

Fall Workshop
Saturday, November 17, 8:30 – 3:00
Meadow Montessori School
Monroe, MI
<http://www.mmsoc.org/workshops/index.html>

President's Corner

Dear Montessorians,

Our year begins with a welcome to our incoming Board members Karen Lumsden and Kirsten Dusseau and fond farewells to our outgoing Board members Pam Boudreau and Fran Olesen.

Pam recently retired from her position as director of The Montessori School in Kalamazoo, which she had held since the school's founding in 1972. Pam served on the MMS Board for the last six years and was our membership chair for most of that time. Her expertise, professionalism, and passion for Montessori were gifts to our state organization.

Fran founded the Montessori program at Black River Public School in Holland, Michigan. She has been working diligently with her colleagues in aligning the Montessori curriculum with the state standards. She brought an important public school perspective to our Board at a time when Montessori in the public schools is growing significantly. Her hard work on Montessori's behalf in Michigan has made a difference.

Fran and Pam brought a representation of the west side of the state that helped meet our goal of promoting and working with Montessori schools in the entire state. They will be missed, but we wish them all the best in the future. Their work has made Montessori stronger in Michigan and is greatly appreciated.

Karen Lumsden is a returning Board member from many years ago, and we are very glad to have her back. She is the owner of Children's Place Montessori in Farmington Hills. She brings her long time experience and fresh ideas to the Board.

Pat Moore

Kirsten Dusseau is a lead teacher at Children's Place Montessori and brings a background in Reggio Emilio based programs as well as Montessori training. We look forward to working with both Karen and Kirsten.

The Fall Workshop will feature the popular format "Best Practices." A variety of topics and speakers at all levels will be scheduled throughout the day. This workshop is especially exciting as it includes a component for administrators, something that has often been requested.

The Workshop will be held at Meadow Montessori in Monroe, MI. on November 17. Please check our website for further information (mmsoc.org).



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What's Known and Unknown

By Emily Myers

When asked to write this article, I struggled for a topic worth printing. I thought for days, what do people need to know from me. Sure, I've taught young children for many years and I love what I do, but every day/ week/ year it is the same feeling. Am I serving the children I have well? Am I supporting the parents with their concerns? So many uncertainties!

As teachers I think we question the world around us, always wanting to know more. We are naturally curious learners. We watch the children in our presence every day with our head crooked to the side wondering why they choose what they choose, say what they say. The children are puzzles and we are trying to understand all the pieces so they can produce a complete whole person and reveal the masterpiece that they are.

The unknowns in our little universe are what the children walk in with- Stress from mom and dad in these uncertain economic times. Did the child eat one powdered doughnut when dad was looking and hide in the pantry to eat another two? Is his blood sugar going to bottom out in 20 minutes? Was this child up all night with a cough and never really got any sleep? What conversation went on in the car? Did the big brother say something nasty before she got out of the car? We will never know all the factors influencing that child, that day. But the good news is...

The known – the control we have – ourselves. These are hard times. Everyone knows that. Everyone is talking about that. What we have is the Known in our little oasis- our class- our place to create peace, harmony. Our place to say, "I can make a difference today". Our task is to



flash that smile when this child reads her first book or that child talks through his conflict instead of lashing out. Our known is those words of comfort and support during a disagreement. We have a gift. We are able to walk in and make a difference in 25 lives everyday.

Many of us have worries and concerns in our homes and in our hearts. The known - control is the ability to leave this on the door step and enter our place with these special children as a model of the best human we can be. Let's show them the way...

Emily Myers is a directress of a preprimary and extended day class at Ferndale Montessori Center in Ferndale, Michigan. She is the MMTEC early childhood instructor for Mathematics and Geography. She has a B.S. in Montessori Education/Pre-Primary Level and Elementary Education K-8 from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. She has a Michigan State Certification in Elementary and Early Childhood Education and holds an AMS certification in Pre-Primary. She has taught in both private and public Montessori schools over the last twenty years.

Best Practices

Looking for a way to renew yourself three times over in one day? Join us at the MMS Fall Conference, Best Practices in Montessori, on November 17, 2012. We will gather at Meadow Montessori School in Monroe, Michigan, and you will have the opportunity to attend three different 1.5 hour-long workshops in the course of one day.

Our workshop presenters come from Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois to share their best practices. Many of the workshops are offered more than once, so you don't have to miss out on anything. Here are the offerings, which are subject to change.

Infant / Toddler

- Creating an Infant Community, Becky Mc Collum
- Creating a Toddler Community, Becky McCollum

Preschool

- Beyond Sink and Float: Teaching Physical Science in the Preschool Classroom, Meg Fedorowicz
- Reviving the Bells, Claudia Medina
- Living Practical Life at Lunch, Cyndi Ianuzzi
- Nature, Art, and Play, Rosemary Quaranta
- In Perfect Synch-Teacher and Assistant, Lisa Abraham and Lorna Ansel
- For the Love of Running: Launching a New Team, Anya McCormick
- Yoga for Children: Mindfulness and Movement, Diane Ausmus

[continued, page 3](#)

Best Practices, continued

Elementary

- Beyond Sink and Float II: Teaching Physical Science in the Lower Elementary Classroom, Meg Fedorowicz
- Nature, Art, and Play, Rosemary Quaranta
- Work + Optimism = Success, Darcy Piedmonte
- More on the Bells at the Elementary Level, Claudia Medina
- Multicultural Music, Claudia Medina
- For the Love of Running: Launching a New Team, Anya McCormick
- Approaching the History Curriculum through Multiple Intelligence, Ashley Buntrock

Secondary

- The Rest of the Year is a Breeze, Jeff La Roux
- A Farm Program for Your School, Pat Gruber
- Innovations in Montessori High School Programs, Marta Donahoe
- Group Problem Solving, Jeff La Roux

Administration

- Want Full Enrollment? Admissions Process for Success, Jennifer Nolan
- Techniques for Serving the Special Needs Child and Family in a Montessori Environment, Jennifer Nolan

In House Field Trips

MMS would like to compile a list of in house field trips. If you have had a positive experience with an entertainer or educational group coming to present to your school, we would like to hear about it. The list will be compiled and distributed to our members. We would like to include recommendations or remarks, although a simple listing with a star rating (1 to 5) would be sufficient.

Meet Karen Lumsden

One of our new board members is a familiar face having served on the MMS board in the late 70's.

Karen Lumsden began her teaching career as a vocal music teacher in Troy and Highland Park school districts. Having had an earlier interest in Montessori, she pursued her Montessori training in 1976 and soon after started her first school with her husband in 1978. Meadow Montessori opened in Lake Orion and operated in a church for three years before being invited into the Lake Orion district in 1981 where the school expanded to offer tuition free Montessori education for children, kindergarten through 3rd grade. In 1991, the school district reclaimed the space ending the program. Karen opened her second school with her mother, also an educator. Children's Place Montessori in Farmington Hills started in 1985. In 1991, they moved to their current location, a school she helped design and build.

In addition to her interest in Montessori, Karen also pursued her interest in music obtaining training in Orff Schulwerk in Salzburg Austria. She and her mother, Joan Minor, also a music teacher, formed Orff Music School for Children that offered Saturday classes for children from Highland Park and Oak Park. The school operated free of charge for musically talented children and was one of two programs in the United States that was chosen to perform in an international film showing the various music programs inspired by the work of Karl Orff and his Schulwerk for Children. Karen divided her time between her family and working in Highland Park and her Mon-



essori schools for several years eventually retiring from teaching music in 2000. She continues to direct the school in Farmington Hills and is excited about renewing her commitment to MMS. She hopes to bring new ideas to the board to enhance the value of membership. Having recently celebrated the marriages of both her son and daughter, she and her husband, Harvey, are now empty nesters in Troy.

Montessori Garage Sale

MMS is considering sponsoring a Montessori Garage Sale for you to bring those unwanted items you just can't throw away! If you would be interested, please contact Karen Lumsden at 248-476-9660. If there is sufficient interest, we will organize this event hopefully this spring.