

Montessori Radmoor Reflections

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February 2010

Grant Writing Update

We were able to raise funds for the purchase of a new 20'x32' greenhouse structure with a portion of the proceeds from several fundraisers.

To complete this project within this school calendar, we recognized additional funding was required in order to cover the costs of construction, supplies, and a greenhouse supervisor. After research into many different entities, we found our project was an ideal candidate for funding opportunities with four foundations.

The Allen Foundation grant is for \$18,600 or \$6,200 annually for three years, and notification of our status will be in June.

The Captain Planet Foundation grant is for \$2,500, and we will be notified in April if accepted.

The Granger Foundation grant for \$6,201.32 was declined on December 16, 2009.

The National Gardening Association/Home Depot Youth Gardening grant is for \$1,000. This grant was declined on February 12, 2010.

We will keep you updated on the status of our grant possibilities. If you have any information regarding grants or funding opportunities, please contact Melinda Schultz at the school or by email at mschultz@okemosmontessori.com.



We also explored funding supplies for our Elementary Science Curriculum via a proposal sent to Dart Container. We are awaiting a response from this company.

Alumni Connections

We are in the process of updating our alumni database. The database has 937 names entered beginning in 1968, with 298 names verified. If you know of anyone we should contact, please notify the school. If you are currently receiving communications by mail and would like to receive them by email, please contact us

We would like to thank the Dowdy Family (Gregory, 1990-1994) for donating a Nikon YS2-t microscope with Phasecontrast, Alphaplot, 4 magnifications, and camera capabilities. It was a very fortuitous donation, as the Elementary class is currently studying Protozoa, and are now able to see them very easily.

Annual Report

Radmoor On-line – We have a wonderful website where we post all information pertaining to the school. Please click on the link below or visit our site to view our Annual Report and learn about what is happening at our school.

[2009 Radmoor Annual Report](#)



Alumni Panel

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010 we had an Alumni Panel, with an array of seven students returning to share information about transitioning. This panel was comprised of our largest range of students, starting with a fifth grader and finishing with a Junior in college.

The panel included Jack Gilluly, a Junior at Okemos High School, who is now the student representative on our Board of Trustees. Jay Thaker, a Junior pre-med student at Michigan State University, had many insights to offer to the attendees. Jay also helped run the Energy Club last February at Radmoor. We appreciate both of these students continued involvement at the school.

We offer this panel to educate our parents about the transitions that occur after students leave the Montessori environment. Joan Johnson, both a Primary and Elementary parent, commented on the panel.

"I was impressed that Jay, the alumni attending MSU, was able to reflect back and understand that self-motivation is the best tool one can have for continued education, and that he felt Montessori aided or supported the growth of self-motivation. It appeared to me that their experience at Radmoor has given them the tools to take responsibility for their own education. I left the meeting feeling very encouraged for the children and the Montessori program."



****Very Special Upcoming Events**** **Save the Date**

'AFTER HOURS' AUCTION – Sat., March 27, 2010, Walnut Hills Country Club

The auction provides a festive evening of fun with great food, dancing and a diverse array of auction items. Please check out our items on the Radmoor website.

We always look forward to seeing our adult alumni, so as an added incentive to join us for this enjoyable evening, **we are offering the first 10 alumni that register a free ticket.** Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of March, so keep a watchful eye on your mailbox and email account.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

This is our highly anticipated community event. The staff, children and parents embrace the opportunity to celebrate all of our diverse cultures around the world. This year, the event will take place on May 21, 2010 to celebrate the end of the school year. We welcome your attendance.

Autumn (Johnson) Romig, Montessori Radmoor Alumnus

Autumn attended Radmoor from 1970-1973. Her teacher was Miss Shireen who came from Sri Lanka. The first year Miss Shireen taught she wore beautiful saris. Every day when the children came into class, they put their hands together, bowed and said good morning.

Learning the flags of different countries and stringing beads are a few of her early memories. Autumn spent a fair amount of time at the easel. "I had to be guided away from there often to learn other things." One of her more vivid memories was learning subtraction with the black and white beads on the green felt mat. She also watched the last lunar landing on a black and white TV that was brought into the class for the occasion.

Autumn recalls her transition to public school was easy. When she was in second grade and learning subtraction, she remembers being a bit puzzled as to what the teacher was trying to explain on the overhead projector. "At first I didn't understand, then it clicked and I realized that I had learned subtraction two years earlier at Montessori." Having something concrete, like the beads, made it much easier to learn the math.

Autumn believes one of the greatest assets she gained from her Montessori experience was using decision-making skills. "With the self direction allowed at Montessori, you gain experience making decisions. Then with practice, you gain confidence realizing both the rewards and consequences of your actions."

Autumn is still friends with Melissa Lucas who was in her class. "It is hard to believe we have been friends for over 40 years." They email often and see each other every few years. "She has a much better memory of our Radmoor days, so it is fun for me to hear her stories."

Autumn attended Okemos Public Schools. Knowing that she wanted to run her own business she choose Babson College, which at that time, was one of a hand-full of schools that had an Entrepreneurial Studies major. She graduated in 1989 with a BS in Business Administration. After three years of working for a family business, she went to the University of Michigan for her MBA. Now Autumn is a mom and owns a small business. Time for her hobbies such as black and white photography is limited.

"I had such a wonderful experience at Radmoor, I wanted the same for my child". Abbott (Toddler 1) was born 16 weeks early. With him being an extreme preemie, there were some health and developmental obstacles to overcome. "We had some concerns about how Abbott would do at Radmoor, but he has just blossomed this year." Autumn also believes the peer interaction has helped Abbott start to conquer his delayed speech. "I am excited for Abbott to continue his Radmoor education. I look back to my time there with such fondness and believe that it gave me a wonderful foundation."



"The greatness of the human personality begins at the hour of birth."
Maria Montessori

Material Memories



Geometry Sticks

The child gets the opportunity to construct and explore the geometric nomenclature using the Geometry Stick Box.

Each set of sticks has a different length and different color.

2cm-brown 12cm - light brown

4cm-purple 14cm- pea green

6cm-orange 16cm - pink

8cm-red 18cm - blue

10cm-black 20cm-yellow

The colors are arbitrary and have no connection to the bead bars. There is one hole at each end of the stick. These measurements are from one hole to the other. Two or three sticks within each set have holes all along the stick, rather than just at the ends.

Additionally, this box contains sticks of natural wood that are used in upper elementary for hypotenuse work, thumb tacks, brads, and measuring angles.

Nine Basic Grammar Symbols

Grammar Symbols teach the nine parts of speech by using corresponding Montessori symbols. The functions and positions of words in sentences are studied and analyzed, and then each word is labeled with the symbol that represents the appropriate grammatical category. For example, a noun is represented by a large black triangle.



Dressing Frames

Montessori dressing frames are designed to help children practice various clothing fasteners, so that they can dress themselves. Generally, the frames are made of wood and have fabric stretched around them. The fabric fastens in the front of the frame with a given fastener. For example, one frame might have a zipper fastener while another might have buttons or snaps.

WAYS TO SUPPORT RADMOOR

Lila Radway Scholarship

In 2000, the Lila Radway Scholarship fund was established to assist families interested in a Montessori education, but were unable to afford the full tuition. Currently, private donations and a percentage of our fundraisers help support the scholarship fund. You may donate to the Lila Radway Scholarship fund at any time to help support interested families.

Tree of Life

If you have questions or are interested in purchasing an item, contact Melinda Schultz at mschultz@okemosmontessori.com or at 517-351-3655.

Satin Brass Leaf	\$50.00	4x5 brass and bronze rock	\$500.00
Copper Leaf	\$75.00	5x7 brass and bronze rock	\$750.00
Aluminum Leaf	\$100.00	8x10 brass and bronze rock	\$1000.00 and up
A brass and bronze apple or acorn	\$250.00		

Fundraisers

Scrip - A word that means “substitute money” – in other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They are the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for full face value; they redeem them for full face value, and our school keeps the difference as revenue. Orders are due the 15th of every month.