



The Touch Board

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 2019

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IMF Talk



Nina Subramani, a filmmaker, spoke on 'Children and Environmental Education' at NPS Global Montessori Centre on January 10, 2019. She has worked on award winning films and also taught art to primary school students, engaging in discussions about the environment along with children.

Nina Subramani spoke about the importance of inculcating environmental practices and ideas that influence children. Some of the eco friendly measures that can be adopted are to cut out on plastic and instead use paper bags, paper boxes, book covers, paper folders and bottles. One has to care for their environment and spend some time and effort in watching the nature around and take the necessary steps to preserve it.



"The key to teaching children is based on our own lifestyles. It was interesting to hear her ideas and experiences which can be incorporated in the lives of children!"
- Deepika A, Primary Faculty, NPS Global Montessori Centre

"I have come to the realization on how nature is being harmed and the steps needed in order to rectify it. We need frequent opportunities to appreciate nature!"
- Abirami Parthiban, Primary Faculty, NPS Global Montessori Centre

IMF Workshop: Educating the Elementary Child



Ann Dunne,
AMI Elementary Trainer

Educating the Elementary Child workshop by Ann Dunne was held on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at RTI Montessori Training Centre, Mumbai. Ann Dunne, AMI Elementary Trainer, put across the ideas that underpin cosmic education in a lively presentation full of examples and anecdotes. She made the complex ideas easy for everyone to understand and the three-hour workshop sped by in a flash.

Notes from Ann's workshop:

Montessori experimented with her ideas regarding the education of this age group in India. The roots of this work are in this country. What's different about the elementary child? The four planes of development give us an overview and we can see many great changes between the primary and the elementary children. We cannot approach the child using the sensorial approach which was helpful to the younger child. and the imagination. We are usually appalled by the change in the child we thought we knew.

Continued.....

Many characteristics stand out like the reasoning mind and the enormous facility of imagination, which was earlier used to know the world sensorially but now to know the world with the mind and the imagination. We are usually appalled by the change in the child we thought we knew. They are curious, engaging, social and moral. They search for personal morality, want to work together with their peers, lying on the floor in front of the material discussing cricket scores! Observation and need of the child are the basis of the elementary class.

What is the approach cosmic education? This approach appeals to the intellect and the imagination of the child. The whole self is to be engaged, finding out the answer for yourself and becoming independent both intellectually and physically. We begin with a great story to create that awe and wonder of the cosmos. These 6-year olds have had a good foundation and are at an even plane, starting to stretch upwards intellectually. The children are gangly and a bit all over the place, but a wide vision needs to be offered. Questions such as *Who am I* and *Where do I come from* need to be answered within and they need stories which can be generalised. We talk to them about how the universe continues to evolve, the order that rises out of the chaos and the laws that are created. This is an integrated approach where all subjects are interrelated and we don't know here the minds will go. We have to be ready not with the answer but with helping them find an answer.



Participants at the Workshop

The story progresses to the formation of rocks, water and air accompanied by a series of experiments. Other great stories explain the origin of plants, animals and humans and their fundamental needs. There is a lot of emphasis on the *needs* and it is at the core of the work for these elementary students enabling them to answer the question *Where do I fit in to the big picture?* Eventually they come to the realization that by *doing the best you can in relation to the interdependent environment with a deep awareness of the environment.*

We also touch upon the importance of The Hand being the instrument of intelligence through the hand timeline. They are essential to human beings from time immemorial. Montessori did not focus on kings and queens but she focused on ordinary people solving practical problems by working with hands to make a better world. We have to be grateful to these ordinary humans for the spread of civilisation, for example evolution of light from fire lantern to candle to LED bulb. This also shows that humans keep working on an idea making it better each time and this is the work of humans. The timeline also shows that many things were created but not recorded for a long time until the creation of writing. We have another story which talks about how the letters in the alphabet materialised over many civilizations.

Fundamental needs help children explore the topics of Migration, Climate, Water and Food. The needs dominated the migration of people. There were ice ages, glaciers moved and as a result people moved before the ice. We can ask questions. What happened? Were they welcomed? Were they unwelcomed? Was there conflict? When the ice retreated, did they go back? Who owned the land? As people mixed their characteristics their ways of life their beliefs also mixed. These characteristics of people are always found in their civilization. Migration is in this sense the source of civilization. What do they bring with them when they migrate? They bring their songs share their poems and cultures. People share this knowledge.

Humans have to explore and satisfy their needs. They are inventive. All subjects are interdependent and interwoven. We give them not the total but hint at the information on the chart. The children can go further if they choose to. We follow through for the children if they become interested in anything. This approach is not teaching just opening up of doors.

These stories point out that we are interdependent, we respect one another and we have the same needs but we are different in the way we fulfil them. In fact, right across we are a single nation, *United*. Camillo Grazzini said that *cosmic education corresponds to natural development. It answers and satisfies the child's hunger for knowledge and helps them to use their imagination as a tool of the intelligence.*

Here are some dates to mark in your calendar for the upcoming international events this year !

EVENT	DATE	VENUE	WEBSITE
Montessori Australia Early Childhood Conference	Mar 16-17, 2019	QT Gold Coast	https://montessori.org.au/EC19
AMI 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Montessori Forum	Apr 5-8, 2019	Metis Montessori Lyceum, Amsterdam	https://montessori-ami.org/events/2019-ami-agm-events
Montessori Model United Nations NYC Conference	Mar 20-23, 2019	New York City, USA	https://montessori-mun.org/
Montessori Model United Nations Chicago Conference	May 1-4, 2019	Chicago, USA	https://montessori-mun.org/
Montessori Model United Nations Rome Conference	May 20-23, 2019	Rome, Italy	https://montessori-mun.org/
7th Educateurs sans Frontières Assembly	Jul 21-Aug 3, 2019	Tepoztlán, Mexico	https://montessori-esf.org/assemblies/2019-esf-assembly

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	Feb 21st, 2019	4.30 PM–5:30 PM	Toilet training in Toddlers	Vibhuti Jain	Peace Montessori, Mumbai
Workshop	Feb 23rd, 2019	9:00 AM–4:00 PM	Joyful journey to Reading & Writing	Teenaz Reporter	The Plaza Hotel, Begumpet, Hyderabad

* The Entry Fee for the Thursday Talks is Rs. 150 .The discounted entry for AMI Members and IMF subscribers is Rs.100.

For the workshop, the registration fee is Rs.2500 . The discounted entry for AMI Members & IMF Subscribers is Rs.2000.

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

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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!

Package Details: Rs. 3600—A full page (20 x 12 cms) advertisement in two issues of Montessori Matters and 4 x 5 cms advertisements in all issues of The Touch Board (2018-2019)

Send us your advertisements in the following specifications:

Format : JPEG

Colour : Black and White (Montessori Matters), Colour (The Touch Board)

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in affiliation with
AMI, The Netherlands
DIPLOMA COURSE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
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MONDAY to FRIDAY
1:30PM to 4:30PM
Practice class – 3 times a week, morning or evening
Practice in schools – 12 weeks
CONTACT: Ms Zarin Malva
Tel: 66648847 / 66236934 / 9892739279
www.montessori-mumbai.org
Email: zarinmalva@gmail.com

MIB
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AMI Primary Diploma Course
3-6 Age Level
Course Duration : August 2018 to March 2020
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For more details visit : www.montessoribangalore.org
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the earth school
GET IN TOUCH
earthschool@montessori@gmail.com
www.earthschool.in
+91 98451 51156 or +91 98453 93815

Discover The World
Dor Uunoi Montessori
Preschool and Day Care
Web: www.davincimontessori.com
Address: 95-B Marine Drive, Megdhoor Building, Mumbai - 400002
Tel.: +917045791970 Email: davincimontessori@gmail.com

AMI **MTRT**
MONTESSORI TRAINING AND RESEARCH TRUST
Offers
AMI Montessori Primary Diploma Course (3-6 Age Level)
&
AMI Montessori Elementary Diploma Course (6-12 Age Level)
For more information contact us at
Montessori Training and Research Trust
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Jeedimetla, Telangana, India - 500055
Website: www.montessorihyderabad.org
Email: info@montessorihyderabad.org
Telephone #: 091-8297263546
Landline: 91-40-23098058

Assistants Certificate Course
(6-12 age level)
February 2019
NAVADISHA
MONTESSORI FOUNDATION
AMI
Navadisha Montessori Foundation
Phone: 988 466 9104
course@navadisha.org
www.navadisha.org

ABACUS
Montessori School
3, Thirumalai Nagar Annexe III Main Road,
Perungudi, Chennai - 600 096

THE MONTESSORI HOUSE
Contact : +91 98402 42151 | 98410 58282
ADMISSION OPEN FOR 2018-19
Toddler Environment - 1.5 yrs to 2.5 yrs
Primary Environment - 2.5 yrs to 6 yrs
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
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TIMINGS
School - 8.30 am to 2.00 pm
Activities - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm
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Ch-88. | admissions@themonessorihouse.in
www.themonessorihouse.in