



Parent Newsletter

February 2015

Letter from the President

“Let us give the child a vision of the whole universe....for all things are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”

Maria Montessori



A Montessori teacher’s work is never finished and at the end of the day or over the weekend, she or he is often found scrounging around car boot sales and second hand thrift shops. Goodness, what strange places to be found in! Why you may ask? To equip our children’s environments!

All of the excitingly found items (and believe me we do get excited about these ‘treasures’), create rich resources to share with the children thus giving them seeds or little windows to the differing cultures of the wider world. Frequently I ask families who intend traveling abroad, to bring back foreign coins, dolls, and curious objects from where they have visited. Thus building up a cupboard full of resources which allow us openings to new discussions and discoveries with the children. These small exotic goods not only give the children a curious glimpse into the lives of others, but sparks more questions and opens up further research, especially for the older children.

We are all members of the human family. Our roots and history is the story of our common heritage. Without a strong sense of history and geography, we cannot begin to know who we are as individuals today. Our goal is to develop a global perspective, and the study of

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social sciences and world cultures forms the foundation of the Montessori curriculum. This all begins from the tender age of three. Children using themselves as their first point of reference and we as guides share ways other children around the world, eat, dress, go to school, celebrate, travel and live in many different environments from ours, with taking particular care to not stereotype.

As an example; a friend recently cleaned out her home. She kindly offered me a look in at all the objects she had collected from memories of her travels. One such item was a tiny picture frame with the San Francisco Bridge. This was placed on a shelf in the classroom. A conversation was immediately struck up by a young boy who asked where the bridge was from, which then led into a discussion of bridges, as well as where is San Francisco etc...It also led to a conversation about what he knew about bridges. A rich and interactive language opportunity and exchange!

So when next you are tossing out Aunt Jemima's miniature China vase, please know it will be warmly welcomed into your child's classroom!

Yours in Montessori
Jacky

The South African Montessori Association invites you to attend the 13th national conference to be held in the beautiful garden province of KwaZulu Natal.

montessori
**EDUCATION
FOR THE
NATION**

The Square Boutique Hotel & Spa,

250 Umhlanga Rocks Drive
La Lucia Office Park

- 25 & 26 APRIL 2015 -

register now at www.samacon.co.za

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Steve Hughes



Dr Steve Hughes consults with organisations about educational programme evaluation and speaks to groups around the world about developmental education, neurocognitive disorders, parenting, and other topics of interest to parents and educators.

He will answer your questions on how children really learn and why the Montessori Method is the optimal support to offer the developing child.

