



January 2014

Dear Montessori Heads of School,

It is IMPOSSIBLE to believe that we are already in the middle of another school year. By now the dust has settled and we invite everyone to mark their calendars for the Tenth Annual Montessori Teachers' Association of Delaware winter conference to be held at Hockessin Montessori School on Friday, February 14, 2014. Our keynote speaker will spotlight Parent Relationships and feature Gigi Schweikert (www.gigischweikert.com). Afternoon breakout sessions will focus on many topics both traditional and Montessori. Registration is now available through DIEEC (www.dieec@udel.edu) and Provider Pursuits. Go to <http://dieec.udel.edu/registry/training/detail/3068> to register. Delaware teachers who have not created a profile will need to set one up through DIEEC in order to register and receive State of DE training hour credits.

During this past year MTAD awarded its first ever scholarship to Suzanne Lenhard who attends the Early Childhood training program at DIME. We are most interested in sustaining our scholarship fund to retain the Montessori Teachers' Association of Delaware vibrant commitment to teachers. Membership this year will be on a per student basis and the proceeds will go to the MTAD /Marilyn Tokarsky Teacher Education Scholarship Fund. Please send in your membership dues of \$1.50 per student (Maximum cap of \$200) to Janette Henry (MTAD Treasurer), 1000 Old Lancaster Pike, Hockessin, DE 19707 by February 7, 2014 so your school maintains an active link on the MTAD website (www.montessoride.org).

If you know of someone interested in a scholarship application for the 2014-2015 year please contact the Scholarship Chair:

Lisa Wilson Riblett, Head of School
MTAD/Marilyn Tokarsky Teacher Education Scholarship
Montessori Learning Centre
2313 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19803
lisawr@montessorilc.com

*Applications will also be available at the 2014 Annual MTAD conference.

Additionally we would like to add a little "excitement" to the Tenth Annual MTAD Conference in the form of a basket auction. Please consider a donation of a themed basket to the conference and these proceeds will be added to the MTAD /Marilyn Tokarsky Teacher Education Scholarship Fund. We will be selling chances at the conference to people interested in winning a basket. Who wouldn't love to win a basket of chocolates, teacher supplies, wine, student activities the possibilities are endless. Contact the conference chair, Janette Henry, if you are interested in donating.

The Montessori Teachers' Association of Delaware changed its bylaws Spring 2013 to ensure that each member school was included at MTAD board meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2014 at 4 pm at Panera Bread on Route 202 across from Astra Zeneca in the Fairfax Shopping Center. We invite you to send either an administrator or a teacher representative to be a voice and vote on the MTAD board.

MTAD is committed to being a Montessori voice in Delaware. At the state level, three Montessori member schools are participating in DE STARS (CACC Montessori, Children's House Montessori, and Wilmington Montessori School). Three schools participated as presenters in last year's Early Childhood Make a Difference Conference in Dover (Children's House, Montessori Academy at Christina, and Wilmington Montessori) and have submitted proposals to this year's 2014 conference. At the National level we have already begun to plan ways in which we can be involved at the 2015 AMS National Conference to be held in Philadelphia, PA. This is a great opportunity for all our staff not only to attend but to offer presentation proposals and join task forces to work at the conference in a variety of ways. We want to be sure DELAWARE is noticed as a significant contributor to Montessori.

We celebrate and congratulate both Hockessin Montessori School and Wilmington Montessori School as they celebrate their 50th year in Delaware contributing to a long history of Montessori presence and voice in Delaware's education system.

Please take the time to get your membership information in to us, fill out and hand out the attached information, become an active member of MTAD and be a voice for Montessori in Delaware.

Sincerely and Happy 2014,

Cathy Lopez-Cooling (MTAD President) cathy@childrenshouse-de.org

Lisa Wilson Riblett (MTAD Vice President and Teacher Scholarship Co-Chair) lisawr@montessorilc.com

McCrae Harrison (MTAD Secretary) HarrisonE@Christina.k12.de.us

Janette Henry (MTAD Treasurer and Conference Chair) jhenry@thehms.org

Penny Escobar (MTAD Membership Chair) penny@newarkmontessori.org

Marie Dugan (MTAD Representative and Teacher Scholarship Co-Chair) marie_dugan@wmsde.org

P.S. Thank you to ALL the Delaware Montessori schools (there are 10 of us!!) who quickly responded and rallied together to support a full page MTAD ad in the January 2014 issue of Metro Kids. It looks FANTASTIC on the back cover page with an additional promotional ½ page article within the issue. Special thanks to Noel Dietrich at WMS for taking the time to design the ad under a quick deadline.

Attachments: MTAD Membership Letter, MTAD Membership Form, Calling All Delaware Montessori Schools