



The TMI Update

A Monthly Newsletter Written by the Toronto Montessori Institute

The Importance of Skill Based Learning

November is a time to reflect and plan. It is also report card time. To accurately understand the holistic needs of the children in our classrooms, it is important to report on the acquisition of skills since September and not focus solely on the curriculum. Projections through observing the isolation of quality, skills and the analysis of difficulty found within the Montessori materials allows us to predict the child's readiness for progression. Through an individualized skill based lesson plan, Montessori educators seek to engage our children through presentation of dynamic concepts with optimal timing, thus motivating them to explore the world. Children are presented with thought provoking material and problems for them to solve independently. Skill based learning allows children to ask questions, make predications, design experiments, collect and analyze their data, make conclusions and then share their new found insight with their peers. This confidence building process prompts further questions and inspires more research making skill based learning a community experience.

The Early Childhood and Elementary I & II Oral Exam Formats have been changed to Reflect the Importance of a Skill Based Approach

When developing her materials, Maria Montessori focused on the analysis of difficulty, isolating skills and concepts in order for the child to be successful. This year, the format of our oral exams has been changed so that TMI student teachers are required to demonstrate a solid understanding of the exercises and their purposes through the clarity of their movements during lesson presentation, the inherent points of interest and their ability to articulate clearly to the child. During the questions, TMI student teachers are asked to relate and connect the ideas introduced within curriculum areas focusing on the sequential development of skills and the scaffolding of concepts. They are asked to consider the integration of the curriculum areas and the way in which they indirectly/directly prepare for subsequent learning outcomes; e.g., connections between Practical Life activities and writing. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning with the support of educators who inspire and motivate the quest for knowledge through engaging lessons and relevant follow-up.

Practice Teaching Placements Support the Skill Based Learning of TMI Student Teachers

Through practice teaching, TMI student teachers gain a greater understanding of the scaffolding of skills and the value of the hands-on approach to learning that the Montessori philosophy offers. Early Childhood Full-Time student teachers look forward to practice teaching placements in TMS classrooms during afternoons in December. Our Infant Toddler and Part-Time Early Childhood student teachers are generally in classrooms throughout the year. TMI Elementary student teachers look forward to entering Lower Elementary classrooms throughout the GTA for the month of January. Through the experience of practice teaching, TMI students are able to engage in a skill based learning opportunity of their own. With your support and under your mentorship TMI student teachers begin to recognize the individual needs of the children and the pace at which they acquire skills. Thank you for welcoming TMI student teachers into your classrooms to teach and learn with your children. Please continue to support and encourage skill based learning at all levels!

November 2011

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Thank You for Providing Opportunities and Support to TMI Students at the CAMT Annual Conference!

**CAMT Spring Conference
April 21, 2011**

Upcoming Professional Development

**Montessori 101 Parent Workshop/ Refresher Course
April 16 to April 27, 2012**

Suggestions welcome!

Details to Come

Visit our Web site for regularly updated job postings, as well as information about professional development workshops.

Please e-mail any questions or comments to tmi@tmsschool.ca

Events at TMI



Photo taken by A. Harvey, TMS

TMI student teachers enjoy the opportunity to volunteer and connect with TMS children during various after school extracurricular activities.



Photo taken by A. Harvey, TMS

A TMI student teacher assists with the music at the TMS Remembrance Day Assembly. TMI student teachers appreciated the opportunity to participate in this moving ceremony to honour our Veterans.



Photo taken by T Macedo, TMI

TMI Senior Trainer, Rosanna Gaudio and a TMI Elementary student teacher visit an Upper Elementary classroom to observe a zoology lesson on Vital Functions of the Animal Kingdom.

Upcoming Community Events

CCMA Workshop
Thursday February 16, 2012
7:00 pm

For all educators, administrators, parents and staff.
"Information Bombardment: Rising above the Digital Onslaught"
Presenter: Dr. Nick Bontis
Location TBA

CAMT 2012 Spring Mini-Conference
Saturday April 21, 2012
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Literacy - Diane Duff
Math and Music - Maureen Harris
Location TBA

The CAMT Annual Conference November 4, 2011



T Macedo, TMI

Thank you to the TMI Full-Time Early Childhood and Elementary I & II Diploma student teachers who volunteered at the Annual CAMT Conference at The Old Mill on November 4, 2011. Student teachers enjoyed their introduction to the larger Montessori community and appreciated the opportunity to meet like-minded administrators and teachers. They left the conference with a Certificate of Appreciation from CAMT, grateful for the warm welcome that they received and enthusiastic about the new career they have chosen.



T Macedo, TMI

TMI student teachers were excited to meet TMI Alumni and gain deeper insight into the application of Montessori philosophy and the transition from student teacher to classroom teacher. TMI Alumni were happy to reconnect with TMI Senior Trainer Rosanna Gaudio who was a presenter at this year's conference. Thank you to our Alumni for sharing your enthusiasm for TMI training. Word of mouth is our greatest form of advertising. Please continue to share the value of your training and the benefits of a career in Montessori education!



T Macedo, TMI

True Macedo, TMI Registrar happily reconnected with alumni who visited the TMI table to say hello. Thank you for stopping by!



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