

Hello MMS Members!

During the summer, our newsletter editor takes some time off. The summer edition is usually devoted to a single topic that will give you something to think about during your "downtime."

Summer....
Gone, but
not
forgotten!

Creating for the Classroom – Making Montessori Materials

by Karen Lumsden

Who hasn't experienced the joy of watching a child discover a work you've created? MMS hosted our first Montessori Make & Take this summer and while the group was quite small, the enthusiasm was not!

Attendees spent two hours cutting, laminating and brainstorming ideas for other materials they would like to share with their children. Their ideas touched almost every area of the classroom from sensorial to language with a lot of interest in cultural activities. The day was made even more special by the tasty homemade treats that our MMS administrative assistant, Kathy Smoko, brought to the gathering.



The creativity required to conceive and produce materials is inspiring and very gratifying. For me, it is one of the perks of being

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a Montessori guide. Last year, while making some materials for our school, my grandson, Lucas, watched me and asked why we didn't have any sports works in his room. (He and his three brothers are avid sports enthusiasts.) We collaborated on an idea and came up with matching fields of play with the ball (or equipment) required for the sport. He was totally engaged in this creation and wanted to see it through immediately. We copied, cut, and laminated that evening. When completed, we searched for a tray to place the work on and he proudly found a place for "his work" on the shelves in his classroom.



He wanted to present the material the very next day to his

classmates. I had him practice his presentation before we headed home. I'm not sure how many other children were as taken with this work as he



was, but it was a wonderful bonding experience for us and it recognized his particular interest.

Making materials is a rewarding experience and one that benefits not only the creator, but those that experience the work, as well. One of our teachers recently came across a beginning sound work I made as a first-year teacher...long before internet pictures were available and we had to cut pictures out of workbooks to make our materials. It brought back fond memories of both creating and utilizing this 40+ year old material.

Plan to come and join us for our next MMS Make & Take and create your own memories producing new materials for your children.



Lucas' Sports Work



MMS Members Only*

Summer Raffle Winners

MMS's 3rd Annual Summer Raffle Announces Winners!

MMS held the drawing on Aug. 31 and the winners are...

Claudia Colin – Sterling Heights

Anne Kooy - Kalamazoo

Erbora Mankollari – Farmington Hills

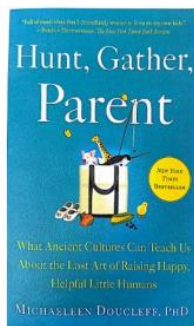
Fran Olesen - Zeeland Mi

Abeer Samaan - Livonia

Kerri Wright - Wayne

We are very grateful to those that donated our raffle prizes this year ... especially

Teaching Timbers, creators of wooden Montessori furniture and materials.



*Membership for the 2023-24 school year began July 1, 2023.

Only members that renewed their membership for the 2023-24 school year prior to the August drawing were eligible to win in the 2023 MMS Summer Raffle.



MMS Fall Workshop



Montessori and the Science of Reading

with Laura Saylor

Teaching pre-literacy skills and reading successfully requires deep knowledge of how children learn to read as well as the strategies that are most impactful when teaching the many skills involved with reading. This workshop aligns Montessori didactic materials and pedagogy with current research on reading development. Participants will learn how the Montessori method is aligned with the Science of Reading in that they are both scientifically based and contain methods that follow a logical, systematic, and explicit progression of teaching and learning. This Workshop Will Feature:

Overview of the alignment of the Montessori curriculum to the Science of Reading.

Description of how Montessori materials can build reading skills, background knowledge, and vocabulary across disciplines.

Guidance of how to balance state requirements and standards.

Demonstrations and practice with strategies, materials, and examples.

Support crafting individual professional development plans with peer-to-peer coaching.

Dr. Laura Saylor, Dean of Education at MSJ

Laura Saylor is the dean of The School of Education at Mount St. Joseph University. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Studies from The University of Cincinnati and her M.Ed. in Montessori Education from Xavier University. Her 30 years of experience include teaching and serving as the Head of a Montessori school. Laura is a frequent presenter at national conferences. Her research foci include the intersection of cognitive science and Montessori education. She recently co-authored Powerful Literacy in the Montessori Classroom.



When: Nov, 4 9:00

Where: Madonna University, Livonia

MMS - What's in it for Me?



Individual, Member School and Affiliate School membership in the Michigan Montessori Society help you keep in touch with other active Montessorians! Networking with others committed to promoting authentic Montessori programs is vital to your professional growth. Don't miss the opportunity to join our vibrant organization.*

- MMS presents two professional development seminars every year. Members enjoy a significant reduction in seminar fees.
- A newly designed website has launched! We continue to work on ways to make your experience as an MMS member timelier and more exciting!
- You can register for seminars and become a member online using your credit card.
- MMS publishes a newsletter online, posts job openings, promotes educational opportunities and disseminates other helpful information.
- New! You will receive activities you can reprint and use in your classroom.
- We have also assumed the important task of advocating for Montessori education at the state level. There is power in numbers; your membership supports our efforts.
- You will be notified when affiliated schools offer mini workshops that may interest your staff.

The Michigan Montessori Society's objectives are to:

- Broaden understanding of the Montessori method
- Encourage the growth of Montessori education
- Act as an information center
- Support existing schools
- Provide professional development

In order to continue to receive these benefits and more, join MMS today! *



*Because most MMS communication will be sent electronically, it is imperative that you provide us with your email address. Please be assured that we do not sell or share our electronic list with anyone.