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IMF Events

Mumbai

- Mehak Hemnani

A talk was organized at Casa Vista Montessori School, Mumbai on November 15, 2018 on the subject, 'The Importance of Childhood'. It was delivered by Amol Gupte, an award-winning writer, director, producer and actor, who has been associated with children for the last 17 years.



During the talk, Amol Gupte expressed that a Montessori environment is the 'The Kingdom of Children' where they can work peacefully and happily together, a place for peer learning without anxiety, where wisdom and values are passed on by observation. According to him, the Montessori method emphasizes on settling a child gradually into the environment, thus, allowing even children with some difficulties to take their own time to settle in. Many questions were raised about young children participating in TV talent shows.

The participants were happy to have interacted with someone from a different field of work, who also concurred with the views of the Montessori Method.

"The child comes to respect the work of others, not because someone has said he must, but because this is a reality that he meets in his daily experience. There is only one between many children, so there is nothing for it but to wait. And since this happens every hour of the day for years, the idea of respecting others and of waiting one's turn, becomes habitual part of life which always grows more mature."

Montessori, Maria The Absorbent Mind, Kalakshetra Publications, India 2003, Ch 22, P 232

Chennai

- Aditi Ganesh

'First Aid- Aid for Life' workshop was held on December 1, 2018 at Navadisha Montessori Foundation between 9.00 am and 12.00 pm. It was delivered by Mahalakshmi Ganesan and Team ALERT, an NGO that empowers a common man to act in case of an emergency and save lives.

Continued.....



The speaker highlighted the importance of giving first aid on the spot even before the doctor comes into the picture and spoke of how one needs to be confident in order to give medical life support, rather than panicking at that moment. He touched upon some basic ideas of the kind of aid to be given when there is an accident on a road, which involves managing the crowd around, calling the ambulance and giving basic Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

He also gave insights about what to do when children insert grains or beads inside their nose and demonstrated how to perform CPR and help a choking victim.

“If every family member is trained to become a basic life supporter, this country could be different and for the better”

– Loga Balasubramanian, Primary Facilitator, Navadisha Montessori School

“Basic skills can be developed by every common man. You need not be a trained doctor to administer first aid.”

– Sumana Sharma, Primary Facilitator, Navadisha Montessori School

Bangalore

- Kavneet Chadha

On November 13, 2018, parents and teachers gathered to listen to Ranjan Kamath on ‘Spark of Joy’ at Nivriti Montessori Children’s House. He has worked both as a cinematographer and director on feature documentaries and television series for BBC, Channel Four, National Geographic and Discovery Channel.

Ranjan Kamath spoke about the importance of education when it takes place visually and through experiences, igniting a spark of joy for children. He emphasized the use of right tone and voice modulation while talking to children and about present times where adult communication with children is mostly in the form of instructions while we have to be passing on stories to them.

“My biggest take away would be that adults need to communicate more with children, like speaking about their day so that children are more forthcoming about their day and experiences.”

- Rukmini Banerjee, Founder, Nivriti Montessori Children’s House

“The ideas of Ranjan Kamath resonated with the Montessori philosophy as he spoke about the importance of practical experiences.”

- Pragya Kedia, Primary Facilitator, The Montessori School

AMI Primary Assistants Course— Hyderabad

- Participants, Assistant Course



The Montessori Training and Research Trust (MTRT) conducted the AMI Primary Assistants Certificate Course at their premises in Jeedimetla, Hyderabad from October 22 to November 2, 2018. The training team included Teenaz Reporter, AMI Primary Trainer and Director of Training at MTRT and Trainers in Training Talat Shabnam and Sreekumar Dipa. The diversity of the 32 participants allowed for lively engagement and a wide range of perspectives to come together.

The course highlighted the work of an adult in assisting the child of the first plane in his natural development, both at home and in school. Practical modules included material making and storytelling and the participants also received a preview in observation with 9 hours of practical study.

Towards the completion of the program, the participants described their takeaways in 10 words or less. Some of the insights that came up were:

- Look at life through new eyes
- Everyone is a mentor
- Awaken your inner soul
- Step away and let the children be
- It's not about us, it's about them
- Child education is a must
- We can make a difference
- Let's raise good human beings together
- Different steps are possible for unity and diversity

"Give a man a fish and he's fed that day; teach him to fish and he's fed for life. MTRT's Assistants course has fed our spirits with food for life, which will serve as a strong foundation when we step out and implement our learning. This course has filled me with a new sense of purpose, even as it inspired me to guide my child as she finds her own."

- Akshaya Nandakumar, Participant



AMI Assistants to Infancy Course comes to India !

- Kavneet Chadha



The AMI Montessori Infancy (0-3) Diploma Course is set to commence in Bangalore in April 2019 at the Montessori Institute of Bangalore. The course being conducted in India is an important and much awaited stepping stone for the Indian Montessori Community.

The importance of the first three years of the child's life were first explored when Sara Brady conducted workshops in Mumbai and Bangalore in 2017, which was furthered by Judi Orion's Workshop and Conference in Bangalore and Chennai in 2018. The announcement of the 0-3 course in India, is a welcome move towards further understanding and aiding the development of children under 3.

Julia Hilson, the Director of Training, has over 30 years of experience in both UK and Australia and has also been involved in implementing Montessori programs in Indigenous communities in Australia. She holds AMI Diplomas for 0-3, 3-6 and 6-12 and a Bachelors and Masters in Education. Julia Hilson is no stranger to India, having conducted the first Infancy Assistants Course at Navadisha Montessori Foundation in Chennai for an extensive audience coming together from different backgrounds. Kavya Chandrashekar and Vibhuti Jain are presently part of the Infancy Training of Trainers program from India.

The course in Bangalore is in a convenient format running over two summers and a winter. Further details of the course are available on <http://montessoribangalore.org/>

Poetry Corner

Geography Eleanor Farjeon

*Islands and peninsulas, continents and capes,
Dromedaries, cassowaries, elephants and apes,
Rivers, lakes and waterfalls, whirlpools and the sea,
Valley-beds and mountain-tops - are all Geography!*

*The capitals of Europe with so many curious names,
The North Pole and the South Pole and Vesuvius in flames,
Rice-fields, ice-fields, cotton-fields, fields of maize and tea,
The Equator and the Hemispheres - are all Geography!*

*The very streets I live in, and the meadows where I play,
Are just as much Geography as countries far away,
Where yellow girls and coffee boys are learning about me
One little white-skinned stranger who is in Geography!*



Bird Watch

-Roopa Sundar & Tarunya Gouthaman

Standing at a window have you seen a bird and wondered what it is called? Bird life flourishes even in our crowded cities. Read our special series on some common birds found in India. You may become a 'birder' by the end of our series!!

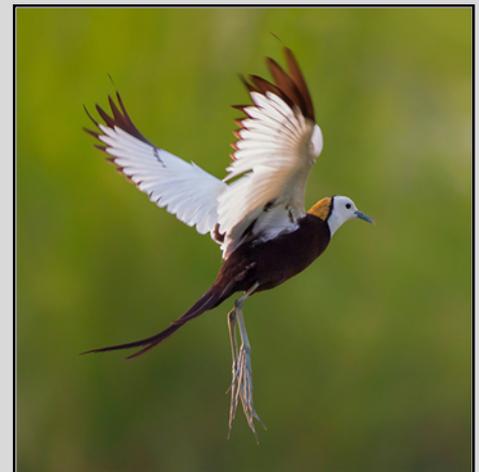
Bronze-winged Jacana

Metopidius indicus

PHYSICAL FEATURES	<p>They are 29 cm (11 in) long, but the females are larger than the males. They are mainly black, although the inner wings are very dark brown and the tail is red. There is a striking white eye stripe. The yellow bill extends up as a red coot-like frontal shield, and the legs and very long toes are grey. Young birds have brown upperparts. Their underparts are white, with a buff fore neck.</p>
CHARACTERISTICS	<p>A swamp bird seen around shallow water bodies, feeding on insects and other invertebrates picked from the floating vegetation or the water's surface. The female is larger than the male. Its call is a wheezy, piping seek-seek-seek when alarmed.</p>
HABITAT	<p>All across the Indian subcontinent around inland water bodies with floating vegetation.</p>
FUN FACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I build my nest floating on water - The feature that helps me walk on water is enormous elongated toes - Incubating of eggs is done by males only



Juvenile has a yellow bill and orange throat



Similar Species – Pheasant-tailed Jacana has a long tail

EsF India Project

- Tarunya Gouthaman

Educateurs sans Frontières (EsF) is a global outreach program by Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). EsF identifies innovative educational initiatives worldwide that are based on Montessori principles, and supports them with mentorship and resources, guiding them towards sustainability, expansion, and replication.

The Aanganwadi project was the direct outcome of the 5th Educateurs sans Frontieres (EsF) Assembly, AMI's outreach pillar, held in Hyderabad in 2016. EsF India was approached by both, The Telengana Minority Residential Educational Institutions society (TMREIS) a Government initiative and the District Collector for help in providing quality education in their existing setups.

This was a great opportunity to take Montessori principles and practice to diverse communities reaching as many children as possible at the grass root level in a simple and accessible way. EsF India developed a set of low-cost materials by working in partnership with local organisations and a training module named CoRE - COMMUNITY ROOTED EDUCATION focusing on preparing the adult and the environment to aid children in their development.

The program was initially implemented by setting up a Montessori classroom for about 25 children from the orphanage adopted by the TMREIS. EsF India continues to work with the children and the adults involved. Another pilot initiative was undertaken to train Aanganwadi workers in Thullur Mandal, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. As part of CoRE, 55 Aanganwadi teachers were given training for 10 days followed by 2 days mentoring every month. Care givers and administrators were impressed by the changes seen in the first three months. Children became less unruly and aggressive, maintained cleanliness and showed a remarkable enthusiasm to learn. They started understanding English better and developed a style of handwriting with inspiration from the sand paper letters. They were not easily distracted by visitors who came to the environment and seem content in their work.

EsF India faced a few challenges and with experience realized that plans have to be flexible and adaptable without losing sight of their purpose. An orientation program will be conducted when TMREIS is done with the process of recruiting their permanent staff and plans to expand the number of Aanganwadi centers for CoRE Training are in process.



The Aanganwadi workers expressed that they knew what to do all these years but now they are confident and happy that they know how to do them.

“What happens in childhood is imprinted in the human soul. It is thus essential that the child be the center of somebody’s affection; whatever the child does is considered with interest by that person. So parents need to take care to make the child the center of their affection and to give him the love of which he has so much need.”

Montessori Maria, Creative Development in the Child Volume II ,
Kalakshetra Publications, India 1994 Ch 9 P 71)



Block your Dates! - Upcoming IMF Events

Check out the annual schedule of all the events happening in your city at the Indian Montessori Foundation website – www.montessori-india.org.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	VENUE
Talk	January 10th, 2019	4.30 pm – 5.30 pm	Children and Environmental Education	Nina Subramani	NPS Global Montessori Centre , Chennai
Workshop	January 19th, 2019	10.30 am – 1.30 pm	Education for the Elementary Child	Ann Dunne	RTI Montessori Training Institute, Mumbai
Talk	January 31st, 2019	4.30 pm – 5.30 pm	Introducing the Performing Arts to Young Children	Leela Samson	Touch International School, Bangalore

** The Entry Fee for the Thursday Talks is Rs. 100 for IMF subscribers and Rs.150 for others and for the Workshop is Rs. 250 for IMF subscribers and Rs. 350 for others*

AMI Membership

Membership to Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) is open to everyone! Become a part of a worldwide community dedicated to the recognition of the unique nature of childhood, natural human development and the rights of the child. Discounted rates to events, AMI eBulletins and Journals are some of the benefits a member receives. AMI membership is an individual membership and is not available to schools, universities, and other educational organisations.

Membership fees begin at 40 euros.

To join, please visit www.montessori-ami.org

Anyone can become a subscriber!

The Indian Montessori Foundation brings out two publications, a monthly newsletter, **The Touch Board** (6 copies a year) and an annual journal, **Montessori Matters**.

Subscriptions:

One year: Rs. 1200

Two years: Rs. 2000

Print out the subscription form from our website (www.montessori-india.org), fill in all the details required and send it along with your payment to the Indian Montessori Foundation.

Touch Board Team

Editorial Team - Roopa Sundar & Tarunya Gouthaman

Reporting Team - Aditi Ganesh, Kavneet Chadha, Mehak Hemnani & Vidhya Ramalingam

Layout Designer - Priyanka Kumar

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Do send in articles or news to thetouchboard@gmail.com

Want to get noticed? Place your advertisements in the Montessori Matters and The Touch Board!

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