Welcome Back!

The board has great things planned for this membership year! The Fall Seminar will be November 5 and will be a full day conference. The topics will include *Transformation of the Spirit* and *From Pink Tower Through Cube Root-The Spiral Curriculum*. Rosemary Quaranta will present all day and Jennifer Nolan will present a half-day. Their topics hold interest for all levels. We are looking forward to an amazing day!

The board continues to work diligently for Montessori in Michigan through the MMEAN advocacy committee and outreach to the community. We continue to encourage you to reach out to other Montessorians as new connections are great resources. If you attend the seminar, take a little time to meet someone new; we are of course, the best resource for Montessori in Michigan.

As I have done before, I encourage you to let us know what you are thinking, what your concerns are, and what you would like more information about. There is a wealth of information within our community and we are by nature helpers!

Take the time to read the newsletters and visit the website once in a while. There are great things to read and interesting information which can be helpful. Your membership works for you when you take the time to see and use what it has to offer.

This year we welcome two new board members - Amy Dressler and Sue Fitzpatrick. We thank Pat Moore and Jackie Kalogerakos for their years of dedication and service.

I looking forward to seeing you and speaking with you at the seminar.

*Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.* ~ Henry Ford

Here’s to a successful year!

Heidi Gauger  
MMS President

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**Michigan Montessori Board of Directors 2016-17**

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<td>Heidi Gauger</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Deaborn Heights Montessori</td>
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<td>(313) 359-3000</td>
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<td>Cyndi Iannuzzi</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Montessori Children’s Academy</td>
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<td>(586) 286-4566</td>
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<td>Sue Szcesny</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Birmingham Community Montessori</td>
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<td>(248) 646-1535</td>
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<td>Kay Neff</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Dearborn Heights Montessori</td>
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MMEAN Update

Michigan Montessori Education Advocacy Network is working for YOU!

By Sue Fitzpatrick

This group of passionate volunteers has been busy working on behalf of all of you in the greater Michigan Montessori community to ensure that Montessori programs are included in and protected by any legislation and regulation that will impact them.

HighScope PQA revision draft: On August 31 Dr. Tomoko Wakabayashi, Ed.D, Director, Center for Early Education Evaluation (CEEE) for HighScope and her committee contacted us asking for external reviewer feedback on the current confidential revision draft of the PQA. This is the rating tool that is used to assess preschool environments. The Great Start to Quality workgroup representing Montessori, comprised of members Susie Hyatt, Kay Neff, and Sue Fitzpatrick, provided detailed commentary on each of the indicator changes and additional new Materials Lists and submitted this back to the CEEE committee on September 19. Many favorable changes were noted from the original PQA that improved the chances for Montessori programs to be evaluated for higher quality. After receiving our feedback, Dr. Wakabayashi wrote that additional edits would be made to the PQA after all external review feedback was considered before publication of the revised edition.

Updates on work with Licensing and Montessori Teacher Credential recognition: Workgroup members Kay Neff and Susie Hyatt along with Rebecca Pelton, Director of MACTE, met on July 11 with Mark Jansen, Child Care Licensing Division Director at the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing, Michigan Department of Human Services and several other licensing officials, to discuss our request for more equitable Montessori teacher credential recognition. Mr. Jansen carefully reviewed the information that MACTE and we had provided at this meeting. Mr. Jansen wanted to meet with the Michigan Department of Education on this matter before proceeding. Susie Hyatt sent an update to Lisa Brewer Walraven, Director of Office of Child Development and Care on our work as she and the Great Start to Quality folks suggested we meet with Licensing on this matter.

Possible lobbyist: We have identified a potential lobbyist to help us should we need this type of assistance with legislation to change licensing rules. She is quite familiar with Montessori programs and enrolled her own children in both primary and elementary levels.

Montessorians presenting in the larger Early Childhood community: One of the best ways to inform the greater educational community about Montessori is to present at workshops locally that reach a more general educational audience. Several folks are presenting at the 2016 CSHC Conference in Howell, Michigan on November 12 on Montessori: Brain Based Education and Teacher Talk; Respectful Classroom management. This past February 27, Maple Tree Montessori hosted a One Day Early Childhood Seminar; “Exploring Montessori”. Local early childhood professionals and GSRP teachers were able to accrue professional development hours through their attendance, and AMS awarded professional development hours as well.

MMEAN’s Mission Statement: “We advocate for the validation and advancement of authentic Montessori education in Michigan.”
Mentor Moment
My Mentor, Pat Moore by Cyndi Iannuzzi

As Montessorians we can all appreciate where we began our Montessori journey and who inspired us and guided us through our formative years as a Montessori guide. For me, I was fortunate to have Pat Moore as my mentor. Pat is not only my mentor, but also my colleague and friend who has supported me through my career and life. As my mentor, Pat demonstrated her love for Montessori education and how much she loved working with children. She is dedicated and hardworking and lives her life devoted to helping children even outside of the Montessori scene. She has tutored many children and is currently volunteering her time with an organization called “Front Porch” which provides educational and recreational opportunities for the youth in Detroit.

Pat Moore’s journey began as an assistant at The Sacred Heart Academy in 1968. She took her Montessori training at University of Detroit in 1969. She married Hugh, also a teacher, in 1970. She worked four years at the newly named Grosse Pointe Academy as a Montessori guide until her first child Colum was born in 1974. She taught Kindergarten at St. John Berchmans for a year and a half until her second son Connor was born in 1977. When Conner was three, Pat began working at The Giving Tree and worked there until retiring in 2009.

It was at The Giving Tree that I interned in Ms. Pat’s classroom in 1990. The classroom was a joyous, harmonious place where the children loved coming to work and play with their friends. I have fond memories of the classroom and all of the little subtle details, like Ms. Pat’s presentation table to the vintage bead chain cabinet and all the golden bead material. How could I ever forget Ms. Pat’s courage as she constructed a life size, paper mache dinosaur with the children every year! The children were so excited to watch the model take shape and to cast their votes on what color to paint it when it was all done. I have always admired Ms. Pat’s ability to aim high in order to give the children great and memorable experiences of being in school.

Like all Montessori teachers, Ms. Pat was a collector of the perfect bowl or tray; she showed me how to look for special items like crystal matching pitchers and unique wooden trays. Most importantly she helped me see that I couldn’t possibly know all that I had to know right from the beginning. She encouraged me to be patient with myself, and give myself time to grow. Pat would say “that’s the beauty of Montessori; it inspires you to want to know more and to continue growing.” I have been a Montessori teacher for 25 years and I still have more to learn. Ms. Pat once told me that “the children will teach you something new every year.” These gentle words have helped me greatly as I look forward to what I will learn each year. She will always be my “go-to” person that someone who can advise me during difficult situations.

Many know Pat as a dedicated Montessorian, who saw a need for continuing education for Montessori teachers in Michigan. After serving 37 year as a board member of Michigan Montessori Society, she is highly recognized as a hardworking, dedicated individual who paved the way for future and present board members.

The lessons I learned from Pat are deeply rooted and have become a part of me. I will forever cherish my time with her. As a mentor, Pat shared her enthusiasm and love for Montessori. She was a positive role model and exemplary Montessori guide; she showed a genuine interest in me so much so that we became good friends. Above all else, she encouraged me to keep learning. I have nothing but admiration and gratitude for my dear friend, Pat Moore.
MMS Board recognized Pat’s years of service on the board with a donation to her favorite charity, Front Porch, a non-profit community organization under the direction of Jean Vortkamp. Front Porch provides tutoring, recreational opportunities and field trips to the children and families residing in the area. It is located in Pat’s old neighborhood on the eastside of Detroit. http://www.frontporchdetroit.org

Parent Education Opportunity

“Parent Talk”

Last Spring, our MMS workshop featured Chick Moorman’s address “Dimensions of Discipline.” Chick shared successful perspectives and practices from his Teacher Talk system of classroom management. Those of you that attended know how his effective communication skills can bring respect and mindfulness to the interactions we have with children. Reframing our words can promote responsibility and independence in the children while at the same time allowing us to show consistency in discipline. Chick’s understanding of the child parallels Maria Montessori’s and he is often a speaker at Montessori schools around the country.

Here are some ways that you can continue to bring Chick’s practical tips and inspiration to you classrooms;

- Sign up for Educator or Parent Newsletters at Chick’s website, www.chickmoorman.com which will give you short, thought provoking articles sprinkled with Chick’s own brand of humor.

- Check out Chick’s Teacher Talk Advantage website http://personalpowerpress.com/teacher talkadvantage/index.html for tips and articles.

- If you would like to offer either the Parent Talk system parenting classes for parents at your school, or the Teacher Talk workshop for teachers, two of our board members, Heidi Gauger and Sue Fitzpatrick are trained facilitators in both and may be able to offer training for you. Contact them at hwgmontessori@yahoo.com or sfitzpatrick@dhmontessori.org. If you live in an area far from Detroit, there are other Parent Talk trainers listed on Chick’s website.
Michigan Montessori Society’s Fall Workshop promises to be a full day in every sense of the word! Two presenters will share the day offering two very different sessions. In the morning, Rosemary Quaranta and Jennifer Nolan will present *Transformation of the Spirit*. After lunch, Rosemary will present *From Pink Tower Through Cube Root: The Spiral Curriculum*.

**Transformation of the Spirit**

“Even the most experienced teacher can feel overwhelmed and fatigued, losing sight of the miracle of the child that captivated Maria Montessori. We cannot nurture the light in the child without attending to our own. Participants will re-connect with the joy, curiosity, play, and passion that originally called them to Montessori Education as we explore techniques for reflection, rejuvenation and restoration resulting in a more balanced, peaceful and authentic Montessori experience for both the child and adult. Together we will explore ways to balance purpose and play, discipline and joy as the pathway to true normalization.”

“To remain an effective reflective practitioner, we must continually step back and align ourselves to be in balance when the children arrive each day including the time before entering, while we prepare the environment and as we share the space with the children. This wholehearted approach allows the adult to recognize and celebrate each child’s individuality and talents, while celebrating their own as a way of fostering joy within the community.”

“In this workshop we will review Montessori philosophy and practice as it relates to play theory and creativity as a source of inspiration and connection with deeper engagement and understanding of the child. Referencing Montessori’s insight on the spirit of the child, we will work together to discover the importance of nurturing our own spirituality to the benefit of the classroom environment. Current research on the brain will inform our exercises in preparing ourselves mentally, emotionally and physically to get and remain in touch with the essential work of the classroom, resulting in strategies for remaining in joy despite the natural ebb and flow of the classroom functions. We will introduce personal reflection practices including mindfulness, wholehearted living and realigning thoughts to correspond to our highest desires.”

**From Pink Tower Through Cube Root: The Spiral Curriculum.**

“Maria Montessori was brilliant when she developed her mathematical materials. She created them in a way that each layer builds upon the next, creating a spiral curriculum that takes abstract concepts to concrete understanding. The Pink Tower is the easiest of the dimensional materials and the new 3’s begin to work with it almost immediately. The same concept of 1 cubed through 10 cubed repeat with a variety of materials through early childhood, lower elementary and upper elementary. Join me and see the importance of squares and rectangles as the materials move from pink tower through cube root.”
Fall Workshop Presenters

Both Rosemary and Jennifer are excited about coming to Detroit and we are just as excited to be bringing these highly qualified presenters to you.

**Rosemary Quaranta, MEd** is currently Clinical Faculty and Head of the Lab School at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a graduate of Edgecliff College (which merged with Xavier University in 1980), The Washington Montessori Institute, and Cleveland State University where she received her Master’s Degree in Education with a specialization in Montessori. Rosemary holds AMI credentials (EC, EI-II) and has over thirty years of experience in Montessori classrooms. She has also been a strong lecturer for AMS and MACTE accredited programs. Rosemary launched the Elementary Montessori School and Teacher Education Program at Seton Montessori Institute in Clarendon, Hills, Illinois. She is passionate about Montessori Education, consulting and lecturing with schools nationally and internationally.

**Jennifer Nolan** is Head of School and Early Childhood Program Coordinator at Seton Montessori School in Clarendon Hills, IL. Jennifer holds an AMS credential in Early Childhood Education and Administration and a Journalism Degree from the University of Missouri Columbia. As a faculty lecturer and Administrator Program Coordinator for the Seton Montessori Institute, Jennifer is an experienced Montessori educator and educational leader. Her specialties are organizational communication, staff development, parent education, practical life curricula, and supporting children and families of children with special needs. She has a special passion for supporting the spiritual development of the Montessori adult. She has presented at a number of local, national and international conferences.

International Peace Day Celebrations

Several area schools enjoyed celebrating peace day with parades, readings and art work.
At a recent board meeting, the subject of fire/tornado/shelter drills came up. The method of reporting the state required drills appeared to be a source of uncertainty to many. To provide some clarity to both the board members and the MMS membership in general, I did a little research and found that the reporting system is very similar in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. The state drill requirements went into effect on July 1, 2014, but it is required that they are scheduled through your county. The state requirements are:

- Five fire drills per school year. Three of which must take place by December 1. (There must be a reasonable interval between each drill.)
- Two tornado safety drills per school year. One of which must take place in March.
- Three lockdown drills per school year, including security measures appropriate to an emergency "such as the release of hazardous material or the presence of a potentially dangerous individual on or near the premises." At least one of the drills must take place by December 1 and at least one after January 1. (There must be a reasonable interval between each drill.)
- Schools are required to conduct at least one of the above-listed drills during lunch, recess, or at another time when a significant number of students are present, but not in classrooms.
- All drills must be scheduled by September 15 and provided to the county emergency management coordinator.
- All drills must occur as scheduled unless it cannot occur due to conditions beyond the control of the school authorities.
- All drills must be publically posted on the school’s website within 5 days of completion and remain there for three years and must include:
  - School name,
  - School year,
  - Date and time of drill,
  - Type of drill
  - Number and type of drills completed during the school year (ie. Fire Drill 3/5)
  - Signature of individual in charge of conducting the drill.

In all three counties that I researched, there is a portal for scheduling and reporting the drills when they are complete. Although the drills are set up similarly, the reporting of the actual drill differs significantly.
Oakland County

The Oakland portal is: https://land.oakgov.com/CDR/. To set up your portal, call 248-858-5272. For IT support, the Oakland County support center is 248-858.8812. They will help you set up your account, give step by step directions on how to navigate to your site, set up the drill schedule and finally help you edit the information to show when the drill was completed. As stated above, the drill must be held according to the schedule you set up in September. However, Oakland County allows you to enter the “actual” date of your drills on the portal and I have never experienced any repercussions from tardy drills.

Wayne County

In Wayne County, the portal is www.waynecounty.com/hsem/school-drill-reporting-form.htm. The Wayne County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator can be reached at 734-728-3711 for assistance. Wayne also requires that the drill must be completed as scheduled unless there is a reason beyond the control of the school. If the drill is postponed, it must be completed within 10 days of the scheduled date and the person in charge of conducting the drill must contact the County Emergency Management Coordinator informing him/her of the rescheduled drill date. A schedule change notification to the County Emergency Management Coordinator requires that a form be submitted.

Macomb County

In Macomb County, the portal is found at www.macombgov.org/OEMC-SchoolDrills. Macomb County Office of Emergency Management can be reached at 586-469-5270. In Macomb, the portal through which you schedule your drills is shut down on Sept 15. I was unable to locate information as to what you must do if you haven’t set up your drill schedule by that date. Further, it is assumed that you will accomplish your scheduled drills on the dates you’ve scheduled so reporting of the “actual” drill date is not provided for. You may change the scheduled dates before Sept.15 by sending notification to: mcoem@macombgov.org. After Sept. 15, any changes must be submitted to the Macomb County Emergency Management Coordinator utilizing the School Drill Schedule Change Notification Form.
Your MMS Board –
Meet New Member, Sue Fitzpatrick

A New Face on the MMS Board Brings a New Skill Set

Sue is happy to join the MMS board and work alongside the dynamic women serving the Michigan Montessori community! Delighted with her two young sons’ experience in Montessori environments, Sue obtained her preprimary Montessori teaching credential at MMTEC in 1983. Over the years, Sue has worked in preschool, lower elementary, upper elementary, and middle school environments. She has a BA degree in humanities and philosophy from St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame. She was an educational consultant with Arkansas State University, trainer and CDA advisor, and is a certified Parent Talk instructor and Teacher Talk Advantage facilitator. Because of her desire to see authentic Montessori education available to as many children as possible, she was one of the founding members of the Michigan Montessori Education Advocacy Network. Alongside other MMEAN members, she has worked toward having the Montessori credential recognized by Michigan Child Care Licensing Division at a higher level than it is held in current licensing law. She has been involved in efforts with QRIS officials in Lansing to have the Michigan Great Start to Quality rating system recognize quality in Montessori environments through revisions of the PQA rating instrument. On a national level, Sue is a participant with the Montessori Public Policy Initiative. Currently Sue coordinates parent education programs and community outreach at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center, Livonia Montessori School and Plymouth-Canton Montessori School. She is the mother of four adult Montessori children and a 2 year old Montessori grandson.