actions as we engage with fresh young minds each day.

He discusses the detrimental effect that traditional schooling can have on young minds regarding problem solving, self regulation, creative thinking and individuality. Hence giving credit to Montessori education for nurturing these vital aspects of a child's development.

I highly recommend this book as a good holiday read. You can also see some of Trevor's talks to parents on YouTube and visit his website: www.montessorimadness.com

Jacky

'Learning has something to do with experiencing a novel situation, assimilating the nature of the experience, and understanding its embedded information. We cannot learn in an integral way without all of these aspects woven together.'

Steven Harrison, *The Happy Child*; pg 25



Focus for February issue: Valued our parents in our schools; involvement and communication

All articles are 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 Irmgard via: admin@samontessori.org.za

Holiday and Fun Ideas

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Jannine Morrison

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Email: janinne@morrison.co.za

If you would like to advertise in the SAMA Newsletter,
please send the relevant information through to
admin@samontessori.org.za

Holiday and Fun Ideas

Vacancies

Western Cape:

1 X Montessori pre-primary, 1 X Montessori Toddler Assistant and 1 X Aftercare position available **close to CBD**. Sent CV and motivational letter (indicating position you are applying for) to sam@consciously-living.com

Chameleons Montessori School in Durbanville, has vacancies for Directresses in both Junior Primary (6-9) and Preschool. We are looking for enthusiastic, committed and well trained Directress' to start January 2011. Please send CV's to info@chameleonsmontessori.co.za or phone 021 976 9611

Gauteng:

Montessori Africa in Randburg is looking for an experienced Montessori directress required for 3-6 environment. Position available January 2011. Please contact Maria Erasmus on 082463 6446 or send CV's to montessori@iafrica.com

Eastern/Southern Cape

Sunflower Montessori School in Eastern Cape is urgently looking for a Montessori Directress for their 3-6 year environment. Anyone interested please contact Kerry Boland on sunmontessori@telkomsa.net Or call 041 364 2943.

Greenwood Primary is looking for a Senior Phase Teacher (GR 6 & 7) with WCED and Montessori background and experience welcomed. Please send all CV's to Mary Solomon grwoodprim3@xnets.co.za Or fax to 086 510 5310

The Children's Workshop Montessori School in Claremont has vacancies for January 2011. **Primary Teacher** for (foundation phase) 6-9 years. Applicant should have a degree, relevant training and experience and be interested in alternative teaching methodology. Montessori training is an advantage. A **Pre-School Assistant** (3-6yrs) essential experience in dealing with very young children, Montessori tertiary experience and qualification an advantage. Send CV with contactable references to childwork@mweb.co.za Or fax to 086 670 9262

Carefree Kid's Montessori Preschool in Garsfontein, Pretoria is looking for a teacher in their Baby Centre 4-18months. This is a halfday position for the afternoons. Please contact Hanlie on 083 632 9175 or email CV'S to hanlie@carefreekids.co.za

Midrand Montessori Preschool is looking for a qualified Montessori teacher to start in January 2011. Please send CV's to sian@midrandmontessori.co.za or call 083 473 0300

Knysna Montessori requires a qualified and experienced **Montessori directress** for 3-6 environment and a **Senior Primary Teacher** with SACE registration and strong leadership qualities to teach English (1st) Afrikaans (2nd) Language from January 2011. Email CV's to tbyleveld@gmail.com Or fax 086 592 3301

Woodlands Montessori in Port Elizabeth is seeking a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced Montessori Directress for the 3-6 environment for January 2011. Please send CV's to claudiaweidner@hotmail.com or fax 041 367 3726

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INCORRECT TEMPLATE OF THIS PAGE WAS USED IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER. APOLOGIES FOR THE OVERSIGHT

Available SAMA Products:

- **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.
- **SAMA Parents Handbook** – a full colour, beautiful publication, useful to parents as an introduction to Montessori Education. This booklet covers basic Montessori philosophy and is the ideal starting point for parent education. These handbooks are available to SAMA School Members only at R25 per copy. For orders of 30 or more, additional postage will be added.

For more details contact: admin@samontessori.org.za

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