2014/2015

Publication

Montessori Teachers Association of Western Australia

The Montessori Teachers Association of W.A. was formed in 1989 to provide professional development to local Montessori teachers.

The objectives of the association are to:
1. Provide ongoing professional development for Montessori teachers in order to expand knowledge and expertise, and promote their professional standing.
2. Further community and professional awareness of Montessori education.

Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the 2014 Montessori Teachers Association Newsletter.

Firstly we would like to acknowledge the longstanding drive and guidance of our former Chair Rhonda Sheehan. Rhonda was part of the Founding Committee of the Montessori Teachers Association in 1989 and has been a continuous member and longstanding chairperson since.

When setting up the MTA, the goal was to pull down the barriers that existed regarding different Montessori Teacher Training and also those who did not have training at the time. The MTA was designed to bring everyone together and provide specific Montessori Professional Development as well as general Professional Development for all teachers, regardless of training backgrounds. It was Rhonda's belief that good teachers are born, not made and therefore their training was the rich icing on the cake.

Earlier this year Rhonda stepped aside from her role as Chair, however she will continue to assist the MTA in her new role of advisor to the committee. In this role her wealth of knowledge and expertise will ensure the smooth running and drive of the MTA into 2015 and beyond.

On behalf of the MTA Committee and its members, we would like to sincerely thank Rhonda for her many years of service and support. She has played a vital role in the continuation of the MTA for many years. We look forward to her involvement in her new role and know that her passion for Montessori will guide us well.

Secondly we would like to introduce ourselves as Co-Chairs of the MTA.

Bronwyn Hope is a former Montessori student and current teacher with experience in all age groups, having taught 6-9, 9-12, 12-15 years and being the parent of children in a 3-6 class. Bronwyn has played a large role in setting up the Adolescent Programme at The Beehive Montessori School and is an enthusiastic addition to the MTA Committee.

Ellen McCarthy is also a former Montessori student and current teacher. A former secondary teacher, Ellen has been teaching in 3-6 classrooms for 5 years, firstly at The Montessori School in Kingsley and now at The Beehive Montessori School. Ellen has been a member of the MTA Committee since 2010 in an IT and Publicity role.

We look forward to working with the Committee and Members in our new roles and continuing Rhonda's hard work as Chair.

Bronwyn Hope and Ellen McCarthy

Professional Development

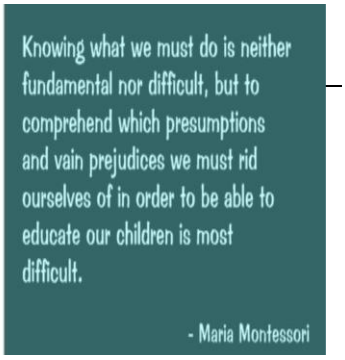
We encourage all Western Australian Montessori Teachers to attend MTA Professional Development days. The MTA offers diverse and relevant professional development and it is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas, network and to support our Montessori community. Discounts are offered for MTA members. Please visit our website for more information.

www.montessoriteachers.com.au

CHILDREN AND TECHNOLOGY



We are in the midst of a technological revolution and educators need to be cognizant of the effects technology can have on the developing mind. Smart phones, tablets and computers have become 'Digital Babysitters' and are also being introduced into classrooms as educational assistants. In this age of technology it is vital that we carefully consider any potential harm which may come from the overuse of technology in our daily lives. We have collated some interesting articles on the subject – please follow the links below and feel free to join the discussion on our Facebook page:



https://www.facebook.com/pages/Montessori-Teachers-Association-of-Western-Australia/271851432859562

http://www.educationnews.org/parenting/julia-steiny-the-jurys-in-screen-time-hurts-little-kids/

http://www.waldorftoday.com/2014/03/10-reasons-why-handheld-devices-should-be-banned-for-children-under-the-age-of-12/

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cris-rowan/technology-children-negative-impact_b_3343245.html

http://drupal6.allianceforchildhood.org/fools_gold

2015 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Protective Behaviours
Friday March 20th and Saturday March 21st 2015

In 2015 it will be a requirement to include Protective Behaviours in the school curriculum. In response to this, and with many schools looking toward re-registration, we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to train staff in this area.

This workshop, conducted by Protective Behaviours WA Inc, has been designed to teach the strategies of Protective Behaviours to increase the personal safety of students, clients and children.

The MTA will be hosting a two day workshop on Protective Behaviours:

Friday 20th March 2015 – The Protective Behaviours Program (Level 1). Please note that this course has been recently updated to include new requirements for teachers.
Saturday 21st March 2015 – Supporting Activities - including specific strategies on including Protective Behaviours in the day-to-day classroom Curriculum.

Please remember that MTA members receive discounted registration for PD as well as direct emails about upcoming workshops and events. Please visit our website www.montessoriteachers.com.au for membership information.

Registration forms for this timely Professional Development are included in this email.

MTA Storytelling Workshop

The Montessori Teachers Association of WA held a Professional Development day on Friday the 7th of November 2014 at the Beehive Montessori School in Mosman Park.



It began with a storytelling workshop based on the Montessori Great Stories. Glenn Swift, a local storyteller, shared his interpretation of how to tell one of the stories and discussed strategies for teachers to use storytelling skills more effectively in the classroom.

The second session was a breakaway session where participants chose to join Glenn for a second workshop focusing on general storytelling skills to use with younger students or to participate in a roundtable discussion of the Great Stories and ways of bringing these to life in the classroom.



"The MTA storytelling workshop was a curious experience. At first, I wasn't sure about the content and was worried that I had, perhaps, 'seen it all before'. I wasn't sure that anyone could teach me about how to convey the stories within the Montessori curriculum any better than I already did them. I was wrong.
During the course of the morning our groups were split up and we were encouraged to participate in a variety of exercises with others from outside our own staff. This was great because it meant that beyond the exercises, that were specific to the workshop, we were networking and learning about ways that teachers from other schools had illuminated the stories, thus formulating new ideas of what had been successful and what hadn't.
Since the workshop, I have had lots of fun with the children in my class. They especially liked the group of three 'Tall Tales' activity, and the group of four 'one word per person, at a time' activity too. This lead to writing and sharing aloud, many hilarious (both group and individual) narratives, which the children read out. I was amazed that even some of the children who experience difficulties were putting up their hands to share their stories.
All in all, I have found the workshop to be of great value, not only in the telling of Maria Montessori's great fables, but as an effective tool in encouraging children to become enthusiastic storytellers themselves."

- Carolyn O'Toole (Upper Primary Teacher)

"I wasn't sure that anyone could teach me about how to convey the stories within the Montessori curriculum any better than I already did them. I was wrong."



MTA Storytelling Workshop

"Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality on Friday.

It was a very comfortable and enjoyable experience being among other Montessori Staff. For me being surrounded by people who knew more than me gave me an opportunity to learn and grow!"

Maryanne D'Souza

"It was a very comfortable and enjoyable experience."



"I enjoyed the Storytelling session with Glenn Swift a lot.

From a language teacher's perspective, I found storytelling very interesting and useful.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn how to use the storytelling to teach Italian.

We learnt how to engage children using funny sounds, how to stress the tone of voice and how to use gestures in order to bring alive a story.

Story telling is a fantastic way to introduce Italian vocabulary; it's great to teach grammar in an enjoyable way.



Also, being an emergent bilingual book author and illustrator, (I recently published a bilingual book called The Magic Pepermill – Il Macinino Magico).

I found the PD extremely useful; I also think it will handy for my next project.
Now I have a better idea of how I can improve my lessons and how I can improve my next book.

Storytelling is one of the most powerful techniques to teach children second language.

I will definitely use the strategies I have learnt in the PD in my lessons."

"Storytelling is one of the most powerful techniques to teach children."

Daniela Pruiti

Meeting in the Middle
Adolescent Program Forum
6–7 September, 2014
The Hills Montessori School



The Adolescent Program Forum held in the Adelaide Hills in September 2014 was an incredibly enriching experience for all involved.

The conference was attended by Montessori Adolescent educators and administrators from all over Australia and New Zealand and offered an amazing opportunity for collaboration, networking and the sharing of strategies and ideas in the Montessori classroom.

Presentations were diverse and engaging and the overwhelmingly positive response from participants left everyone feeling inspired and grateful to be part of such a supportive community.

The breakout sessions focusing on different learning areas was a particular highlight and allowed the sharing of both success stories and difficulties faced in the adolescent classroom and I am sure everyone left with new ideas and strategies to implement in their own environments.

I would like to thank the Montessori Teachers Association for the financial support which assisted with the purchase of my flights allowing me to attend the forum.

Jessica Henke



(Photo credit: https://www.facebook.com/groups/meetinginthemiddle/?fref=ts)

"I am sure everyone left with new ideas and strategies to implement in their own environments."

Committee Members

Chairpersons: Ellen McCarthy and Bronwyn Hope

Advisor for the M.T.A: Rhonda Sheehan

Treasurer: Debbie McCarthy

Secretary: Anthea Brignoli

Publicity: Jessica Henke and Ellen McCarthy

Professional Development: Kath Meisinger, Lucy Clarkson- Fletcher, Lorraine Martis

School Liaison Officer: Christine Pizzey

(As with many volunteer organizations, we would appreciate additional committee members. We meet rarely but effectively and like to share the load. Contact us if you are interested, we would love to have you on board!)

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.montessoriteachers.com.au

About Our Organization...

The Montessori Teachers Association of W.A. was formed in 1989 to provide professional development to local Montessori teachers.

The objectives of the association are to:
1. Provide ongoing professional development for Montessori teachers in order to expand knowledge and expertise, and promote their professional standing.
2. Further community and professional awareness of Montessori education.

Montessori Teachers Association

P.O. BOX 81
Mosman Park, WA 6012

www.montessoriteachers.com.au