



The Montessori

OBSERVER

Montessori Materials

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Romalda Spalding
New IMS Advisory Board member

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IMS is honored to announce the participation of reading specialist, **Romalda Spalding**, as a new member of the IMS Advisory Board. Mrs. Spalding, a committed activist for the use of phonics in the teaching of reading, will enable IMS to establish an important connection to the Reading Reform community and will further serve to acknowledge the contribution of Mrs. Spalding's work to the realization of the new education.

An instructor in over 70 classes for teachers and other educators throughout North America, Mrs. Spalding began her professional career in 1931 as a public school teacher in New York. Through her insightful experience with children, she developed a unique approach to the teaching of reading which is now widely known as *The Spalding Method*. Mrs. Spalding's ideas are enthusiastically employed by many educators including many Montessori teachers. The method, elaborated in her popular book, *The Writing Road to Reading*, has significantly contributed to the gradual reform of reading approaches in the public schools.

Cont'd page 2, col. 2

Montessori Materials Are Not Enough

A fully equipped Montessori classroom is a wonder of great physical beauty. However, the finest materials are not enough to effectively establish a Montessori environment. Senior in importance to materials are skillful, committed teachers to effectively apply the Montessori principles. Therefore, effective teacher training centers are urgently needed now.

The IMS affiliation program enables committed individuals to create the needed teacher training centers for their local areas. Primary and elementary course curriculum guides provided to affiliates are excellent tools which enable training center directors to successfully provide the effective training programs needed. In addition, advertising, certification and other support services enable affiliates to establish their centers without excessive cost or burden. Expert, personal consultation is always available.

Since the basic IMS independent study course requires about one year for students to complete, it is urgent to begin the affiliation process now to prepare for future needs. Complete the Reader Response form for further details and to receive a preliminary confidential application.

Elementary Course Update: *Classroom Observations Now*

Students in the IMS Elementary Course are required to complete and submit certain independent study lessons now prior to attending the materials workshop in August, 1980. Included in these required lessons are two classroom observations in a Montessori elementary classroom. Since most Montessori schools close in June, it is vital to enroll now so that the required classroom observations can be completed. Send application for the course to: **Mary Ruth**, IMS/Washington State, P.O. Box 2019, Renton, WA 98055.

Classroom Management Is Communication

Classroom management is an expression of the Montessori principle, **Preparation of the Environment**. The essence of effective classroom management is *communication*; responsible, firm, patient, clear. Communication is realized through the teacher's presence which does not always require verbal expression.

Dr. Frederick H. Jones, a psychologist at the University of Rochester who provides discipline and classroom management workshops for teachers, believes that excellent teaching is teachable. Dr. Jones states:

"When it's done effectively, discipline is almost invisible, so low-key and precise, just moment to moment, that it prevents rather than terminates the majority of disruptions. One of the things I have to train teachers to do is keep their mouths shut...eye contact is very important...It's 95% body language".

Look for the
September Observer
featuring
Beyond Cosmic Education

Montessori Materials . . . What is Needed

Perhaps the last significant barrier to realizing the *new education* is the sense of inadequacy experienced by teachers and administrators with respect to providing materials for the classroom.

Beginning a classroom or school, the new Montessori teacher soon realizes the significant financial commitment and personal effort and time required to provide the exacting and beautiful items needed for an effective physical environment. Excessive costs, insufficient availability and selection and inconsistent design among manufacturers can result in discouragement and frustration.

Current Efforts

The Association Montessori Internationale (A.M.I.) has attempted to provide uniform standards and consistency through its approval of specific materials. Kaybee (India) and Nienhuis (Holland) serve as the foremost examples of A.M.I. approved materials. However, even these companies appear unable to maintain and enhance traditional quality as a result of the changing conditions in the world. Nienhuis, for example, has recently abandoned the use of glass in the manufacture of the bead material. As Nienhuis explained in the A.M.I. newsletter, *Communications*, 1979, No. 4, "After using glass for over fifty years, this has had to come to an end". Montessori teachers can judge for themselves the suitability and quality of the new plastic product which replaces the traditional glass beads.

Need Montessori Teachers?

Apply to IMS to establish an affiliated training center.

Benefits include:

- IMS primary and elementary certification to graduates
- IMS curriculum guides and consultation
- Special support services

Complete Reader Response form today.

Faced with increasing prices, inadequate selection and changing quality of materials provided by the major manufacturers, elements within the Montessori community have sought their own solutions by making materials and establishing small companies to provide the needed materials unavailable through the larger companies. These small companies provide a needed supplemental service; however, there is no substitute for a single primary source for all the basic materials needed for the classroom.

What is Needed

Needed is a materials production and distribution approach closely integrated with the needs of the Montessori community. The teacher training centers must be intimately engaged in the management and consultation with respect to the production of materials so that needed changes and services can be adequately and effectively made.

IMS supports the idea of materials production and distribution from a single primary company within the Montessori community functioning in close cooperation with the teacher training centers and effectively responsive to the needs of the classroom teachers. Such a company would include on a single price list the finest apparatus from many different manufacturing sources. Consistent and effective design of new and modified materials would conform closely with the needs of the teachers. A primary aim of this company would be to provide the highest quality materials at the lowest possible price.

Spalding, cont'd from page 1, col. 1

Mrs. Spalding will present workshops in her method in summer, 1980 in Salt Lake City (June 19-July 3), Castleton, VT (July 7-18), Honolulu, HI (July 28-Aug. 8) and Chicago, IL (Aug. 11-22). For further information about her work, contact: Romalda Spalding, c/o IMS, P.O. Box 4338, Washington, D.C. 20012.

IMS Training Centers

Alaska, Anchorage

Montessori Creative Training Center
Margaret Green, Director
2601 Fairbanks St.
Anchorage, AL 99503
(905) 272-5033

Texas, San Antonio

Kriterion Montessori Teacher Center
Joh Laven, Director
611 West Ashby Place
San Antonio, TX 78212
(512) 735-9778

Washington, Renton

IMS/Washington State
Mary Ruth, Director
P.O. Box 2019
Renton, WA 98055
(206) 255-9666

Washington, D.C.

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The Montessori Observer

published by

INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4338
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(301) 589-1127

Lee Havis, Executive Director

The *Montessori Observer* is mailed eight times each year to Montessori schools in North America and IMS members throughout the world. The *Observer* is sent during the following months: Jan., Feb., March, April, May, Sept., Oct., and Nov. The purpose of this publication is to provide news and information about the development of Montessori education to extend awareness of Montessori principles and promote harmony within the Montessori community.

INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SOCIETY

The International Montessori Society is sponsored by Educational Services, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized in Maryland, U.S.A. The purpose of IMS is to support the effective application of Montessori principles throughout the world.

SUBSCRIPTION

The *Montessori Observer* is provided at no cost to Montessori schools in North America. Subscription to this publication may be obtained by requesting IMS membership which is open to all individuals for a \$10 yearly fee. Complete the membership application form to obtain an individual subscription and other benefits of IMS membership.

ADVERTISING

Advertising space is available for services and products relating to Montessori education. Marketplace ads are \$7/line. Position and Placement ads are \$10 each and will be set and edited by us to conform to space requirements. Write for our advertising outline for rates and other information about design advertising.

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No Substitute for Wood

Unfortunately, it would appear that some of the beautiful, traditional Montessori materials may no longer be commercially available. Explaining the replacement of glass for plastic in the Nienhuis manufacture of the bead material, **Mario Montessori** stated (AMI newsletter, *Communications*, 1979, No. 4) that: "The famous Montessori bead material...cannot be made any longer in the same quality".

It is possible that manufacturers may also choose to replace the traditional wood apparatus with the less costly synthetic materials, such as plastic. However, teachers and children might significantly object to such a modernization.

The natural beauty and texture of wood could not easily be matched by synthetics. In addition, wood products are connected to the child's immediate sense of nature and call the child to investigate the historical development of tools and machines.

Therefore, the continued use of wood in the construction of traditional Montessori materials deserves priority consideration beyond purely economic factors. Moreover, it is possible that the future use of wood may actually increase as innovative manufacturing processes and creative design are employed in meeting the need for new and modified devices for the primary and elementary Montessori classrooms.

M. Montessori— Cosmic Connections

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, considered the introduction of the Montessori method in the United States as "the most important work that McClure's Magazine had ever done."

"There will come the time when the proper education of children, by a glorified system of spontaneous education of choice, similar to the Montessori System, will be made possible".

R. Buckminster Fuller
Timelock Chicago,
1928, p. 28

"I am in deep sympathy with your understanding and humanitarian endeavors, and my daughter, who is an analytical pedagogue, considers herself one of your disciples".

Sigmund Freud
letter to M. Montessori,
1917 from *The Letters*
of Sigmund Freud,
New York: McGraw-Hill,
1960, pp. 318-320

Acknowledgement: George Chyka, Publisher: *Maria Montessori: Methods, Schools, Materials (McClure's Magazine Articles)*, Ed. Reg. Orem, 1978.

Positions & Placements

Montessori teachers: (2-6) Begin Fall 1980, summer optional; 1 morning session of 24 children. 9 year old school located in Copley Square, near parks and cultural areas. Send resume to: Cindy Bedig, Director, Thom Montessori Preschool, 315 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116, (617) 266-1222.

Montessori teacher: Begin in June or September; full day for a child care center. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to Montessori Learning Center, 2147 Auburn Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45219, (513) 241-3180.

Montessori teacher: (2½-6) Begin Sept. 1980. Estab. Montessori school moving to new facility. Combined Montessori/Day Care program. Full or part day available. Send resume to: Little School House, Attn: Jean Peters, 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., Fairfield, CA 94533.

Montessori teacher: (3-6) Begin Fall, 1980. Half-day, class of 15 children maximum. Send resume to: The Children's House, c/o MaryAnn Reeb, 141 Rae Court, Heath, OH 43055; call (614) 522-1233 afternoon or evening.

Montessori teacher, assistant and aide: experience required, half-day plus extended care. Salary negotiable. Send resume to: Pacific School of Montessori, P.O. Box 1365, Pacifica, CA 94044.

Montessori teacher: (3-6) Begin Sept. 1980. Half-day plus extended day. Salary negotiable. Montessori certification required. 11 year old established school. Send resume to: Newtown Montessori School, Box 226, Newtown, CT 06470 or call (203) 426-3390.

Montessori elementary teacher: Begin Aug. 1980. Established school in central Florida. Montessori-trained administrator, well-equipped school, class and material-making assistants, free tuition for faculty. Salary negotiable. Contact: Tim Conner, Leesburg Montessori School, 415 N. Lee St., Leesburg, FL 32748.

Montessori teacher: Begin Fall, 1980. Half day plus extended day. Eight year old school in historic downtown Savannah, GA., large port on river. Send resume and short philosophy to: Gloria R. Ludwig, 17 W. Park Ave., Savannah, GA 31401, tel. (912) 233-0797.

Announcements

Montessori Schools, Inc. (Coeur D'Alene, ID), is sponsoring a Montessori elementary math workshop July 14-18, 1980 at the Montessori School, 1614 Hastings, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, 83814. **David Kahn**, editor of the NAMTA Quarterly, will direct the presentation. Cost is \$150.00, which includes five lunches. Optional credit through University of Idaho is available at additional cost. Write for reservation to Montessori Schools, Inc. or call (208) 664-4912.

Promised Horizons School (Salt Lake City, UT) is sponsoring a reading workshop from June 19-July 3, 1980 under the direction of **Romalda Spalding**. For further information, contact **Mrs. Mildred Martineau**, Promised Horizons School, 738 East 3900 South, Salt Lake City, UT, 84107.

American Montessori Society is holding its Annual Seminar June 25-27 at the New York Statler Hotel in New York City. The seminar topic is **Preparing Children for Life in the 21st Century**. For further information, contact: **Douglas Gravel**, Seminar Chairman, c/o American Montessori Society, 150 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

The Montessori Association of Northern Ohio (MANO) provides support for the Montessori community in the indicated service region. For information about membership and activities, contact: **Linda Shapiro**, President, c/o MANO, 2885 Coleridge Road, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118.

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READER RESPONSE

Complete and mail to: IMS, P.O. Box 4338, Washington, D.C. 20012 May 1980/Vol. 1, No. 4

Name _____	Position _____	Tele. () _____
Street _____	City _____	State _____ Zip Code () _____
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<p>Please send information about:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Montessori Teacher Training</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IMS Montessori School Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Establishing an IMS Training Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Associate School Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Group Medical and Dental Insurance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parent Education Course</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Advertising in <i>Montessori Observer</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Montessori Elementary Training Program</p>	<p>Individual Membership Application:</p> <p>1. Complete the above information with accurate mailing address of applicant.</p> <p>2. Detach the Reader Response Form and enclose in envelope with a check or money order to IMS for \$10.</p> <p>3. Mail to IMS. \$ _____ Check enclosed</p>
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Advertising:
 Advertising or announcement information for publication in the *Observer* (Sept., 1980). (There is no fee for announcement of workshop or meeting of general interest to the Montessori community.)

Ad copy or other comments: _____

Montessori Books:

Quantity	Title/Code	Price	Total Price _____
			Postage/Handling (10% of total price) _____
			Residents of Md. Add 5% sales tax _____
			Less 20% IMS member discount _____
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_____ Position/Placement (enclosed \$10)
 _____ Marketplace (IMS bills you; \$7/line)
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