

MONTENESSORI MOTION

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



Life Long Interest in Learning

Inside: International Montessori Theatre; "Travelling through Literature" • Family Event - This coming Saturday! • Last Day of School • Graduation Middle Year Programme • The new MYP space in "Hof Kleinenberg" • Student and Parent Libraries • Summer Camps • Your 'End of Year present' is being prepared! • Welcome Morning - The start of the new school year

Life Long Interest in Learning

Research suggests that the average age of people will continuously increase. Individuals of future generations may easily reach the age of 100 or even 120. This prospect challenges our current way of thinking and our way of organising ourselves. Further research suggests that the education an individual has enjoyed, influences their life expectancy. Well-educated people are better able to adapt, have a higher capacity for reflection, and are pro-active in their problem solving—all important attributes for staying strong physically and emotionally.

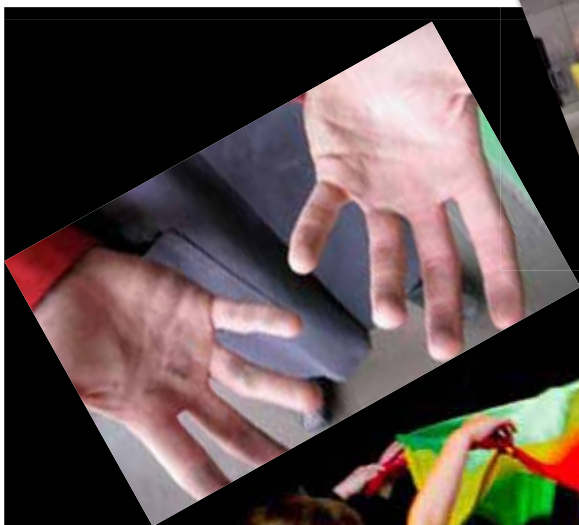
What does this mean for education? In the short term, education boards need to rethink the current schooling system. However, to turn a ship around is not easy. It is questionable if necessary change can be expected in the near future from large educational bodies. Small education systems can adapt much faster and the concept of Education for Life can be given attention.

Having only one career in a lifetime is passé. The youth we have in Middle School will lead a different life than their parents. One can already see that they develop a sense of multi-tasking which is beyond the capacity of the adults around them. In order to further help them to be prepared for the future, it is the duty of education, meaning both parents

and school, to foster enthusiastic and motivated learners. Individuals who love learning have the ability to adapt to changes in economic and social circumstances.

Interest and empowerment are two of the main ingredients of life long learning. Interest is born from individual inquiry, choice and decision-making. It is also born from an integrated curriculum. The process our students go through in creating the stage performance each year is a perfect example. The students are guided in their study of literature, history, and drama. The result is an original play on the topics of Molière, Shakespeare, Hergé's Tin Tin, and Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*. Taking these works from the page and bringing them to life in playwriting, acting, singing, and dancing are ways of integrating literature to a fuller experience across the curriculum.

A system that uses an integrated curriculum means



approaching topics from different angles. Students learn to see things from diverse points of view. The Middle Year students recently explored the Nineteenth Century with the Industrial Revolution. Amongst many entries, they looked at the differences between iron and steel. They visited the renowned iron factory, Arcelor-Mittal, in Charleroi. The topics of transport and safety came up during discussions of working conditions for the metal workers. These social factors led to studying the forms of entertainment which eventually led to the theme of their current theatre production of a mystery.

In life all aspects connect. So education must also reflect this complexity and give students the opportunity to experience these connections. Students learn to view the world as a network of interdependencies and detailed integrated relationships.

David Perkins talks in the article " Learning isn't working" (IB World May 2010) about classrooms needing to offer a culture of opportunity. Working according to demand kills creative intelligence. The classroom needs to offer a balance of opportunity and required learning, as we can see in Montessori classrooms. A level of self directed learning (freedom), together with working on demand (limits),

creates a balanced learner with enough self-discipline to reach his/her aims.

Focusing on the process instead of the product, such as tests and exams, is another important ingredient for life long learning. Testing gives the message that life is only about "getting somewhere"; however, real life is much more about the process. Enjoyment and happiness also stem from enjoying the road towards the goal.

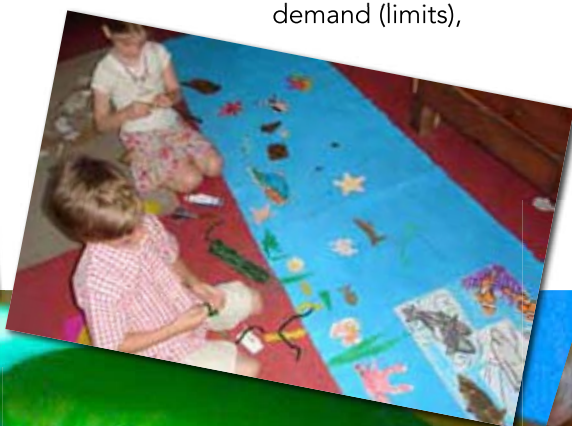
When schools focus on the process, stress is taken out of the system. Anxiety is the biggest blocking mechanism to becoming a life long learner. Looking at typical schools, this motivation blocker is strategically spaced during the year. Exam time is every half year for students who are 16 years old. It is no wonder that many students love school less as they get older (and drop out in the worst cases).

It is one of THE blind spots in education. Just because we went through this traditional educational mechanism, doesn't mean it is the right one! Just because we coped with it, doesn't mean our children also need to. The world changes fast; we are not preparing children for the industrial era anymore! We are preparing them for the Information Age. Quick thinking and enthusiastic learners who also have developed empathy and social skills will succeed best!

Interesting reading suggestions:

- 'Making Learning Whole' by D. Perkins
- 'Overschooled but undereducated' by John Abbott and Heather MacTaggart

By Annie R. Hoekstra – de Roos





"Around the World in 79 Days"

Inspired by literature studied in class, especially the classic novel by Jules Verne, **Around the World in Eighty Days**, the students take the audience on a race circumnavigating the globe. Trying to beat the record of Phileas Fogg's journey around the world, our students aim to make it in 79 days! The class takes off from Ostende by ship to New York, travel through the United States and then head south to South America. They fly by hot air balloon across Asia and then back to Europe via Italy. The students "Dare to Dream" and find adventure and success along the way!

A short video can be seen at: <http://www.inspirit-int.com/luntangblog/?p=1420>



"Objectif Terre"

This time Tin Tin stays closer to home compared to, "Objectif Lune", and goes on an Earth adventure. In "Objectif Terre" we follow the familiar characters of Tin Tin, Milou, Professor Tournesol, and Captain Haddock as they urgently work to save the planet. The Earth gives us signs of its impact on all living things with earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes. The four elements of water, sun, earth, and air are represented through dances and movement. Speaking with scientists of the world on different ways to produce renewable energies and to reduce our ecological footprint, the characters come to a conclusion and come closer to a solution.



"Molière, l'illustre!"

This is not a French cooking lesson for the British. This is not about two play writes sitting in a boat. This is not about how the French and the British became friends again. But this play is about how little Jean-Baptiste Poquelin decided to let his talent grow and personality flourish. Jean-Baptiste takes the risk of asking his father if he can be an actor. After a couple of weeks of discussion his father accepts. He excitedly tells his two friends, Madeleine and Armande Béjart his good news! He asks them if they would like to become a theatre group. They agree and call it L'illustre Théâtre!





"Flush Out!"
 Analyse, understand, estimate, weigh, investigate, decompose. Rationalize... understand....
 When it is all rational and under control, we feel safe, until the moment we get bored again and need to find another 'case study' or form of 'entertainment'. And what is better than a good thriller to entertain ourselves? What are its main ingredients? Mystery, suspense, doors, shadows, gloomy music, blond girls, confident inspectors. The detective novel, and subsequently thrillers, appeared in the Nineteenth Century with the Industrial Revolution and our rational and empirical stage of development. They are suspense stories we avidly read and forget again soon. But from what are they really distracting us?
 In a disco two inspectors investigate the disappearance of a young girl, Barbara. Let us follow their inquiries and find the suspicious characters with them. Let's flush them all out, or not?



A short video can be seen at: <http://www.inspirit-int.com/luntangblog/?p=1420>

Family Event - This coming Saturday!

Barn Dance & Second Hand Market



Folk dancing with live band the 'Ticker Fixers'

Saturday June 19, from 10.00 to 15.00 hrs.

International Montessori 'Hof Kleinenberg' – Woluwe.

Join us for this annual event for students, teachers, families, and friends of all International Montessori schools!

Barn Folk Dance – Dances from all over the world and for all ages, will be lead by a professional dance caller, with live musicians. People with two left feet are encouraged!

Two sets will be played - 11.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 15.00

Second Hand Market - Kids and adults alike will sell their goods.

For more information please contact Lisa on 02-767-6360. Please note that in order to enhance the atmosphere, participating in the second hand market is a commitment for the full day. (Up to 15.00 hrs.)

Book Fair – Stock up on summer reading by visiting the Treasure Trove Bookstore's stand. These English-language books will be hand-selected especially for our school.

Lokilino, Natural Toys and Games – This local toy and game vendor will have a stand at our event where you can find interesting and educational toys for your family or gifts for others.

Traditional Flemish Games - 'Hof Kleinenberg's' garden will include many different 'old fashioned' wooden games such as the frog game, skittles bowling and the swinging basket game.

Picnic and Catered Food – Bring a picnic lunch or enjoy food and drink prepared by our Middle School students.



Last Day of School

Wednesday June 23 is the last school day of the 2009-2010 school year. You are invited for a shared buffet-style lunch in the garden of your child's school. Lunch starts at 12.00.

Would you please bring a plate of food to share with savories or a dessert? A list will be provided for you to indicate your contribution. Thank you!

Lunch finishes at approximately 13.00 hrs. Upon departure would you please take your child's spare clothes, boots, slippers and other belongings home. This greatly facilitates our summer clean up.

Before you arrive for lunch, the children will have a special games morning in the garden. We will end the year with a lot of fun!

Bus Service on Last Day of School

In light of finishing of the year together with parents, the bus service is only provided upon special request. In the event of you needing the school bus, please phone Rinze at 02/721 21 11 or Lisa at 02/767 63 60.



Graduation Middle Year Programme

Every sixth grade secondary student finalises the IB Programme with a personal project; this body of work to demonstrate a consolidation of learning. The different approaches to learning, allows the student to complete a multi-skill task, which is then presented to an audience.

We saw the work of *Vincent Lorent* in the form of a basketball tournament and *Thomas Timmermans* in a presentation on transport. It will be sad saying goodbye to these young adults. Both are life long Montessori students! Both are also French speaking Belgians and will move on to Belgian high schools. Good luck! We will also say goodbye to *Thomas Elliott*.

Thomas has attended the school for 3 years and has done 5 years of work during those years. He is 14 years old but will already graduate with an IB certificate and join the last two years of high school in the USA. **Well done graduates, keep going!**



The new MYP space in “Hof Kleinenberg”



From September onwards, the Middle School will be housed in the “Hof Kleinenberg” location in Woluwe. This section is currently being renovated and will be completed towards the end of July. It is starting to look good already though! The three classrooms are taking shape—the new furniture has partly arrived and the new interactive whiteboards are on order. The students will have three classroom spaces totaling nearly 200 square metres. This will include a Biology/Chemistry/Physics classroom with lab facilities, a library with computer space and a large general room suitable for group lessons and kitchen facilities.

The students will work with the same team as this year, being six different teachers, including three home teachers. This often gives a ratio of 1 teacher for every 4 students, allowing for individualised education and mentorship of a high quality.

We do not want students to lose interest in learning as so many do at this age! We help students to become independent and responsible thinkers, who can decide for themselves that the risks teenagers run nowadays, are not worth it. By the time they leave the Montessori IB programme with its small size structure and focus on learning instead of testing, they leave as mature individuals, who can face the challenges of life ahead!



Large classroom including computer lab, interactive whiteboard and kitchen facilities



Biology/Chemistry/Physics class with Laboratory features and Interactive Whiteboard



Library, language A and B and literature classroom with computer facilities

Student and Parent Libraries

Would all parents please hand in all the school's library books? We would like to have children's books from the classrooms and the books from the Parent Library returned! Thank you! In the meantime we are actively working on the library in Tervuren and are creating a new library with bookshelves up to the ceiling in “Hof Kleinenberg”.



Summer Camps



Week 1

Dates: Monday June 28 to Friday July 2

Location: International Montessori 'Hof Kleinenberg', Kleinenbergstraat 97-99, Woluwe

Theme: 'Far West'.

Hopefully we will get nice hot weather to experience the appropriate dusty environment. Children will explore life in North America 300 years ago, Indians and cowboys being part of the scene.

Week 2

Dates: Monday July 5 to Friday July 9

Location: International Montessori 'Savoorkerke' Bergstraat 24, 3080 Tervuren

Theme: Earth and its parts

Children will look at aspects of physical geography and explore rivers, mountains and plains. They will also look towards the future and discuss solutions to pollution, one of them being recycling. Beautiful artwork with recycled materials could come out of this! Instead of throwing them in the bin, children can already start to collect cardboard boxes of all shapes and sizes at home and bring them to the camp!

Hours:

Camp hours are from 9.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Additional After Camp Hours up to 17.00 hrs. can be organised when notified in advance.

Cost

The cost is €240 per child per week and is payable upon registration.

Please note that we organise the number of camp guides according to the number of children enrolled and therefore the fee is not refundable. Registrations are accepted in order of enrolment, please book before June 20.

The fee includes all materials, snacks and (cold or hot) lunch.

There are still places available.

For more information, please check our website on www.international-montessori.org/holidaycamp.htm

Your 'End of Year present' is being prepared!

Like last year, Ad Zijl, father of students Tijs and Anne, is in the process of making the beautiful DVD of the theatre productions. Chris Schiebold, teacher of Primary in "Hof Kleinenberg", is organising the development of the label and the multiplication of the original version.

This present will be passed on to you as soon as it is ready! Please enjoy again the creative work of the children and the teachers of Primary and Middle School!

Welcome Morning

The new school year starts with the Welcome Morning on Tuesday August 31, between 9.30 and 11.00 hrs. All children and families are welcome. This is an informal opportunity during which you can see the teachers, staff, friends, and families. The Welcome Morning also helps children to feel comfortable for their first day of school and we would therefore recommend it to everybody!

First school day 2010-2011

For all returning children to the same class and for children moving to Primary and Middle School, school starts on Wednesday September 1 with the regular arrival hours.

Younger children who change class and new enrolments receive individual time slots with dates for settling-in during the first week of September.

This scheduled intake greatly facilitates young children settling in smoothly.

Wishing you a wonderful summer holiday!

www.international-montessori.org

International Montessori Holiday Schedule 2010-2011



Welcome Morning First Day of School	Tuesday August 31: 9.30 to 11.00 a.m. Wednesday September 1
Staff In-Service Day Autumn Holidays	Friday October 29 Monday November 1 to Friday November 5 School re-opens Monday November 8
Armistice Day	Thursday November 11
Christmas Holiday	Thursday December 23 – Friday January 7 School re-opens Monday January 10
Carnival Holiday	Monday March 7 to Friday March 11 School re-opens Monday March 14
In-Service Day Easter Holiday	Friday April 8 April 11 to April 25 School re-opens Tuesday April 26
Ascension Long Weekend	Thursday June 2 and Friday June 3
Whit Sunday Long Weekend	Monday June 13
Summer Holidays First Day of 11-12 School Year	Monday June 27 to Wednesday August 31 Thursday September 1