

Newsletter

International Montessori/ 02-767 6360

Newsletter

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Special Interest Articles:

- AMI 3-6 Montessori teacher training starting July 2 at our school!
- 'Out of our Minds' Learning to be creative. Book by Sir Ken Robinson

Individual Highlights:

Memories 2006	2
Teacher Training	3
Car Wash	4
Math Info Fair	5
Fancy Dress Day	6
On creativity	7
Documentary	8

HAPPY and HEALTHY 2007

The whole team of International Montessori would like to wish you a very good year with

excellent health, lots of love, a wonderful family life, and exiting new adventures!!

COMING UP: INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING IN TERVUREN!!

Yes! You can also become a Montessori trained teacher. Our school will host the prestigious international AMI (Association Montessori International) Montessori diploma course for people wishing to work with children aged 3 to 6.

The course will be held in two languages being English and French and will be given by the director of this French Institute, Ms. Patricia Delivré. This is a unique opportunity. Belgium has never had Montessori training before.

The school will collaborate with the Institute Supérieur Maria Montessori in Paris.

More information on page 3. The full information package is available upon request through each Head of School.

2006: Beautiful Memories!



Friendship



New babies



Lantern Parade



Middle School in Their New Premises



Deep Concentration



Excursions

Calendar Photos

Helping the photographer



TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

2007 is the Anniversary of 100 years Montessori.

In 1907 Maria Montessori started her first Casa dei Bambini (Children's House) in Rome. We thought, what a better way to celebrate this then providing Montessori training in Brussels and help expand this wonderful way of education!!

The important aspects of personality such as self esteem - inner discipline - responsibility - decision making and problem solving skills are more needed than ever! All systems of education should feel responsible in developing this in children! Montessori is one of the fore runners pointing this out and simultaneously offering a concrete method of putting this into practice. Theory and beautiful words are not enough!

The graduates and children currently in the school are advocates of the method.

Now we also want to offer the opportunity for more adults to become actively involved in this movement!

The AMI 3-6 Diploma Course will be held over two consecutive summer holidays (-07 and 08) and the in between autumn and Easter Holidays.

The starting date is July 2, 2007 and the total number of weeks of the course is 18 weeks. In between students will observe and practice teach in different Children's Houses.

The course will be finalized with written and verbal exams.

The total cost of the course is € 5940 payable in 2 installments.



"The Diploma Course for Montessori teachers starts July 2, 2007."

For more information and the full application pack, please ask at the office or your Head of School! We are happy to inform you fully.

Would you pass the information on to people you think might be interested! Please note that this is an international course and the qualification is applicable in Montessori Schools worldwide!!

Forthcoming Events

Observation in Primary - Wednesday January 24, 2007

Session 2: Observation Games

Venue: Primary, Rotselaerlaan 1

Time: 19.30

This evening is for parents who have already attended Session 1 in November.

We will become aware of our "Concept of Reality" by having some fun time together! Having followed both sessions gives parents the ticket to observing in the Primary classrooms.

Mum's Morning / Dad's morning Come and work with your child!

Mum's morning = Saturday January 27

Dad's Morning = Saturday February 10

Two mornings have been set-aside for you to come and work with your child in the classroom. This is a wonderful hands-on opportunity to learn about your child's daily life and work!

2 Sessions are available: 9.30 to 10.15 or 10.30 to 11.15

Please book your preferred time slot on the sign up sheets!

Car Wash: Jan. 27 and Feb. 10

Have your car washed during mum's or dad's morning!! The children of the Middle School wash cars on Jan 27 and Feb. 10 at Rotselaerlaan 3, Tervuren. A sign up list will be placed on the Notice Boards for you to

book your time slot!
Doesn't it feel like pure luxury to go home with a clean car, and not feel like one is sitting in a 'bread-box' for a couple of days??

"Middle School will clean your car on Saturday Jan. 27 and/or Saturday Feb. 10."



PRIMARY MATHS INFO FAIR

DATE: Thursday February 1

VENUE: Rotselaerlaan 1 - 3, Tervuren TIME: 19.00-21.00

The teachers of the Primary will present the different levels of mathematics and the materials used for pure math, algebra and geometry.

This ingeniously thought through method helps children move from the concrete to the abstract, allowing them to deeply understand the concepts and built up a mathematical confidence!

Everyone interested is invited for a hands-on evening. We would also like to invite parents of children moving to Primary in September, since this gives a great overview!



Concrete materials give insight and understanding. In Montessori there is no such thing as a math blockage.

SETTING THE LIMITS

DATE: Wednesday February 7

VENUE: Molenweg 4, Wezembeek-Oppem TIME: 19.30

Lidia Klimczak and Annie Hoekstra will share an evening with you on setting boundaries both at home and at school. Should we set limits or ignore the behaviour? Why does my child have temper tantrums? How to use the environment to set boundaries? What words to use? These are just a few entries of our discussion.

All Welcome!



"Should we set limits or ignore the child's behaviour?"

MID YEAR VERBAL REPORTS

Parents who would like a mid year report meeting can arrange a time on Wednesday afternoon Feb. 14 or 28 with your child's teachers. The next official report meeting including a written report will be on June 15.

FANCY DRESS DAY

DATE: Friday February 16

VENUE: Your child's classroom

On the last day before the carnival Holiday, the children can come dressed up to school! This is a fun day for everyone involved! Could we please ask you not to provide the children with any toy weapons! Thank You!



DARK IN THE PARK

DATE: Friday March 9

TIME: 18.30

VENUE: The Spanish House in the centre of Tervuren Park

Please keep this day free!! We will provide you with a surprise walk in the park! An opportunity for all ages to enjoy the stars, the company and some entertainment in the park!
You will be fully informed closer to the date!



Easter Camp

DATES: April 2 to 6

VENUE: International Montessori 'Savoorké' Bergestraat 24, Tervuren
Separate information will be distributed! You can book now at 02-767-6360 for children from age 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ onwards.



AMI Membership

It is the moment to renew your membership with AMI. The Montessori association offers a group membership of €30 per person instead of €40 for individual members. Please sign up before February 3. Membership data will then be transferred to AMI and we will not miss out on the AMI Bulletin that is published 3x per year!

'OUT OF OUR MINDS' - Learning to be creative

Why does the Montessori school pay so much emphasis on allowing children to make choices, decisions, 'doing it their way', imagination and little testing? These are questions often asked. However, people who have seen self-directed work in action can imagine what that leads to. Even the business world is getting involved!

Sir Ken Robinson has written the book 'Out of Our Minds' - Learning to be Creative. It is written from an Innovation perspective but the author connects adult thinking strategies to the education they have had.

To quote Sir Ken Robinson from a speech he gave in November in Gent: 'Children, aged 7 years or less will retire around 2070. Nobody has the faintest concept of what the world will look like then!'

There is a big challenge for the education department. People need to obtain the opportunity to remain creative. Creativity is the intellect at work. When one observes young children doing activities that have their interest, they go about them with confidence. They think, choose, decide and do. This whole process is self-initiated and self-directed.

Traditional education still wants to test all knowledge and give the learner the idea that there is only one good answer. Which happens to be the answer that someone else gave you! This way of working only stimulates Linear thinking. Sir Ken Robinson calls this an impoverished view of the human intellect.

"Children, aged 7 or less, will retire around 2070. Nobody has the faintest concept of what the world will look like then!."

The mind can do so much more! We can think Divergently; brainstorm, find solutions, new connections, and new ideas! Everybody is born with a profound creativity, which needs an environment that stimulates further growth and most of all, which does not make people feel inferior but helps them believe in themselves!

Life is becoming more complex and more diverse. Changes happen faster and faster and our children need to be prepared for this!

Out of Our Minds, is a recommended read and can be ordered from www.sirkenrobinson.com.

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The Parent Library

Dee Stevens, mum of Serena and William, has kept the library open for you every Monday morning from 9.15 to 10.00 and is happy to continue! The Library offers many resources on different topics of child rearing and education. It also has books on Belgium and current magazines and articles. Find a quiet hour for yourselves and indulge in reading!! 'Out of our Minds' will be available soon!

Housing for Teacher Lisa from Canada

Lisa Beeke is looking for a furnished room to rent during the period of Feb. 25 to the middle of July. Lisa comes from Canada and will work in 'Savoorké' in the Toddler Community replacing Maryline, whilst she is taking maternity leave. Lisa is happy

to pay for her accommodation, join in with the chorus and do the occasional child minding during evening hours! Would you be interested or would you know another family who might be? Please phone Rinze on 02-767-6360. Thank you for your help!

Documentary -Including Primary Montessori

Our Primary section is going to be part of a documentary to be made by Alice Milants, a young professional filmmaker. She is passionate about systems of education alternative to the traditional ideologies and aims to make a documentary showing interviews with teachers, children and parents, projects, meetings and moments shared with the children. She would like to convey the message to a wider audience, including decision-making departments that children have to have a central position in the school

environment and that they can learn and become autonomous without; pressure, lots of homework, tests and exams but with interesting activities and inner trust instead! Alice will spend a month in our school. The documentary will subsequently be presented in cultural centres, parent associations, at in-service days, and even at European festivals. A permission form for all Primary children is attached.