



# Parent Newsletter

January 2015

## Letter from the President



the next three years the change is much slower and more constant. As an example; think of the child from birth to 3 years; the growth (bone structure, language, movement) is rapid and remarkable, while from 3 to 6 years the growth and change is not as fast.

Montessori on this premise developed the methodology and materials to respond to the needs and characteristics of the growing individual at each plane. These needs and characteristics flourish and then diminish in importance during these six-year planes. In our schools, each three years has a beginning, a middle and an end for the child and it is the end or final third year of each of these stages that is important, because it is during this year that the child consolidates his or her previous two years of experiences, thus making the most of the Montessori programme at each level.

Dear Parents

Welcome back to another year in Montessori education and a special welcome to those who are beginning this wonderful journey with your child or children.

I congratulate all of you who commit to each of the Montessori three year cycles. Your child may just be at the beginning of their first cycle, in the middle or at the end of a cycle.

So now you are perplexed (or maybe not) and ask what do I

mean? Montessori, through careful observation of children, defined child development as the growth of an individual from birth to 24 in four "planes of development": birth to 6, 6 to 12, 12 to 18, and 18 to 24 years of age. Each plane of development has unique characteristics and prepares the child for the next period of development.

Every plane is divided into two stages of three years each, thus the 'three year cycle'. In the first three years the child develops rapidly and then in

The three year cycle ensures that children are allowed to develop at their individual pace and their potential is not limited. It also supports collaboration, peer learning and shared ideas among the children. As they reach the end of each age cycle, they strengthen their understanding by sharing or "teaching" this to the younger child, thus further consolidating their own skills and knowledge.

To receive the full benefits of a Montessori education, a child who enrolls should remain in the program for 3 years or more. Each step of a child's development and learning from the time they enter the Montessori classroom serves as a solid foundation for the next. The child who does not finish the program will never experience the same benefits, joy and satisfaction of having reached the end.

**SAMA office**

**041 367 4936**

**admin@samontessori.org.za**



*"Successive levels of education must correspond to the successive personalities of the child. Our methods are oriented not to any pre-established principles but rather to the inherent characteristics of the different ages. It follows that these characteristics themselves include several levels."*

Maria Montessori: Childhood to Adolescence.

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](http://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.