

# Montessori Radmoor Reflections

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October 2009

### Peace Day

In recognition of United Nations International Peace Day, on Monday, September 21st at 10:45 a.m., children, staff and parents joined together to sing the song 'Sing Peace around the World' with thousands of Montessori children worldwide.

Throughout the day children around the world sang the song in 5 minute increments. This song was written by Shelley Murley, a Montessori teacher, in honor of Maria Montessori and her work with children. Visit the website <http://singpeacearoundtheworld.blogspot.com> for more information.

"Although it is quite true that man as an individual can improve and that society can be based on principles of justice and love, all of us are aware that these goals do not constitute a reality just beyond our grasp but rather an aspiration whose fulfillment lies far in the future."

**Maria Montessori, Education and Peace**



### Contact and Conversation

**Facebook** - Thanks to the efforts of Aidan Kitching (1994) we have a Radmoor Montessori group page on Facebook. Please join us as many reminisce about their classroom, and it is a great spot to follow our upcoming events.

**Radmoor On-line** – We have a wonderful website where we post all information pertaining to the school. All alumni can check-in and give us contact information so that we can send you news throughout the year.

**Alumni Panel** – Held in late January, it is an event for current parents to discuss with past students how transitions from Montessori to another school system happen. It is also a chance for past students to explain how Montessori affected their lives.



### Tree of Life

We had a wonderful dedication ceremony on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 p.m. The tree was established in honor of Deby Dantus, a former teacher at the primary level. She wanted to offer a way for the school community, past and present, to commemorate special events. The Carr Family was also recognized for their contributions during the toddler room addition.

The tree is created of beautifully sculptured metals and is designed to recognize any number of donors. Leaf colors are available to differentiate donor categories. Additions of rocks, apples, and acorns are utilized to display additional donor status.

Please contact Melinda Schultz if you are interested in purchasing an item on the tree. See Ways to Support Radmoor for pricing information.



Deby Dantus, cutting the ribbon. Also shown, Jim and Diane Carr and Susie Hyatt.



Board Member Michael Stephenson & Founding/Board Member Jake Ferris.

### Upcoming Events

**Alumni Party** (6<sup>th</sup> grade and above) - Friday, Oct. 30, 2009, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Join us for a pizza party and game night for our past students, and an occasion to see old friends. If you can attend, please RSVP to Melinda Schultz at [mschultz@okemosmontessori.com](mailto:mschultz@okemosmontessori.com).

**Special Person's Day** - November 20, 2009

This event is for Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, or a special person in a child's life, to come and visit the Montessori Radmoor School and the child's classroom. It is an occasion for a family member to explore the Montessori environment, both inside and outside, with a child.

**Open House** – Sat., February 20, 2010, 10 am – 12 pm.

This is a chance for prospective Toddler and Primary students to visit the school. If you know of any interested families, please let them know of this opportunity.

**'After Hours' Auction** – Sat., March 27, 2010

An event that includes silent and live auctions, eating and dancing. We look forward to seeing many of our adult alumni for this entertaining evening.

## **Ann Marie Judge, Montessori Radmoor Alumnus**

### **Occupation/Interests:**

**Student:** Native American studies (the Ojibwe language, Ojibwe freehand beadwork and loom work, and Native literature particularly)

**Interests:** Creative writing, vocal music performance, painting, calligraphy, photography, comparative religious studies, spirituality, ancient Irish and Celtic studies, Christian historical studies, tattoo art and piercing, and body modification for spiritual/cultural ritual purposes.

### **When did you attend Radmoor?**

Primary through 4<sup>th</sup> grades, from 1992-97.

### **What memories do you have of Radmoor?**

Oh, goodness, I remember a lot! My favorite memories seem to generally revolve around the extensive projects we did, ones that I now know to be far more interdisciplinary than most of the public school work I did, such as a project we did to research world cultures where we got into small groups and each picked a culture we were interested in—we then not only researched the cultures, but made “passports,” and baked foods from each country (I picked Greece). The other project I remember was a research project on Native American culture—the part I remember liking most was that I built a small model of an Ojibwe longhouse. Again, it wasn't just cold research and paper to prove our literacy; the project included many or all of the senses, which just doesn't happen in public schools! And of course, the Tracks and Ranger Rick publications were a huge favorite—all of the nature walks and projects we did were spectacular!

In general, I remember a feeling of freedom I haven't felt in any school since, but one that has stuck with me to this day. When I have an interest in something, I form my classes and my schoolwork around that interest...I've always been an exception, and most always, I've made my education work for me, which isn't something I think I would have known I could do had I not gone to the Montessori school system in my more formative years.

### **Schools attended after Radmoor (middle school, high school, college, etc).**

Scott Elementary School (DeWitt, MI)

DeWitt Middle, Jr. High, and High Schools

Lansing Community College (junior, senior years of high school)

Beloit College (Beloit, WI, Freshman)

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Sophomore)

University of Michigan – Graduated with a Bachelor of English

### **How did your early Montessori education play a role in your later academic, professional and personal life?**

Again, the great academic freedom I had in Montessori really played a huge part in the entirety of my life to this day. I actually am currently enrolled in the University of Michigan's School of Education because of how strongly I feel about the need to revamp the public school system. (Graduated from U of M with an English major).

I want to possibly go on to get certification to teach the Montessori method, and I am still considering applying for a position in a few years in Maryland with the Sudbury school system, of which I visited a few years ago and fell madly in love with! (Fairhaven School).

She is now living in Albuquerque, New Mexico following her interests and hobbies.



*“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*

## Material Memories



### Racks and Tubes

This set consists of 4 color-coded division boards and a wooden tray, which holds seven racks of tubes with beads, 7 wooden, colored cups, and 36 skittles in a wooden box. With this material, the child performs distributive short and long division with dividends up to the millions and divisors up to 4 digits.

### Bells

The Montessori Bells and other instruments are introduced individually. Isolating pitch is one of the first exercises with the Montessori Bells. Gradually, the child learns to pair the bells, which correspond to the sharps and flats of the piano. Music notation and theory are presented as the child is ready.

#### From Alumni Bill Ferris (1968-1973)

He remembers snack time, the bells, and different ages of children as his peers. He learned to keep things in good condition. He polished the bells as a toddler.



### Sandpaper Letters

The child's first exposure to the printed letter comes with his work with the sandpaper letters. The teacher will demonstrate the proper formation of the letter as she traces it with the first two fingers of her dominant hand, simultaneously saying the sound. She will then guide the child's fingers in the same fashion, saying the sound, and having him say the sound with her.

In this "first period", the sounds of the sandpaper letters are simply introduced to the child as he traces them.



In the "second period", after tracing the sandpaper letters, the teacher will ask the child to point out the sounds that she indicates. "Show me /s/. Show me /m/." Several games can be played at this point to keep the child engaged. "Put the /r/ on the rug. Put /l/ on your lap. Turn /u/ upside down."

In the "third period", the teacher will point to a sandpaper letter and ask "What sound is this?"

When sounds appear to be mastered, then the teacher can start blending the sounds with the sandpaper letters.

## 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](mailto: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're 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 due the 15th of every month.

***Fruit, Poinsettia & Holiday Coffees Fundraiser*** - Do you need a great gift idea for a relative, friend, employee, co-worker or neighbor? How about making your office or home festive, while supporting your school? Forms are available October 19th, with orders due November 6th.

***PGA T-Shirt/Sweatshirt/Grocery Bag Tote Sale*** – Available sizes: Toddler/Child, Youth, and Adult. Several styles and colors are available.