



# The Montessori OBSERVER

Power of the  
Individual

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IMS Materials Workshop (Santa Rosa, CA)

## IMS/Santa Rosa Completes Workshop

On Aug. 20, 1982, IMS completed its first materials workshop component of the primary teacher training course in Santa Rosa, CA. This workshop, conducted from Aug. 2-20, 1982, provided a basic preparation in the effective classroom use of a wide range of Montessori materials. A one-day seminar on "cued speech" was also provided.

Students completing this workshop now begin the internship phase of the course—This phase provides practical classroom experience in Montessori schools from Sept. 1982 - June, 1983. Internships will be conducted in Montessori schools near the students' regular residence in Corpus Christi, TX, San Jose, CA, San Francisco, CA, Santa Rosa, CA, Windsor, CA and Petaluma, CA.

## The Montessorian A New Child Project

The elementary class of Montessori Schools, Inc. (Coeur d'Alene, ID) has created a new project—*The Montessorian*—a newsletter for the Montessori community throughout the United States with articles edited, designed and illustrated by the children themselves.

In January, 1982, the 6-12 year old children at Montessori Schools, Inc. published the first issue of *The Montessorian*. RaNae Stellman, director of the school, provides adult guidance for this creative and useful project which promises to considerably enhance communication among the children of Montessori schools throughout the country.

The April, 1982 issue of *The Montessorian* featured articles about Montessori schools in Alabama, Michigan, New Jersey, Washington, Oregon and California. Future planned columns include: Pen Pals, The Students Speak Out, Home Activity Corner and Exploring Our Environment.

A one-year, six issue subscription to *The Montessorian* is \$15.00. To subscribe or to submit an article or advertising for publication, contact: RaNae Stellman, Montessori Schools, Inc., 1614 Hastings Ave., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814, (208) 666-1531.

## IMS Notes Member schools

The following schools have recently acknowledged their commitment to Montessori principles by their participation in the IMS Montessori school membership program.

### Sunrise Children's House Williamsburg, VA

The Sunrise Montessori School is operated by a non-profit corporation. Administrator of the school is Susan Fisher.

The school provides half-day and full-day sessions for children ages 2-6. The full-day operating hours are 7:30-5:30 daily, five days a week. An elementary program will be included in the near future to serve children 6-12 years of age.

Special program features include parent education, a summer Montessori session, and special focus on community education.

For further information about this school, contact: Susan Fisher, Sunrise Montessori School, 856-A Longhill Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185, (804) 565-0977.

### Montessori Learning Center Batavia, IL

The Montessori Learning Center is under the direction of Mary Basler. Enrollment includes 76 children at the

primary (2-6) level and 48 children in the elementary (6-12) program.

The school provides daily full-day and half-day sessions at both the primary and elementary levels. Special program features include art, music, French and a summer Montessori session.

For further information, contact: Mary Basler, Montessori Learning Center, 595 S. River St., Batavia, IL 60501 (312) 879-2586.

### Montessori Children's Center Traverse City, MI

The Montessori Children's Center of Traverse City is sponsored by a non-profit corporation. Rosemarie Turke is the director.

Cont'd on page 3 col. 2

## Is this your Last Issue of the Observer?

If your IMS membership is now due for expiration, this may be your last issue of the Observer. If your mailing label shows an expiration date in the near future—e.g., "10/82"—renew your membership now to make sure of continued uninterrupted delivery of the Observer.

To renew expiring membership, complete and return the application and information form accompanying this issue of the Observer.



## Power of the Individual

"Reality"—according to appearances in adult society—suggests that the single individual is essentially without power. External circumstances, such as money and position, seem to determine the limits of one's power. The individual—standing alone—appears powerless.

In Montessori education, success in the classroom depends solely on the ability of a single individual—the teacher. However, without relying on external circumstances, what significant "power" can such a single individual teacher exercise in contrast with the potentially detrimental influences of parents, children and school owners? How much real "power" does the individual teacher have in the classroom?

### What is Power?

Ultimately, true "power"—the ability to realize results from one's own actions—is not limited or determined by external circumstances such as money or position. True "power" arises uniquely within a single individual and is readily observed in visible, tangible results in the Montessori classroom—i.e., outward behavior of a calm and orderly nature.

### The Powerless Teacher

The ineffective teacher—consistently unable to resolve children's misbehavior—demonstrates a limited, finite and uncertain power in the classroom. Such essential powerlessness lies in the teacher's attachment to personality—notably, attachment to certain attitudes and feelings associated with "power" derived from the teacher's own detrimental early childhood experiences. True power in the teacher is realized through a process of disengaging the personality.

### Disengaging the Personality

The effective Montessori teacher disengages from one's attachment to personality in the process of "doing nothing". For example, in confrontation with circumstances such as "power struggles" with children, the teacher consciously ceases all external body movements and language. Such a process of "doing nothing" is, in effect, the active observation of the teacher's thoughts, attitudes and feelings with respect to "power". Notably, a feeling of "powerlessness" is naturally and spontaneously resolved as the teacher acts in accordance with the effective application of Montessori principles: individual liberty, observation and preparation of the environment.

### Montessori Commitment

"Power struggles" and other forms of misbehavior in children are readily resolved

through a course of action consistent with a commitment to Montessori principles. Thus, regardless of the teacher's feelings of "powerlessness" in the process of confronting misbehavior in children, the teacher's true power is ultimately seen in the resulting calm and orderly behavior of the children in the classroom.

### Power is Transcendent

Even effective teachers can feel powerless in the process of confronting persistent misbehavior. However, true power transcends personality, including feelings of "powerlessness". Ultimately, the teacher's external course of action—not feelings or attitudes—will result in predictable and confirmable external behavior of children in the classroom.

### Power in Society

The individual teacher's power in the classroom inevitably finds expression in society. Notably, parents and other adults associated with a Montessori teacher are moved by the power of a Montessori teacher. The extension of the Montessori teacher's power beyond the classroom is the creative force realizing Dr. Montessori's vision of a "new education"—a commitment to Montessori principles throughout the entire society.

## UNESCO School Project for World Peace

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project aims to link schools and children together throughout the world on behalf of world peace and international understanding. Specific projects are determined by the local school focusing on four basic topics: world problems and the role of the United Nations system in solving them; human rights; other countries and cultures; man and the environment.

A primary function of an associated schools project is the sharing and development of information and ideas among the children. Actual classroom activities may include posters, charts, maps, tapes, surveys, field trips, preparing files of news cuttings and reports on specific themes. Shared activities and information between schools in different countries provides a continuing dialogue between the children and schools.

To receive application and other information about starting a UNESCO Associated Schools Project, contact: **Mrs. Adelaide Kernochan**, Highgate Rd., Riverside, CT 06878. Outside the United States, contact: UNESCO, 7, Place de Fontenay, 75700 Paris, France.

## 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**

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- "*Montessori*" bumper sticker
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- *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  
**October Observer**  
featuring  
**Parent Education**

## 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

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### 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.

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## Book Review

### The World of the Child

by **Aline Wolf**  
Pub. Parent Child Press  
(Altoona, PA, 1982)

*Backward, turn backward, O Time,  
in your flight,  
Make me a child again  
just for tonight.*

Elizabeth Akers Allen

Aline Wolf, author of **A Parents' Guide to a Montessori Classroom** and **A Book About Anna**, continues her communication to parents of young children with her latest publication—*The World of the Child*.

In *The World*, Ms. Wolf depicts the adventure of an adult suddenly returned to the world of a very young child—a world of giant confusing people, oversized objects and unknown fears. The adult reader can readily relate to the main character's frustration, confusion and fear as he faces the common terrors and mysteries of a young child's daily life experiences.

As the adult returns to the present moment, a new, more sensitive attitude towards the child emerges. In returning to childhood ourselves, Ms. Wolf clearly demonstrates that parents can find a new harmony with the present day reality of their own young child.

56 pages, 25 two-color illustrations, 6½ x 10½. Paperback.

### Montessori News Free to IMS Members

**Montessori News**—new publication from IMS—is available **free** in quantities to IMS Montessori school members.

The *Montessori News*, published in an 8-page newspaper format, contains many interesting, informative articles and new items about Montessori education. Such a useful newspaper is ideal for distribution to parents to extend awareness and knowledge of Montessori principles.

Quantities up to a maximum of the enrollment of the school may be ordered free by member schools. IMS pays postage.

Individuals and non-member schools may order copies of the *Montessori News* at the rate of 20¢ each. For quantities over 100, copies are 10¢ each.

To order, send proper amount with request to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

### Montessori School Members

Cont'd from Page 1, Col. 3

The school provides a full-day Montessori program for children ages 2-6. An infant program for children under two is also provided. Special program features include music and a summer Montessori session.

For further information, contact: Rosemarie Turke, Montessori Children's Center, 6105 Center Rd., Traverse City, MI 49684.

### Montessori Learning Center Ridgewood, NJ

The Montessori Learning Center of Ridgewood is under the direction of **Pat Janson**. The school program provides a full-day and half-day program for children ages 2-6.

Special program features include art, music, dance, and parent education. For further information, contact: Pat Janson, Montessori Learning Center, 169 Fairmount Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450 (201) 445-0232.

### Village Montessori School Palm Beach Gardens, FL

The Village Montessori School is sponsored by a non-profit corporation. Co-administrators are **Sarah Armstrong** and **Louise Hall**.

This school provides a half-day primary session and a full-day session at the elementary (6-12) and secondary (12-18) levels. Special program features include parent education, music, dance, Spanish and French instruction and a summer Montessori session.

The schools' Montessori secondary program focuses special attention on "exceptional" students. Mrs. Armstrong notes that "working with the teenage student has proven extremely rewarding."

For further information, contact: Sarah Armstrong, Village Montessori School, 10170 Riverside Dr., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33458 (303) 622-0249.

**IMS Membership:** Montessori schools complying with IMS criteria are eligible for IMS Montessori school membership. Annual fee is \$45.00. To apply, send fee and application to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

## Marketplace

**Outstanding Children's Records/Cassettes. Educational Discounts.** Many artists—including: Tom Glazer, Ella Jenkins, Nikki Giovanni, Hap Palmer, Barry Polisar. Also, Disney and Sesame Street. Write for inventory. Send a SASE to: **Spectrum Records**, 11507 Hitching Post Ln., Rockville, MD 20852.

## Positions & Placements

**Head Teacher:** First year Montessori class. Responsible for extended day class in afternoons. School's 12th year. Experienced teacher preferred. Contact: Amherst Montessori School, Amherst, MA Call Molly Reynolds (413) 253-5916 daytime.

**Mathematician/Montessorian:** wanted for long-established Montessori school in Columbia, SC Full day. Age range: 9-12 and 12-15. Contact: College of Early Learning, P.O. Box 711, Columbia, SC 29202.

**Instructors:** Cultural Subjects, Language, Kodaly Music. For IMS Elementary materials workshop. Summer, 1983, 1984. Send resume to: IMS, 912 Thayer Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

## Legal Briefs

### Tuition Tax Credit... Is it legal?

A federal appeals court recently upheld a Minnesota law that permits parents to deduct their children's private school tuition from state income taxes, up to \$700, according to the *Ann Arbor News*. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis noted the national significance of its ruling since its constitutionality is in question. The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals held that a similar statute in Rhode Island was unconstitutional.

From *National Coalition News*,  
June, 1982, Vol. V, No. 19.

### Computers in the Classroom

**Dr. Peter Gebhardt-Seele**, Montessori teacher and computer specialist, has designed an approach to enable the introduction of computer technology into the Montessori classroom. He terms the material used in his approach the "Paper Computer Simulator" (PACS).

Dr. Gebhardt-Seele states that his PACS approach "puts the child in the role of being the computer. It also includes many reading, writing, and math activities, thus using the remarkable fascination of the computer in teaching and repeating other skills."

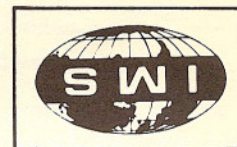
The PACS approach has been presented by Dr. Gebhardt-Seele in a one-day workshop for teachers which includes presentation of the PACS material, practicing with the material, and practicing on an actual computer. The PACS material itself includes about 70 prints for making the materials, teacher's manual and assembling instructions.

For further information, contact: Dr. Gebhardt-Seele, 5631 Oak Place, Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 897-8546.

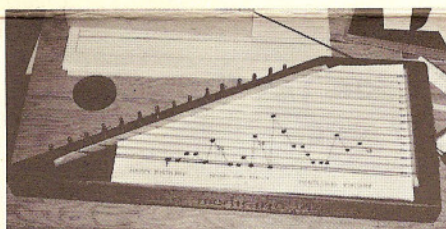
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The Montessori



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The "Montessori" psaltery

## Making Sweet Music

John Maluda, inventor of the "Montessori" harp, now has created a new stringed device known as a "Montessori" psaltery.

The Maluda psaltery employs a special notation chart to enable young children to follow directions to play simple melodies with a minimum of adult supervision.

Maluda creates his stringed instruments with the motto: "Dulce Musica Medicina dolorum"—*sweet music is medicine for sorrow*. This motto seems to highlight his special interest in creating such musical instruments for children.

Mr. Maluda has provided his new psaltery to the Hayfield Montessori School to enable its actual use with children in a classroom setting. His "Montessori" harp has already been successfully employed at this school previously.

Presently, Maluda's "Montessori" harp can be constructed according to a set of plans prepared for such purpose. Cost of these plans is \$5.00 each (prepaid). For further information or to order plans, contact: John Maluda, 1901 Ashmoor Lane, Anchorage, KY 40223.

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## "MONTESSORI" Bumper Sticker

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Free to IMS members.

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.

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Free to IMS Montessori school members.