



Parent Newsletter

March 2015

Letter from the President

Dear Parent

“The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences.” – Maria Montessori

Last month I wrote about how Montessori families could contribute to their child’s learning experiences. We are going even one better this month, thanks to the suggestion of one of my colleagues. I am going to ask you all to tap into your own uniqueness and skills. Skills which you as a Montessori parent can contribute to enriching children’s understanding through giving them some real life experiences.

In today’s times it is not easy to jump on a bus and travel to the art gallery, local vet or museum.

We have to plan very carefully any outings well in advance, which requires many parent’s kindly offer of lifts and the directresses sweat about everyone’s safety. Yet we really want to enrich our children with real and tangible experiences. Photographic illustrations can only give us a part of the picture. You know children, those sensory

beings; they need to see, feel, touch, taste, smell and do!

So what I am getting at is that each and every one of you is unique and has a real and rich experience to share first hand with our children. Oh, not me you say in disbelief! Well I would like to differ and reflect with you on my years as a Montessori educator and say to you that our children’s most memorable days are when we have a visitor to the classroom who share their expertise and knowledge first hand, and it leaves lasting impressions within each child.

Just this last week, for example, we had a Dad who is a renowned graffiti artist visit, and within two hours he gave our back garden wall a wonderful facelift! He spoke first to our children in the primary class about his profession, they asked him some honest and deep questions before he launched into action.

We have had Mom the opera singer giving a very moving performance, Mom the pasta



maker demonstrating and then cooking for all to eat, Granny the knitter giving lessons, Mom the personal trainer giving a demonstration gym class with the children, Uncle the worm farmer digging up worms in his worm farm, Mom the author reading her own book, a violinist, a vet, a dentist, a banker, fynbos gardener, a geologist....the list is you! They all came with their tools of the trade and insights that we as directresses do not have.

One very memorable experience was just after the time when swimmer, Natalie du Toit, lost her leg and came to speak to the children, sharing with them her experience of wearing a prosthesis.

The cherry on the top is observing the reaction of very proud children of these visiting parents. I am calling on all of you to offer two hours out of one day in a whole year; this is your opportunity to be the star of your child's class and share your real and unique self.

P.S. If that is too daunting, then offer to be a mystery reader one morning, you bring in your child's favourite story and read to a group. See the eyes light up then!

Warmest Montessori regards

Jacky



The SAMA is pleased to invite you to optimise your learning programme and...

IS IT TIME TO RE-THINK EDUCATION?

American Dr Steve Hughes PhD, LP, ABPdN consults with organisations around the world about educational programme evaluation and speaks to a variety of groups including educators, doctors and parents about developmental education, neurocognitive disorders, and other topics of interest.



As certified paediatric neuropsychologist, Dr. Hughes also specialises in treatment planning for persons who have problems with attention, concentration, organisation, planning and related executive functions.



www.samacon.co.za

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

DATE: Thursday 23 April 2015
TIME: Session 1 16h00 - 17h30
Session 2 18h30 - 20h00
COST: R200,00 per person, per session.
VENUE: To be announced
RSVP: by 10 April 2015 to admin@samacon.co.za

Session 1

Good at doing things: Montessori education and higher-order cognitive functions.

Session 2

Why 20th century education techniques won't work in the 21st century and what we can do about it.