

THE MONTESSORI REVIEW

News from the Montessori Teacher Education Graduate Program at Oklahoma City University

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Left to Right: Charlotte Wood-Wilson, Director, Montessori Teacher Education Program (OCU); Aimee Sims, Primary Division Director (Westminster School)



5-Day Garden



Practical Life

FROM THE DIRECTOR: CHARLOTTE WOOD-WILSON

Welcome to the first bi-monthly Montessori Graduate Program newsletter, the idea of my Graduate Assistant, Ankie Yip. We hope to stay more connected with former graduates and also get to know current students better. It was a busy summer and the former interns have all accepted jobs. It is always sad to say good-bye, but as one class leaves another begins. It is certainly bittersweet. The end of the year was exciting with interns presenting at Rainbow Fleet as part of the First Friday Art Walk on Paseo. They displayed their projects and answered questions posed by curious visitors. It was our first time doing this, and we came away with many ideas to make it even better next year. So mark your calendar for the First Friday in May or June of 2014.

I will sign off with a quote a fellow colleague gave me on Thursday. "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." - Mohandas Ghandi



LENDING A HAND AT THE ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL SOCIAL: WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, OKLAHOMA CITY

By: Ankie Yip

Westminster School's Primary Division building was abuzz on Sunday, August 18th as the school opened its doors to hundreds of students for a day of fun at the annual all school celebration from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Guests were treated to delicious M&Ms upon arrival and were greeted by many familiar faces among the faculty.

As a Montessori intern, I was fortunate to have gotten a first-hand experience of the event and I really enjoyed welcoming our homeroom children. It was great to be able to put faces to names. I observed the enthusiasm and expertise that 5-Day pre-kindergarten Lead Teachers, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Lauzon, demonstrated in describing the elaborate classroom materials and curriculum for the upcoming year. Some students were already getting involved, taking some of the materials apart and putting them back together. They were ready to dive right into work!

The French doors leading out to the gorgeous, well-kept garden, maintained with care by Mrs. Wilson and fellow teachers, was of great interest to children. During the year, children will have the opportunity to learn more about nature, plants, and the processes of natural growth.

Another striking aspect of the day's event was how involved the parents were, as they carefully visited each corner of the classroom and shared with their children their excitement about education. The classroom really is a space that enables the community to come together. By 5:30 p.m., the crowd began to disperse and the celebration came to a close. It was inspiring to see the Primary Division come alive. I'm looking forward to the year!

Ankie is currently completing her M.Ed in Montessori Education and AMS/MACTE credentials at Oklahoma City University. She is a Graduate Assistant of the program at OCU and Montessori intern at Westminster School.

THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS... Westminster School and Casady School have again partnered with our excellent program. These schools represent two of the most prestigious Montessori teacher intern sites in the area.

MEET OUR 2013-14 MONTESSORI INTERNS!



My name is **Staci Jensen** and I am from Norman, OK. I have been married for fourteen years and have two beautiful daughters, ages 2 ½ and 6. I earned my bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma with a major in viola performance. Following this, I earned my teaching certificate in instrumental music education. My husband and I moved to Berkeley, CA where I worked as an assistant and music teacher at a Montessori school, taught private viola and violin lessons, and was an active performer of new music. We relocated to Minneapolis, MN where I worked in another Montessori classroom as an assistant and music teacher, and continued teaching privately and performing. I have since been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to stay at home and raise both of my children. In my spare time, I enjoy playing music, gardening, and spending quality time with our six chickens. I've had a long-time interest in the Montessori method and have finally taken the opportunity to pursue it further.



My name is **Yi Jiang** and I am from Wuxi, a middle-sized city in China. My bachelor's degree is in Journalism but I really love children and I am eager to learn more about children. Before I chose Montessori, I studied early childhood education for one semester in New York. It was my first time getting to know Montessori. She paid attention to sensory and motor skills and also created different kinds of materials to develop these skills. Montessori has been developing very fast in China these years. It is becoming one of the most popular educational systems applied in daycare centers in China. Some centers I visited were not professional. They made full use of Montessori materials but not Montessori thoughts. I want to study professional knowledge and someday have a chance to contribute to Montessori development in China. I am expecting to know and see how Montessori can develop so well in America and collect examples and experience the Montessori system here.



I'm **Hongfei Yang**. I'm 24 years old and I come from the northeast part of China, Jilin Province. I have been in Oklahoma for two years and I earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, majoring in Teaching English as a Second Language. I'm working on my second master's degree in the early childhood Montessori education program at Oklahoma City University, and am now interning in the Primary Division at Casady School. I love children because they always show me how easy it is to be happy. I love the Montessori program because it teaches me how to become more advanced in helping children. I also like Oklahoma State because the people here are nice, and the whole state is quiet and peaceful. I like everything in Oklahoma except for the tornadoes.



My name is **Ankie Yip** and I'm from Toronto, Ontario (Canada). I have a B.A. Honours Double Major degree in Communications and Fine Arts Cultural Studies from York University (2007), and certificate in Event Management (2010). I've studied piano since the age of eight, earning Royal Conservatory of Music certifications in Gr. 10 Piano, Honours (2001), and Elementary Piano Pedagogy (2006). I've taught at private piano institutions since 2001, recently training and assessing over fifty students per year since 2010 with award-winning client retention (2011) and high student achievements. I've also worked in management and leadership positions in non-music related corporate public relations and event coordination. Some of my skills and interests include early childhood education, public relations, organizational leadership and philanthropy. I'm now pursuing a M.Ed in Montessori Education at Oklahoma City University to broaden my career as a certified Montessori educator. I am a Montessori intern at Westminster School (OKC) and a Graduate Assistant in the Montessori program at OCU. My passion is to establish an international Montessori school, develop a strong music curriculum, and provide many children with quality education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Seminars - October 11-13
Walker Center, Rm. 143

Montessori Materials and Project Planning: **Next Meeting**: Sept. 27, 5-9 p.m. (Walker Center, Rm. 143)

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

This bi-monthly publication serves as a platform for current students and alumni to communicate ideas, share experiences and stay in touch with colleagues.

Interested in contributing a short story article for a future issue?
Contact Ankie at ayip@my.okcu.edu.

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