



MONTESSORI MOTION

A Newsletter for the families of 'International Montessori' • Editor: Annie Hoekstra-de Roos • Layout: Inspirit



Ideals and reflections

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Ideals and reflections



On Children

“Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life’s
longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they
belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your
thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their
souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of
tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not
even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek
not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries
with yesterday...”

A new year often comes with resolutions, new plans and fresh starts. Ideals and philosophies have a tendency to surface when we are in a relaxed and peaceful mood. Winter holidays are a great time to refuel and reflect on what is important in life.

Kahlil Gibran’s book ‘The Prophet’ was recently reprinted in the form of a beautiful golden version. His chapter on children is inspiring:



Kahlil Gibran compares parents to 'bows from which their children as living arrows are sent forth'. The archer needs to be stable and strong and send the child into the infinite.

We, parents and educators, are the ones that shoot them ahead with a bow made up of age-appropriate freedoms and limits, decision making opportunities, positive communication, unconditional love, respect and trust.

This allows them to become independent in their actions and thinking. Due to the energies received, they develop a kind of independence that takes others in consideration and is perpetuated by means of a positive urge, interest and motivation.

It helps children in becoming ready for life ahead with their own ideals and philosophies.

Kahlil Gibran lived from 1883 to 1931. He was born in Lebanon and moved as a child with his family to Boston. Kahlil was educated in the United States, Beirut and Paris. He was an artist and philosopher and considered a genius in his time.

For more information please read his beautiful book 'The Prophet' or other publications. You can also visit many websites.

The artwork can be seen on: http://www.inner-growth.info/khalil_gibran_prophet/html/kahlil_gibran_biography.htm

After School Hours in Wezembeek-Oppem



The availability for After School Hours has been expanded to:

Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 15.00 to 18.00 hrs.

Wednesdays from 12.00 to 15.00 hrs.

A group of students are already taking advantage of this offering with our coordinator, Katie Galagher. It is also possible for children from the 'Sterrebeek' school to make use of the after school care. Our school bus can be used to transfer students from Sterrebeek to Wezembeek-Oppem.

Workshops:



Play 'Dieu est un DJ'

MYP students of years 3, 4 and 5 in French language A

February 2

Location: Théâtre National

Time: 19.30

Opera Workshop

Lower and Upper Primary Tervuren

Tuesday February 22

Time: During school hours

Our Upper Primary students will be treated to a workshop on opera, presented by a specialist from Théâtre Royal de La Monnaie. During this all-day, in-class session the students will learn (and listen) to various aspects of opera including the music, costumes, tradition, and staging of these extravagant performances. The topic is related to the Primary's recent work on the Spiritual Needs of Humans.

I.T. workshops – I LOVE IT

Middle Year Program

Thursday February 24

Location: INTEC - Brussels

Time: During school hours

IT in the frame of the 'I LOVE IT' program, is an initiative of the Flemish regional government for schools. On Thursday the 27th of January the whole MS visited IBM to learn about the newest technologies and performed hands-on activities for the day. On the 24th of February from 9:00 to 12:00 one group of 10 students will learn how to program a computer, while another group of 10 students will learn how to build a website on the internet. Another workshop is still in the planning and will take 10 students to the Erasmus College. They will learn about advanced internet searching.

Theatre Workshop

Middle Year Program

Monday April 4 (note the date change from 31st March)

Location: - Théâtre National

Time: During school hours

All of the students of the MS will participate in this professional theater workshop. During their visit to the Théâtre National they will learn about the different professions associated with theater. As well, they will participate in an improvisation workshop. The students are particularly excited about the opportunity to share their scripts for this year's theater production with the professionals to receive feedback and suggestions on stage direction. It will allow the students to take their own productions to the next level!

Theatre performance, 'L'enfant mouche'

Middle Year Program

Wednesday April 6

Location: - Théâtre National

Time: - 19.30

The MYP students will all go to Théâtre National to watch 'L'enfant mouche', a tragicomedy in French that discusses education and questions traditional educational styles.

Concert at the Retirement home 'Kleinenberg'

Middle Year Program

Thursday March 17

Time: During school hours

Middle School is building a relationship with the local retirement home. Since September, as part of their Community and Service programme, the MYP students have started to visit the residents of the retirement home 'Kleinenberg' located in our neighbourhood. Small delegations of students go once a month to play music, do arts and crafts and play board games with the residents. Both groups gain in the sharing of time and company together. The activity also supports the initiatives associated with the 'Roots and Shoots' (Jane Goodall) program.



Sunbeams – Tree sponsoring and planting

Sunday March 20

Last year our school, and several others in the area, planted over 2,200 trees in a former field, giving birth to a new Belgian forest! These trees are now thriving and can be seen on the website of Sunbeams, the organizer of this event (www.sunbeams.eu). Our Primary students will be asked to participate again in transforming the landscape from field to forest, but this time the targeted field is in Oetingen, 20km west of Brussels. In preparation for this, during the month of February interested Primary students will begin to

find ways to sponsor the planting of trees. Students are very creative in their offerings for extra chores at home in exchange for the €5 that it takes to plant one tree. For each €5 pledge, participants are given a dedication tag where they can write their name or dedication.

Then on Sunday 20th March, families are invited to join the forestry association in planting the sapling trees. We hope to double our efforts from last year and place 5,000 saplings in the ground! We look forward to another successful fundraising and tree planting event!

Parent Café

We are pleased to be hosting a series of sessions at the Parent Café for families who are interested in coming together for a social and informative event during the school day. The sessions take place at the 'Savoorké' premises at Bergestraat 24, 3080 Tervuren, from 9.30 to 11.00 on the following Tuesdays:



Children's Literature

Tuesday February 15

Along with the Treasure Trove (English language book store in Tervuren) we are happy to host a coffee morning focused on children's literature and how to select and find good books for children from birth to adolescence. How do we encourage and foster a life-long love of reading and learning? Come together with other parents, school staff, and a representative from Treasure Trove for ideas on what you can do at home with your child. A selection of recommended books will be available!



Book Club – Reading and Rearing!

Tuesday March 15

Ever read a good book about parenting and want to share it with others to get their opinion and parenting experiences? The Parent Café hopes to do just this in March with a group of interested International Montessori parents. We will select a book on parenting to read and come together to discuss its practicality and general application in our real lives. More information promises to be a lively discussion!

Montessori – Home and Holiday

Tuesday June 7

Stay tuned for information on our Parent Café session taking place in June where we will share ideas on how to continue the Montessori approach at home and in particular over the summer holiday. Our neighbour at Lokilino (educational toy shop in Tervuren) will be on hand with a supply of materials and ideas that can be implemented immediately!



Treasure Trove Book Fairs

We are very pleased to be hosting Treasure Trove, the English language bookshop in Tervuren, for a series of Book Fairs. The very knowledgeable staff of Treasure Trove will bring a selection of books to our premises and literally “set up shop” for the day. As they will be there throughout the day, you are invited to browse at drop off time, during the school day, at pick up time, or at all three opportunities! Families of all locations are welcome to come visit on any of these dates at any of the three premises. It is an excellent time to focus on your home library by bringing this wealth of English language books directly to you and your child.

‘Savoorker’ Parent - Tuesday March 1

‘Hof Kleinenberg’ - Tuesday March 31

‘Rotselaerlaan’ - Tuesday May 10

The Book Fair hours will be from 8.30 to 4.30 on each of these days.

Information Sessions

An interesting series of information sessions has been developed for parents to get a ‘hands-on’ experience on how the different ages work in the classrooms. The curriculum has been divided into different subjects and educational theories per school, so there is no overlap. Parents are invited to come to all the evenings! It can be your night out! In the event of your child changing age-range next school year, these evenings are also a very good opportunity to gather information on the subsequent groups.

Learning through the senses

Tuesday February 1

Location: IMCC ‘Sterrebeek’

Time: 19.30

The Sterrebeek team will discuss the sensorial materials and show how they act as tools in preparation for academic subjects and understanding at large. Sharper senses perceive more and better. In Montessori classrooms, children can learn through all their senses. This multi-sensorial approach assists in the full understanding of abstract concepts!



Introduction to the IB Middle Year Program

Wednesday February 17

Location: MYP section - 'Hof Kleinenberg' –
Woluwe

Time: 19.30



Families of students ready to move to the secondary level are invited to meet the teachers, see the beautiful premises and hear about the theory and practise of the Middle Year Program. Our MYP Coordinator, Stéphanie Cnudde, and the other MYP teachers will talk about the different subjects: sciences, humanities, math, art, music, sports, technology, languages of A and B (English and French), and the additional languages of German and/or Dutch.

Students in the MYP program are exposed to a holistic program that interrelates the different subjects. A large emphasis is also placed on acquiring different skills, such as presentation, time management, teamwork, social interaction and problem solving. The group works on a high level of responsibility and respect.



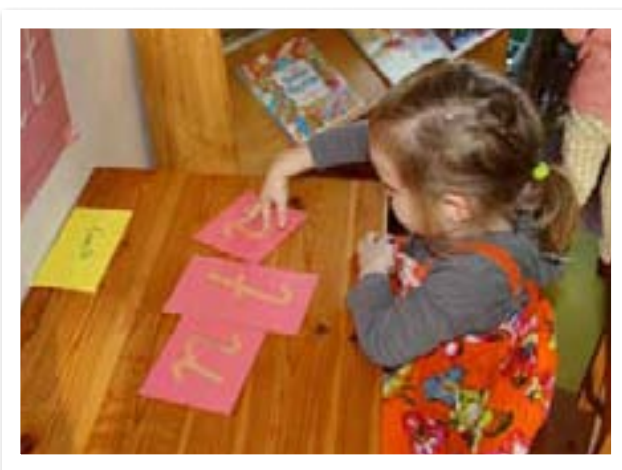
Language: From first words to reading and writing

Thursday 24 February

Location: 'Savoorkke' - Tervuren

Time: 19.30

Forearm, forehead, and forelegs. Sphere, ovoid, and ellipsoid. Whether we are looking at the parts of mammals (former) or round geometric solids (latter), the young child's mind absorbs the language given to them. Giving real and meaningful terms brings excitement and vibrancy to the language curriculum and lends itself to eager writers and readers. Learn at this information session why we encourage writing in front of the skill of reading and also ways you can participate in your child's journey to literacy.



Learning Styles and Individualised Education

Tuesday March 1

Location: 'Wezembeek-Oppem'

Time: 19.30

The Montessori system is one of the few educational approaches that acknowledges that all children are different. In order to help a child to develop to the utmost, one cannot impose one educational approach to all children. Individualised education respects the different learning styles so children can profit from their strengths and feel good about themselves. This is where the joy of learning stems from. Simultaneously we help develop the skills necessary for full acquisition and development, so give additional attention to the skills that are less developed. From that stems self-awareness and self-esteem.

The Wezembeek-Oppem team will present the different learning styles and how this is acknowledged on a practical level.



Natural Sciences: 'C'est la vie,' Reaching integration through practice

Monday March 21

Location: 'Hof Kleinenberg' – Primary section

Time: 19.30

La vie est belle. And beautiful it is from a child's point of view. From day one children get bombarded with an enormous range of impressions. And to be quite honest, this doesn't decrease while the child trots along the path of life. Besides exposing the children in a structured way to the various aspects of the natural world, we help them to classify, group and relate these together. In this way the children are given the opportunity to view the world from both a detailed and a holistic point of view. Please join us to experience how this is integration is brought into practise. La vie est belle.

Wednesday and Thursday February 9 and 10

Braunschweig

Middle Year Program, German Class

In order to apply their German language studies in an authentic environment our German language students will travel to Braunschweig, Germany. There they will be met by their former MS classmate, Naomi Tjiang, who will give a tour of this medieval city with a beautiful cathedral. The students are responsible for booking the train tickets and reserving their stay at the local youth hostel. Additionally they will guide the group through the city, order in restaurants and visit cultural sites. As well, Naomi will host our students at her school and treat them to a theater production she is performing in of 'Der Unterricht'.



La Ferme de la Hulotte - Bierges

Time: During school hours

Please be aware that the date for the Sterrebeek children is different to what is written on the calendar!

March 28

Children's House children of; 'Rotselaerlaan', 'Savoorkerke', 'Wezembeek-Oppem'

March 29

Children's House children of 'Hof Kleinenberg' & Sterrebeek

Excursions:



Verbal Report Meetings

In the event that you would like to have a mid-year discussion with your child's teachers on the progress of their development, please make use of this opportunity to book a reporting session. Please note that this session is a discussion only and a written report is provided again in June.

Wednesday March 16

Location: Your child's class

Time: 12.30 – +/-15.00

Wednesday March 23

Location: Your child's class

Time: 12.30 – +/-15.00

Easter Camp

April 11 to 15

Location: 'Savoorké' – Bergestraat 24, Tervuren

Time: 5 days from 9.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Extended hours to 17.00 available upon request.

Topic: Artists Around the World

Spring is coming and so is the season of holiday camps! Both indoor and outdoor activities are planned for our eager campers. For this session's theme of 'Artists Around the World', the children will be exposed to the life and work of different artists. They will be introduced to different styles, medias and techniques. Of course the children will partake and have the opportunity to create their own masterpieces!

Outdoor activities will also be included, weather permitting. The Easter Camp in 'Savoorké' always has several activities happening in the park of Tervuren. Children need appropriate clothing that allows them to explore the nature trails and get a little bit dirty whilst making log houses and looking for signs of life.

Within the next weeks, families will receive information packets and application forms in relation to the camps. Besides the Easter Camp, there will also be two summer camps:

Summer week 1: Monday June 27 to Friday July 1 – at 'Hof Kleenberg'

Summer week 2: Monday July 4 to Friday July 8 – at 'Savoorké'



Friday April 8 Staff In-service Day No school

EASTER HOLIDAYS: April 11 through 25 – Tuesday April 26 School Re-opens



Greetings from Upper Primary, 'Rotselaerlaan', Tervuren

Traffic Park

The Upper Primary students will go to the Traffic Park in Kessel-Lo on the 28th of January. Julia, Maisha, Lilja and Sasha have visited the Traffic Park already beforehand and they have followed a lesson in Dutch. They will prepare a lesson together to give to the other students.

Maisha: "A police woman told us everything on how to behave in traffic and that you have to respect the policeman and the traffic rules.

One of the important rules is to give permission to the right, when there are no traffic signs, traffic lights or a policeman."

Sasha: "First we sat and listened to the policewoman who explained everything to us and next we went outside and put everything we learned into practise!"

The whole class will drive go-carts, that represent cars. Later on, on the real roads outside the traffic park, we can ride bikes in a section with traffic lights, traffic signs and real policemen!"

Together: "We are looking forward to it!"





OPEN DAY

Saturday April 30, 10.00 to 16.00

**International Montessori Schools – For children aged 1 to 16
Tervuren – Sterrebeek – Wezembeek-Oppem – Woluwe**

www.international-montessori.org

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Montessori



Children on the move ...

