

2011-2012 Membership Year

Fall 2011

Pat Moore

President's Corner

A new year brings new possibilities, new dreams and new commitments in our schools, as well as to the Michigan Montessori Society. Our commitment has always been to provide the best possible climate for Montessori to flourish and grow in Michigan, while staying true to Montessori principles. It is through the support of individual and school memberships that we can best serve the Montessori community. Our fees have remained very reasonable to allow as much participation as possible and are returned in great measure through reduced fees to valuable workshops and other member benefits.

The addition of a Facebook page for MMS is another step in bringing Montessori awareness to our State. Do a search for our page and "like us" to help spread the word on Michigan Montessori.

The Board would like to thank out-going Board member Jan Malkar, administrator and guide at Montessori Children's House in Clinton Township, for her many years of dedicated service to the Michigan Montessori Society. Jan served in many important positions on the Board including vice president and secretary, as well as coordinator for vendors at our workshops. Her passionate work for Montessori in our state has always been professional and inspirational. Jan's service has made a very positive difference and she will be missed.

The Board welcomes **Meg Fedorowicz** from Meadow Montessori in Monroe to the Board. Meg was a member some years ago, and we look forward to working with her again as she brings her many years of experience to our Board.



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So Sexy So Soon: The Sexualization of Childhood and What We Can Do about It

Today's children spend more time involved with media than doing anything else but sleeping. What they see is saturated with images of sexual behavior (and violence) that they cannot fully understand. It influences how they think about themselves as males and females and about the other gender. For instance, girls learn to judge themselves and other girls by how they look and what they can buy. And boys learn to judge themselves and other boys by how strong, independent and ready to fight they can be.

These messages can contribute to "Compassion Deficit Disorder," the inability to form caring and connected relationships. They can also promote aggression and precocious sexuality, sexual behavior in the absence of relationships ("friends with benefits") and a host of other social, emotional and intellectual problems at home, school and in the wider society.

Based on her book, *So Sexy So Soon*, Levin's session will explore the current situation, why it is this way (including how the commercialization of childhood contributes to the problem) and the wide range of ways it is affecting boys and girls. It will also provide practical strategies professionals can use for promoting children's healthy development and relationships in their work with children, families and schools. There will be time at the end of the day to plan for how participants will implement what they learn in their own settings.

New Montessori Elementary Training

The Montessori Opportunities Elementary I (6-9 years/1st-3rd grade) teacher preparation program offers training, education and support to individuals in accordance with the Montessori philosophy and methodology. The program consists of a minimum of 360 hours of direct instruction and additional independent study over two school years and one summer. The adult learners complete a yearlong practicum in an approved school during the second year. During the practicum adult learners are provided with support and the required evaluation/observation visits.

Peter and Rosann Larrow began their Montessori career in 1978 when they received their Early Childhood Certification and opened the Montessori Child Enrichment Center, now called, Firelands Academy, in Huron, OH. They continued their careers taking teaching and leadership roles at various schools and organizations. Peter and Rosann began training teachers in 1986.

Classes began on September 16, 2011 and will end May 11, 2013. Classes are held on one or two weekends per month on Fridays and Saturdays during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years and four weeks during the Summer of 2012.

Montessori Opportunities desires to admit students who can profit from both its educational and social environment. The minimum education achievement level to be accepted into the program is a Bachelor's Degree, verified by an official transcript. For Elementary I, the student must also hold a Montessori Early Childhood credential or participate in 45-hour



Early Childhood overview course given through Montessori Opportunities or a MACTE accredited teacher education program.

Graduates of Montessori Opportunities can use their Montessori training to count for credit hours from Plymouth State University and then take additional online or on campus courses to earn a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Plymouth State University. More information on this program can be found at the Seacoast Center (<http://www.seacoastcenter.com/masters-program-from-plymouth-state-u.htm>)

For more information, go to Montessori Opportunities' website: www.montessori-opportunities.com.

Daycroft Montessori is located at:
1095 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734.662.3335
www.daycroft.org

Ready to Learn?

The September/October issue of Child Care Information Exchange magazine includes a great article, Ready to Learn, by Jacque Sell. The article addresses ways to explain a child's developmental readiness for kindergarten to parents. At this time of year, it is a great support for dealing with parental expectations.

Ms. Sell pinpoints the mistaken assumption that it is only academic skills that are important. She suggests a holistic assessment to give a more accurate picture of a child's readiness for school. She shows the importance of developmental milestones as well as mastery of skills and concepts. To keep expectations realistic, certain milestones need to be considered.

Progress toward readiness is marked by experimentation, exploration, and also joint and muscle increase. Ms. Sell lists the prerequisites for reading: tracking across a page, crossing the midline, focusing on one object in the midst of others, and one-to-one correspondence. She notes that these are often overlooked or not given their proper consideration. She encourages teachers to help parents understand all these aspects that are part of a child's success in school. She suggests having these milestones available to share with parents.

Ms. Sell also emphasizes the social support children need in order to feel secure in new environments. To have a positive self-concept, be able to self-regulate, be able to communicate, have appropriate fine motor and gross motor skills, have curiosity and a disposition to learn, solve problems, think critically, to engage in pretending, interactive and cooperative play all contribute to success.

Being ready to learn incorporates all these skills and milestones, it does not pinpoint already acquired skills. In cooperation with each child's family, we can "provide healthy, developing children with stimulating and challenging learning opportunities."

Heidi Gauger

Dearborn Heights Montessori Center



Fall Workshop: So Sexy So Soon

Diane Levin is coming to Michigan! Please mark your calendars and hold the date—November 12, 2011—for the Michigan Montessori Society's Fall Workshop. The workshop will take place at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy from 8:00 – 3:00.

In addition, Diane is offering a program just for parents on Friday evening, November 11. The program will be held at the Meyer Theater on the campus of Monroe County Community College and is free. Please extend a warm invitation to all parents.

Diane's passion is children; she is nationally known for her work in media literacy and media effects on children. Diane was one of the keynote speakers at the AMS national conference in Boston 2010. Many of you may be familiar with her book, So Sexy So Soon.

Diane is a founder of TRUCE (Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment). Every year before the December holidays, TRUCE publishes a "Toy Action Guide" on their website. TRUCE also has a Media and Young Children Action Guide on line. Levin is also a founder of CCFC, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood (<http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/>).



GLTW Speaker Series

Go Like the Wind Montessori
is pleased to present

Trevor Eissler

Author of

Montessori Madness

A Parent to Parent Argument for
Montessori Education

When:
Thursday, November 10th
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where:
Go Like the Wind
Montessori School

3540 Dixboro Lane
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 747-7422

Admission:
Free - Registration is required
www.golikethewind.com

We are pleased to open the presentation to the community, so please feel free to extend an invitation to your friends, neighbors and colleagues.

We will serve light refreshments along with coffee or tea.

We kindly ask that you arrange child care. The Educare will be closed for the evening.

Save \$5 - Trevor Eissler's books will be available at the school for \$15.



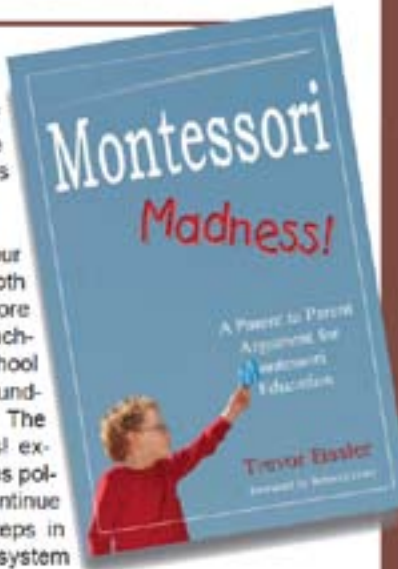
About Trevor Eissler:

He is the author of "Montessori Madness! A Parent to Parent Argument for Montessori Education", "4,962,571", and "That 17th Hat". Mr. Eissler is a business jet pilot and flight instructor. He speaks internationally on education issues. He lives with his wife and three children in Texas.

Mr. Eissler draws on his own experiences in traditional education and the experiences of his own children to illustrate why Montessori education is "education for life."

We know we need to improve our traditional school system, both public and private. But how? More homework? Better-qualified teachers? Longer school days or school years? More testing? More funding? No, no, no, no, and no. The author of *Montessori Madness!* explains why the incremental steps politicians and administrators continue to propose are incremental steps in the wrong direction. The entire system must be turned on its head.

Mr. Eissler weaves humor and passion together as he lays out a case for a brilliant method of education that has received too little attention, very likely because it is based on a revolutionary, dangerous, and shocking concept: *children love to learn!*



T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship

If you...

- Work a minimum of 20 hours per week in a licensed child care center, group home or registered family home
- Earn \$14.25 or less per hour as a teacher, assistant, or aide
- Earn \$15.00 or less per hour after expenses as a family home provider or a group home owner
- Earn \$15.00 or less per hour as a director

You may be eligible for a T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship.

There have been changes to the BA and Baker scholarship models recently.

For more information and the latest updates call 866-648-3224, visit www.MiAEYC.org.

Erica Willard

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