

# Montessori Radmoor Reflections

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May 2009

### International Night

Over 300 parents, children, guests and staff enjoyed a culturally diverse evening of fun, food, games and activities at our second annual International Night.

Each room at the school is transformed to represent a continent. Each continent has games, research, and activities for the children (and the young at heart) to learn through exploration. While the children are filling out their passports traveling room to room, they are able to have their hands decorated with henna in Asia, ride in a jeep during an African safari, or do an animal search in the Amazon Rain Forest.

The gym at the school became our food court, with hundreds of dishes from many different countries being offered to tempt your taste buds. All in all, it is a cannot miss event, so mark your calendars for May 21, 2010. We look forward to seeing you and your family!



### Radmoor Picnic

Montessori Radmoor School's end of year picnic will be at Hawk Island, 1601 Cavanaugh Street, Lansing, MI 48910 on Thursday, May 28, 2009 from 5:30-7:30 pm. As this is a school wide event, we have asked our parents to RSVP so that we are able to provide enough hotdogs.

The families are also asked to bring a dish to pass and plates, napkins, cups, and utensils for their family, in order to support our continued efforts at being as "green" as possible. We invite you to join us, and please let the school know if you plan on attending by calling 517-351-3655.

### Going Green: 1 Project at a Time

The school continues its efforts toward becoming a more environmentally aware facility. As stated in our last newsletter, we have purchased and maintain two composting bins.

We have set-up a comprehensive recycling station for plastics, batteries, paper, aluminum, and box board.

We now offer reusable bags for purchase, which also display the school's name with some Montessori quotes.

At this year's Auction, we were able to reach our goal for purchasing a hoop style greenhouse and buying Toddler playground equipment. The greenhouse plans are still under way, with an anticipated installation in the fall. The Toddler playground equipment will be put in the second week of June, and a majority of the equipment is made of recyclable materials.

### Congratulations Grads!!

On behalf of the parents and staff at Radmoor, we would like to congratulate all of the students who are moving on to new experiences. We wish you luck in all of your new endeavors and challenges.



## Tree of Life

In honor of one of our past teachers, Deby Dantus, and per her request, we have purchased a Tree of Life with donations from staff and families, and with additional assistance from the school.

Deby's name will be on the base of the tree to honor her time here at the school. We also engraved a leaf recognizing the donations from last year's class and a leaf representing staff, friends, and families that donated in her honor.

Following Deby's wish, the tree will be an opportunity for parents to commemorate an achievement of their child, or recognize a staff member or classroom while continuing to bring contributions to the school. We will offer several different contribution levels. Here is a list of the available levels:

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

Production of the Tree of Life is progressing, with a projected delivery date at the end of May. It is our goal to have the tree in our lobby before the end of this school year.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or are interested in donating to this project.



Sample tree; our trunk will be plain bronze.

*"The secret of good teaching is to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of calming imagination."  
Maria Montessori*

## Montessori Radmoor After Hours

After Hours 2009, an evening of fun, food, dancing and silent and live auctions, was held on March 28, 2009 at the Walnut Hills Country Club in Meridian Township from 6 to 11 p.m.

The bidding in the Live auction was fast and furious, with parents actively pursuing their child's classroom project. Several trips and one-of-a-kind outings were also offered during the live portion of the event.

With the generous support of Radmoor's parents and friends, the event helped to raise around \$18,000 for the completion of a greenhouse project and new Toddler playground equipment.

Each year brings new and exciting additions to this occasion, so we look forward to you joining us on March 27, 2010 to personally experience the fun.



# Honoree, Doree Mehretu, Montessori Radmoor Toddler Directress, Retiring June, 2009

Doree Mehretu is retiring from the full time directress position for Toddler 1 in June. Although she has specifically requested that we not make a fuss, we invite any of her past students to join us at our end of year picnic at Hawk Island on Thursday, May 28, 2009 from 5:30-7:30 pm. No formal speeches will be made, just remembrances shared and a bit of cake. We hope you can join us!

The following paragraphs contain some wonderful memories from Doree's time at Montessori Radmoor School.

## How long have you been at Radmoor?

I worked at the Radmoor for 17 years. Prior to working at Radmoor she worked at the International Pre-School in East Lansing for 10 years.

## How has the school changed since you started working at Radmoor?

I think that the staff seems more committed to modeling a Montessori lifestyle in their words, behaviors and actions. The communication between staff seems more open and willing to share and help each other.

Under the leadership of Susie Hyatt, the school has developed long term objectives and goals. Within these plans, another toddler room was added to increase the base, therefore advancing the primary level. Having a core toddler staff who has worked together, some for ten years, has been invaluable for good communication, anticipation of the needs of staff, children and the smooth operation of the toddler environment.

A second elementary classroom was instituted and over the years developed a more equitable distribution of student numbers. Now, at all levels, the directresses have colleagues with whom they can brainstorm and exchange ideas and materials.

The in-service training sessions have been very beneficial for helping us to better understand and develop techniques for working with the children to better help them reach their potential.

## What are some of your most memorable experiences?

My Montessori training itself was very memorable. Not a day goes by that I do not think of some very specific aspect regarding working in the toddler environment that was highlighted in training.

The two years that my three grandchildren were in my classroom were very precious times for me to be a part of their development on a day-to-day basis. One of them moved here with his family so he could be in my classroom. What a special honor that was for me.

Observing toddlers in the spring is always a peaceful, joyous time, for it is then that their tremendous progress is most visible. Especially remembering how they were when they entered the classroom, and now observing in them competence and confidence.

It is heartening to observe former toddler classroom students who are now in elementary and watch them blossom and thrive. They demonstrate confidence, initiative, and interest in specific topics and areas in which they pursue their research.

## Has your Montessori experience affected your life in a meaningful way? How?

The Montessori experience has affected my life by helping me to realize the potential and abilities of children to pursue for themselves, and in the process feel a tremendous inward satisfaction for having accomplished their goal. It has helped me to respect the children for their uniqueness.

In a practical way, Montessori has helped me to be more organized and to plan ahead.

## What are your plans for the future?

My plans are to have opportunities to do many things that I do not have the time or energy to do when I was working all day. I hope to travel whenever the opportunity arises.

I will be happy to substitute at Radmoor.

Reading, tutoring and working with the League of Women Voters are programs with whom I would like to be involved.



*"Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge, but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities".*  
**Maria Montessori**



### Binomial Cube

A cube composed of 8 wooden blocks which fit together in a binomial pattern, representing the cube of two numbers,  $(a + b)$ , or tens plus units. All the blocks fit into a natural wood box. Each side of the cube has the same dimensions and pattern, and represents the square of  $(a + b)$  or  $(t + u)$ . The faces of the small blocks are color coded:  $a^2$  is always red,  $b^2$  is always blue, and "ab" is always black.

*"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment".*

*Maria Montessori*

### ***Lila Radway Scholarship***

In 2000, the Lila Radway Scholarship fund was established to assist families interested in a Montessori education but 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.