

APERFIELD MONTESSORI TRUST

Founder: Miss Binda Goldsbrough

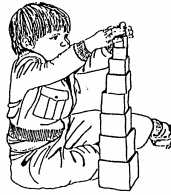
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Newsletter to Tutors and Students September 2009 Chat from Acting Educational Coordinator: Di Fenwick



Welcome to our **Spring** newsletter.

Greetings,

This will be my last chat to you as I am very pleased to announce that the Trust has appointed Vida Schurr as Educational Coordinator. She will take over my responsibilities in this role as from the beginning of Term 4. Vida will introduce herself to you in our next newsletter but in the meantime I am sure you join me I am sure you all join me in welcoming Vida to the Aperfield Montessori Trust.

This term I attended an interesting professional development workshop on brain friendly teaching. Extensive neuroscience research has proven that both the internal (physiological) and external (physical) conditions affect our brain fitness and therefore influence the effectiveness of our study and learning. I am sure as it was for myself most of these ideas won't be new to you however I hope that by sharing with you a few of the main strategies from the workshop it may prompt you to look again at your own learning environment and ensure it is the best it can be.

- The physical environment is so important! Ensure you have comfortable setting, good lighting (natural preferred), a clear workspace, plenty of ventilation and colourful and attractive visual material on the walls – pictures, photos, posters.
- Your physical state is equally important -have a high protein snack before you begin and stay hydrated. Remember – calm coordinated body = alert receptive brain. Play music to mask other external noises and try to create an aesthetically pleasing work station.
- Know your learning style – there are various tests on the net if you are unsure of this then do try to gear your study techniques to match your style-e.g. if you are a visual learner use mind maps, graphics, coloured pens etc when making study notes.
- Do set yourself regular weekly/monthly goals for your study and imagine successful conclusions to your plans.
- For adults research has shown that real attention span that will lead to good memory retention for 1 type of activity is about 15 minutes – after this time it is a good idea to change some aspect of your study.

e.g.: Get up and do some simple brain gym exercises for a couple of minutes(www.healthyexerciseworld.com), Read out loud rather than to yourself, change your

location, go tell someone what have just been reading about, put on some background music.

Remember that variety is the spice of both classroom and individual learning!

I am looking forward to meeting some of you when I am guest examiner at the Practical workshop in September.

As always I wish you all continuing success in your Montessori studies.

Di Fenwick.

Directed Distance Learning Book 1

Twelve enthusiastic students have come together to take the Book 1 Introductory course in Christchurch. The students will cover the practical demonstrations for each curriculum area in a face to face setting each fortnight. This course runs on alternate Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm – 9pm during school term time from 20 July until 2nd November approx. The preschool is St Andrews Preschool and the tutor, Beverley Rose, a most experienced tutor and Montessorian.

A small group of six enthusiastic students has completed Book 4 in Semester 2 at Airdmhor Montessori with Deborah Gath as Tutor.

Book 1 Practical Workshop

A practical workshop for Book 1 students in the southern half of the South Island has been held in Timaru at Garden Grove Montessori covering Practical Life Activities on 22nd & 23rd August. The second weekend covering Sensorial activities will be held at Montessori @ the Gardens in Dunedin on 12th & 13th September when the students will take their practical assessment.

The Timaru workshop got off to a flying start early on the Saturday morning and students were treated to their tutor Shubha Narayan's skills and knowledge, inspiring them to take back what they learnt to their classrooms. Thank you to Shubha, Workshop Director and Di Fenwick as visiting examiner in Dunedin for giving up their weekends to share their passion for Montessori education with you.

Preschools Paying Course Fees

We have received feedback from the preschools where the employer pays for the full cost of the staff member's course fees. We encourage students who have had this privilege to please discuss with your employer the possibility of you signing the declaration on the back or last page of our enrolment form. This will allow your employer to be informed of your progress on the course. The Trust however is unable to give out any such information if the staff member / student has not signed the declaration.

Written Exam 2009

A Written Exam is to be held on **Saturday 31 October 2009 from 9.30am until 12.30pm** with approximately 10 students sitting. The main centre is Christchurch where the exam will be held at Rangi Ruru Girl's College, 57 Hewitts Road, in the gymnasium block. The executive officer will be mailing the enrolment forms during the week of 13th September. Please apply to the Executive Officer for the enrolment form if you plan to take the written examination this year and you haven't received it in the mail. You will need to have completed and passed all the assignments for Books 1- 4, the Ministerial Module, the Practical Workshop and Practical Examination. If you require a special sitting in your own location, also please advise us **ASAP**, as a suitable supervisor will have to be appointed. The fee for a special sitting in your location is \$135 and needs to accompany your completed Enrolment Form (\$95 enrolment fee if sitting the exam in Christchurch with the main group). If you are planning to complete the diploma this year, we look forward to hearing from you.

Enrolments Closed for Book 1 in 2009

The Trust has decided to close enrolments for 2009. This is due the Ministry of Education requirements that course enrolment cannot span over more than 2 academic years. You are allocated up to 1 year to complete each course (with an optional extension for 6 months at the fee of \$112.50 if needed to complete the course). We recommend that you enrol in the first half of the academic year to get the maximum time allowable to complete your course. The January or February of an academic year is the optimum time.

Students wishing to enrol in Book 1 in 2010 can send their enrolment and payment into Petra Marks, our administrator in early November. If requested you may peruse the course text in advance while having an official start date of 1 January 2010. Assignments will be marked by your allocated tutor after that date. Remember that January is a holiday period for the Trust's tutors so later in the month is recommended.

Tutor Training Term 3

The Trust is planning to hold the Term 3 tutor training meeting on the review of the Ministerial Module course. This has become important as the MOE has announced the new regulations for Early Childhood Centres on 31 August (available from Whitcouls –Government Book shop). The Module textbooks will have to be amended in line with the new requirements. The changes will affect students who enrol in the Ministerial Module in 2010.

Library

The Aperfield Montessori Trust has a collection of books, journals and videos which we make available on loan to all our Tutors or Students on request from the Administrator. A full list is available from Petra. We encourage you to use this facility. The Terms of Borrowing are at very reasonable rates. Items can be borrowed for **6 weeks, free of charge**. Students are to pay for the return postage only. If you have any comments or suggestions for the Library, we would be pleased to consider them.

Happy Studying! Di Fenwick (Acting Educational Coordinator) & Mary Stephen (EO)