



The Montessori OBSERVER

Communication

Published by the International Montessori Society • 912 Thayer Ave. • Silver Spring, Md. 20910 • Phone (301) 589-1127

Louisiana Lifts Regulations

In the *Home Educator's Newsletter* (January, 1982)—published by the **National Association of Home Educators**—**Ginny Baker** noted that a new law in Louisiana now appears to de-regulate private education in the state.

Ms. Baker noted that under the new law (R.S. 17:236) "anyone can teach. Anyone can start a school, and every school willing to do without state and federal funds ... has complete autonomy and answers only to the parents who pay the bills."

However, private Montessori schools in Louisiana for young children may nonetheless be subjected to considerable restriction under the state's child care regulations. Although state law R.S. 17:3401, passed in 1976, provides a special exemption from the child care regulations for certain Montessori schools, non-exempted Montessori schools apparently remain subject to the existing child care regulations. IMS supports the repeal or amendment of R.S. 17:3401 in favor of an appropriate accommodation for the entire Montessori educational community in the state.

IMS Montessori Schools ...

The following schools have recently affirmed their commitment to Montessori principles through IMS Montessori school membership.

Montessori Children's House Conroe, TX

The Montessori Children's House is owned by a non-profit corporation. **Dowen Johnson** and **Margaret Onhaizer** are co-administrators.

The school provides a daily half-day program for seventy children ages 2-6. A day care program is also offered from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For further information, contact: Dowen Johnson, Montessori Children's House, 200 Ave. J, Conroe, TX 77301 (713) 756-6421.

Cont'd Page 3, Col. 2



Child working at Montessori Children's House (Conroe, TX)—See article this page.

Loyal Citizens Confront Subversive Government

Government in our country today is an industry—an employer of dependent millions. An entity which absorbs wealth but does not produce wealth, it grows more out of the necessities of politics than the necessities of the people. ... The spread of government is resulting in a mass of regulation ... and interventions in which rights of privacy, personhood and religion are starting to be violated on a grand scale in our country.

William B. Ball

The Catholic Cemetery — April 1978

Government action against educational freedom in the United States has recently called into question the appropriate response of "loyal citizens". **William B. Ball**, education law expert, noted in a recent article for *The Catholic Cemetery* (April, 1978) that when "we go along with bad laws, we debase the currency of everybody's freedom, we detract from the idea of a government of law, and we build up the totalitarian concept of a government of men."

Government subversion of basic freedoms in education, Mr. Ball states, can be placed into three basic categories: (a) the Phony Statute (b) the Bogus Regulation and (c) the Terror Tactic. The

Cont'd Page 4, Col. 1

IMS Teacher Training Beyond California

The IMS/Santa Rosa Montessori Teacher Training Program is not limited to Northern California. The unique independent study format of this teacher training course permits students throughout North America to participate effectively in the course to obtain IMS Montessori teacher certification.

Students in the course are able to complete most required assignments in their own local area. Internship placement and supervision is arranged with a Montessori school near the student.

Students outside the Northern California area need only personally attend Santa Rosa, CA during the Materials Workshop (Aug. 2-20, 1982) and the Final Evaluation Period (June 11-13, 1983). IMS will assist students outside the immediate Santa Rosa area to locate convenient housing during these workshop periods.

Since IMS/Santa Rosa is the only 1982-83 IMS course available, interested individuals are advised to complete and submit applications promptly. Enrollment is limited. Applications will be considered in order of receipt.

To obtain a student course catalog and enrollment application, contact: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. For a personal interview or specific details, contact: Katy Grattan, IMS/Santa Rosa Program Manager, c/o Montessori Preschool, 620 McDonald Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404 (707) 544-7074.

Passage of Mario Montessori

The Bulletin (March, 1982)—publication of the *Association Montessori Internationale/USA*—noted the death of **Mario Montessori**, only son of Dr. Maria Montessori. Mr. Montessori died at age 83 in Holland on Feb. 10, 1982.

Mr. Montessori had worked closely with his mother until her death in 1952. He was particularly noted for his work in developing apparatus for the elementary aged child.



Communication

A failure of communication lies at the heart of the problems and difficulties which have historically deterred the realization of Dr. Montessori's vision of a "new education"—a universal commitment to the principles of individual liberty, observation and preparation of the environment. This failed communication is readily apparent among the general public, including parents and educators, who oppose the child's true nature as revealed by the Montessori classroom experience.

Communication problems associated with Montessori education result from the way in which adults have traditionally engaged in the process of communication. Mastery of communication, by contrast, effectively empowers the individual to fully realize the vision of the "new education".

Communication in Adult Society

The normal adult communicates within an elaborate system of beliefs and mental images from the past. Typically, "new" knowledge acquired by an adult is unconsciously and automatically distorted to conform to the individual's own particular system of beliefs. Since such distortion is unconscious, the individual fails to recognize the fundamental ineffectiveness of the process by which knowledge is acquired. The normal adult has, in effect, reduced the notion of "communication" to the level of manipulation of concepts—a process essentially devoid of power or effect.

Conceptual Manipulation

Communication as a process of conceptual manipulation places all "new" knowledge acquired by such process within the individual's existing system of beliefs—a mental structure conceived in its totality as inalterable truth. "New" knowledge is automatically distorted to conform to already known elements—i.e., "conceptualized"—to justify and substantiate one's existing system of beliefs. Such conceptual manipulation has no fundamental effect on the underlying framework of reality within an individual. Conceptual manipulation is not communication.

What is Communication

Communication is, in essence, a re-creation of experience—within a single individual. Such "experience" is the totality of phenomenon occurring in the present moment. A "re-created" experience is an exact reflection of the original experience—nothing added and nothing subtracted. The extent of distortion to the original experience—by addition or subtraction of something—measures the extent to which the experience has failed in its communication.

Failure of Communication

A failure of communication is the distortion of an experience to conform to an individual's system of beliefs. Such a "failed" communication amounts to an "incomplete" re-creation—the original experience being only partially reflected in association with the concept resulting from the addition and subtraction of elements.

Completing Communication

"Incomplete" communication can be "completed" in a process of realizing experience in the present moment. Such a completion process amounts to a confrontational engagement with one's system of beliefs. In Montessori education, completing communication in the classroom is the process of "normalization".

Normalization as Communication

"Normalization"—the child's profound shift from random movement or action to order and harmony—creatively engages the disharmony in the child's environment, including the teacher's own system of beliefs. The normalized child communicates its true nature to the teacher, in the present moment, who spontaneously "re-creates" this experience as "complete"—i.e., "perfect". The teacher's commitment to Montessori principles is vital to enable this fundamental communication to occur.

Communicating Commitment

A commitment to Montessori principles is communicated by IMS to individuals through means such as Montessori teacher training. The IMS training course aims specifically to communicate a commitment to Montessori principles through a series of assignments and exercises which engage the student's system of beliefs with respect to Montessori principles. Outside such a commitment to Montessori principles, the "communication" of Montessori education amounts to conceptual manipulation—fundamentally without effect or power with respect to realizing the "new education".

Communicating Montessori Education

"Montessori education"—as a concept—distorts the fundamental Montessori classroom experience. A manipulation of such a Montessori education concept can be readily associated with a vast assortment of conceptual elements; e.g., classroom materials, physical facilities, certification and accreditation standards, organizational identification, and specific beliefs and attitudes. Effective communication of Montessori education recognizes and disengages from such conceptual elements which have been traditionally associated with Montessori education.

IMS Montessori School Membership

Benefits Include:

- Eight issues of the *Montessori Observer*
- Discounts on publications and materials
- Eligibility for group medical plan
- Listing in IMS Membership Directory

Annual Dues . . . \$45.00

Also, **FREE** with membership . . .

- "Montessori" bumper sticker
- Back issue(s) of "Observer" (on request)
- Copy of IMS Membership Directory
- Free Copies of "Montessori Publications"

For application and membership criteria, contact:

**IMS, 912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

Look for the
May Observer
featuring
Reality

The Montessori Observer

published by
INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SOCIETY

912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589-1127

Lee Havis, Executive Director

The *Montessori Observer* is mailed eight times each year to 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.

IMS ADVISORY BOARD

Elizabeth Hainstock, Educator, Author
Romalda Spalding, Reading Specialist
Dr. Arthur Janov, Psychologist
Dr. R. Orin Cornett, Research Professor

SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription to this publication may be obtained by requesting IMS membership which is open to all individuals for a \$15 yearly fee. IMS school members also receive a subscription to the *Observer*. 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.

© 1982, International Montessori Society

Announcements

The Council for Educational Freedom in America provides insight and information concerning control and support of education in the United States. For details, contact the Council: 2105 Wintergreen Ave. SE Washington, D.C. 20028.

The Maryland Home Education Association will hold a general meeting of interested parties throughout the state on May 2, 1982. For meeting location and other details, contact: Manfred Smith, 9085 Flamepool Way, Columbia, MD 21045.

The National Association of Home Educators publishes its *Home Educators Newsletter* to communicate information useful for parents educating their children outside the public schools. Subscription—\$17.50 per year. Contact: Cathy Bergman, Rt. 3 Box 324-B, Gallatin, MO 64640.

The New Jersey Unschoolers Network publishes a regular newsletter to support home education in the New Jersey area. Subscription—\$7.00 per year. Contact the Network: 2 Smith St., Farmington, NJ 07727.

Public Schooling Challenged in Court

The Maryland Home Education Association—supporting parents opposed to public schooling for their children in Maryland—recently surveyed court rulings relative to home education. The Association's March, 1982 newsletter listed judicial decisions in six states which permitted home instruction by parents as a suitable alternative to public schools for meeting the state's compulsory school attendance laws.

For further information, contact: Manfred Smith, Maryland Home Education Association, 9085 Flamepool Way, Columbia, MD 21045.

IMS Montessori Schools ...

Cont'd From Page 1, Col. 1

Forest Hills Montessori School Forest Hills, NY

Forest Hills Montessori School is under the direction of **Sunila Tejpaal**. Enrollment includes sixty children ages 2-6 and sixty elementary level (6-12) children.

A full day Montessori program is offered at both primary and elementary levels. A half-day program is also offered for children ages 2-6. Special program features include art, music and French instruction. In addition a summer Montessori program is provided.

For further information, contact: Sunila Tejpaal, Forest Hills Montessori School, 104-40 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, NY 11375 (212) 275-0173.

LaSalle Montessori School LaSalle, Quebec, Canada

LaSalle Montessori School is directed by **Monika Vesely**. The daily school program combines a half-day Montessori session with day care services from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Foreign language instruction is available in both English and French. Other special program features include parent education and a summer program.

For further information, contact: Monika Vesely, LaSalle Montessori School, 1505 Serre St. LaSalle, Quebec, Canada (514) 365-0843.

Alpha Montessori School Westchester, IL

Lenore Dean is the administrator of the Alpha Montessori School. The school program offers a half-day Montessori session for children ages 2-6 with day care services provided from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A Montessori summer program is also offered.

For further information, contact: Lenore Dean, Alpha Montessori School, 1625 S. Mannheim, Westchester, IL 60153 (312) 865-0099.

Positions & Placements

Montessori Elementary Teacher: (9-12), Begin Sept. '82 with class of experienced children. Unusual facility with gymnasium, non-profit teacher board. One mile from ocean. Country setting. Salary open. Benefits negotiable. Contact: Charles Terranova, The Montessori Community School, 136 Cornet Stetson Rd. Scituate, MA 02066 (617) 545-5544.

Montessori Teachers: 1 primary (2-6) and 1 junior (6-12) to begin Sept. 1982. Send resume: Kennebec Montessori School, Box 394, Waterville, ME 04901.

Montessori Elementary Teacher: (9-12) to direct upper class from dividing 6-11. In eastern Puerto Rico. May be bilingual English/Spanish or native-speaker of either. Contact: Charles Underwood, Escuela Montessori del Caribe, Box 8607, Humacao, Puerto Rico 00661 (809) 852-5906.

Montessori Teachers: infant-toddler through 9-12 levels. To begin Sept. '82. Million dollar facility under construction to house expansion of Cimarron School. School established 5 years in this stable midwest city of 50,000 population. Send inquiries and application requests to: Kathie Meuselbach, Administrator, Cimarron Children's House, Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Enid, OK 73701.

Montessori Teacher: (2½-6). for Fall, 1982 to teach morning session with afternoon extended day. Salary negotiable. University community. 2½ hours to Chicago. 1 hour to Indianapolis. Send resume to: Montessori School of Greater Lafayette, P.O. Box 2311, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Montessori Elementary Teacher: (9-12). for Sept. 1982. School in Boston area. Work with teachers of international reputation in well-established school with projected enrollment of 65 students grades 1-7. Call or write for more information: The Eliot Montessori School, Inc., 189 Eliot St., S. Natick, MA 01760 (617) 655-7333.

Montessori Teacher: (grades K-2). to start August, 1982. Established transition class of children with Montessori primary preparation. Salary competitive and commensurate with background. School located in metropolitan area near University of Illinois. Submit application and resume with references to: Search Committee, Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana, 1112 Broadmoor, Champaign, IL 61820.

Child Safety Warning

Child safety may be a particular concern when using indoor activity equipment. **Creative Playthings**, a prominent manufacturer of indoor activity equipment, notes that several fatal accidents to young children have recently occurred using their *Indoor Gym House* structure.

Creative Playthings, in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, has instituted a voluntary replacement program for a particularly dangerous ladder component of their *Gym House* structure.

For further information about the dangers of indoor activity equipment, contact IMS.

International Montessori Society



Membership Directory

Vol. II, No. 1
Spring, 1982

IMS Membership Directory

Price: \$5.00

This directory lists all individuals and schools associated with IMS through membership. The purpose of this directory is to enhance communication and participation among IMS members and to publicly acknowledge the membership association of schools and individuals with IMS.

The directory is divided into three separate sections, each listing the three distinct membership categories: individuals, associated schools and Montessori School members. IMS Montessori school membership information includes name, address, telephone, administrator and other program features such as enrollment and age level.

To order, send payment to:

IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

Free to IMS Montessori school members.

Address correction requested

912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

OBSERVER
The Montessori



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3875
Silver Spring, MD

International Montessori Society



Administrative Office:
International Montessori Society
912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589-1127

Local Program Manager:
Katherine Grattan, Director
Montessori Preschool
620 McDonald Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 544-7074

MONTESSORI TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

- IMS Certification
- Materials Workshop
(Aug. 2-20, 1982; Santa Rosa, CA)
- Independent Study
- Internship in Montessori School

Call or Write for Application and Catalog

Loyal Citizens

Cont'd From Page 1, Col. 2

"Terror Tactic" is described as administrative action—such as an unsolicited visit to a private school—which is designed to send waves of fear through all such regulated institutions.

In Maryland, attempted government "subversion" was recently successfully challenged when state authorities told Rev. Donald McKnight to shut down his school since he had refused to place it under state control. Mr. Ball states that Rev. McKnight refused to be mauled. "He took his fight to the public and to the legislature and was spring-loaded for court action. He won his fight. His school continues to flourish."

Although private schools clearly have a duty to obey reasonable and necessary laws, Mr. Ball also notes a duty of simple honesty towards government. He advises

"if unlawful impositions are threatened, don't try to 'make deals', don't buy a government official's promise to 'take it easy' with you ... you owe it to government to be candid."

For further information about the defense of educational freedoms in the United States, contact: The Council for Educational Freedom in America, 2105 Wintergreen Ave., Washington, D. C. 20028.

Communication

Cont'd From Page 2, Col. 2

Power of Communication

Effective communication empowers the individual to realize a created experience from within one's self—independent of all external circumstances. When the created experience communicated is a commitment to Montessori principles, the "new education" can be realized.

Subscribe to

The Montessori

OBSERVER

\$15 per year*

Send name, address and fee to:

International Montessori Society
912 Thayer Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Includes individual membership with additional benefits*