



National Newsletter

June 2013

Letter from the President

By Jacquelyn Price

Have you ever lain on your back on a windy day and looked with a fleeting sense of dizziness at the fast racing clouds above. At times I get this dizziness with how fast each day goes by and the anxiety of not completing that ever growing list of still to do.

Why do I say this? Well, as you have noticed, this newsletter is coming to you late. While we ask for contributions from our members, sadly we rarely receive and hence you get to hear the same old voices in each newsletter.

We realise the value of the newsletter to our members and would therefore like to offer more detail covering a wider age grouping. Therefore, we have planned to transform the monthly newsletter to a journal which will be available five times per annum. We have approached some of our members to contribute with good quality, worthwhile articles from their Montessori experiences and wealth of knowledge. We thought at this time it prudent to do less frequent, but add more depth to the editions that go out.

The Montessori methodology requires a sense of community and sharing amongst our children yet it seems that sense of helpfulness and community has been lost between us as Montessorians. Please consider your experiences and share with us so that our new and old members may learn from you. We love hearing about the delightful and spontaneous things children say and do in your classes. The pictures you send speak a thousand words. Perhaps you have discovered a marvellous way of recording or useful tips for observing. There may be an interesting field trip or fundraising experience to share. We will offer editorial support should

you require, so do not hold back. Alternatively, tell us what types of things you would like to see in the journal and what you would find inspiring.

Our newsflashes will continue regularly as many events and meetings and vacancies are brought to our attention at the office and need to be sent to all our valued members in the soonest possible time.



I have the fortunate opportunity to attend the International Montessori Congress to be held in Portland, Oregon at the end of July and I cannot wait to feedback on my experiences there.

Please do not forget to work on the 3-6 and the 6-12 curriculums. The first month is almost up for the first part of the 3-6 and the second part will be coming soon, as well as the 6-12. It is vital for all our members to put their minds to this, as your voices were very clear at our last conference in wanting participation, please use this opportunity .

We are pleased to announce our dates for 2014 conference to be held in Johannesburg.

And my mantra for the moment;

“Constant, slow movement teaches us to keep working like a small creek that stays clear, but doesn’t stagnate, but finds a way through numerous details deliberately”. Rumi

Warm regards

Jacky

Save the Date!

12th National Conference

Prepare to join South African education professionals as they gather to explore the universal themes and *unique* facets of Montessori.

Trainers, teachers, and administrators from every province will be united to celebrate, learn, and connect on their shared commitment to the work of Dr Maria Montessori.

Renowned international Guest Speaker and Author Dr Paul Epstein

- Conference Dates: 26 – 28th April 2014
- Observation workshops with Dr Epstein 29 -30th April 2014

All welcome, special rates for **SAMA members**.



The JUNE/JULY newsletter will focus on Montessori Basics: Principle **MIXED AGE GROUPS**. We value your contributions so please send any interesting snippets, funnies, quotes, photos, article ideas and questions to Irmgard at admin@samontessori.org.za or post them on our Facebook page.