



May 2007

Message from the President

Dear Montessori Parents

Welcome to the second edition of the Southern African Montessori Association's (SAMA) Parents Newsletter. The newsletter is produced exclusively for our School Members to support their efforts in running and managing quality Montessori schools.

Our Association is committed to improving and maintaining quality education in Montessori schools across Southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland and all other countries in the region) and we recognise the importance of creating awareness among parents as part of that process.

The school which your child attends is a School Member of our Association which means that they have met certain criteria for membership, subscribe to our Code of Ethics and have shown a commitment to the Aims and Objectives of our Association. This should give you peace of mind that your child is in good hands and receiving a quality Montessori education. You can find out more about SAMA by visiting our website at www.samontessori.org.za

Quality assurance in education, across the spectrum, is an essential component in ensuring trust in the school by parents as well as contributing towards the sustainability of the school. Quality assurance is more than good intentions. It is based on a commitment to meeting criteria and providing not just for minimum standards but maximum efficacy.

It is the hope of our Association to develop such a quality assurance process for Montessori schools in Southern Africa so that the children in our schools are able to meet their full potential and make a valuable contribution to our countries as they grow up.

As parents are an integral part of any school, we would like to encourage you to think about what quality assurance means to you, and the school your child attends. We would value your feedback so that the thoughts of parents are included in the development of our quality assurance documents. Please send these to president@samontessori.org.za

As parents, teachers and caregivers, we need to provide the child with all he needs to complete this awesome task.

Warm regards
Sam Streak
President

“Education depends on the belief in the power of the child and on a certainty that the child has within himself the capacity to develop into a being far superior than us. He will not only be capable of a better way of living but will be the only person who can show us this...the primary aim of education is to make everyone conscious of the extreme importance of children”

(The Child, Society and the World).

Book Corner

Kindergarten is too Late by Masaru Ibuka

Published first in 1977, this is one of the most readable, non-Montessori, Montessori directed books that I have read in years. If it is on your bookshelf-take it down and re-read it. The author (co-founder of Sony,) believed that every child's potential for learning is greatest during the first three years of life! He agreed with Dr. Montessori, that the key to the development of intelligence is not just in heredity but in the child's experience during the first three years.

Masaru Ibuka insisted that waiting until a child is ready for kindergarten or pre-primary school for the start of their education is already too late!

A wonderful book. Easy to read. Filled with anecdotes and examples of the power of the small child's brain. Read it-it is worth the time.

Dr. Lindsay van den Berg
Headstart Mercy Montessori Training Centre-
Namibia

SAMA website

samontessori.org.za

Centenary of the Montessori Movement

www.montessoricentenary.org,

“Champion the Cause of All Children”

contributions and queries to chandler2@telkomsa.net