



NAMC News

SPRING 2006

SHARING INFORMATION AND IDEAS AMONG OUR SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND GRADUATES



Message from Dale Gausman, Program Director

In this issue you will hear from an alumnus who has applied her NAMC education with children overseas and in North America, and is now successfully operating her own Montessori school. Also in this newsletter, we introduce you to an exciting, easy-to-implement music program that any teacher can apply to the 3-6, 6-9 or 9-12 classroom.

We are grateful for the positive feedback we receive from NAMC students and graduates, and are continually encouraged by your requests for further educational programs that would benefit your goals as Montessori educators.

Keeping up with the demand has become a primary focus here at NAMC, and dialogue with our supporting schools, students and alumni is vital to our efforts to create and enhance Montessori teacher education programs that are relevant to today's challenges. You truly inspire us!

Feedback on our enhanced Preschool/Kindergarten (ages 3 to 6) Diploma Program is very positive. The addition of over five hours of video and over 700 pages of blackline masters to this program has added great value and an outstanding complement to our full-color manuals.

Plans to offer new, ground-breaking diploma programs are well underway. Our team of professional Montessori teachers, writers, researchers and designers are hard at work creating NAMC's Upper Elementary (ages 9 to 12) Diploma Program, which we anticipate being available in the Fall of 2006. We are very excited about this curriculum which, when complete, will be unparalleled, anywhere in the world. Look inside this issue for a preview of things to come!

Please stay tuned to the NAMC website for further information about these and other new program developments.

Thank you!

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MONTESSORI

UPPER ELEMENTARY (9 TO 12) DIPLOMA PROGRAM



Coming in Fall 2006

We are very proud to introduce this exciting new program!

The new NAMC Upper Elementary Diploma Program includes our trademark quality, full-color curriculum manuals, with hundreds of blackline masters to complement the curriculum content. Three years and a team of professional Montessori teachers, writers and designers, with **meticulous attention to detail, give you the best Upper Elementary (UE) teaching resources available worldwide!**

The NAMC Upper Elementary curriculum is a natural progression from Lower Elementary (LE), advancing key concepts in all areas of the LE curriculum, and introducing new elements that spark the interest and imagination of the 9-12 Montessori student.

MONTESSORI EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO THEORY AND CURRICULUM

*Pulling It All Together in the
Montessori Classroom*

As Montessori grows worldwide, the demand for theoretical, administrative and class management instruction at the Montessori Elementary (6 to 12) level has never been greater. Now you will have it at your fingertips! **NAMC is creating a comprehensive Guide that provides much-needed and asked-for direction in the following areas:**

- Goals of the elementary program
- Elementary environmental design
- Teaching the Montessori way
- Keep it exciting and inspiring
- Program implementation
- Observation, recordkeeping
- Classroom management
- Starting elementary classes
- Sample forms
- Resources

NATURAL SCIENCES

In-depth study of **Zoology, Botany, Ecology and Astronomy** are found in this comprehensive curriculum, with **plenty of activities and experiments to stimulate inquisitive and busy minds.** Venturing into the world of natural science gives students a very real sense of humankind's place in this world, and how we can live in harmony with all living things.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Budding scientists discover new frontiers when given the environment to explore! Physical Sciences open the doors to study **Matter, Energy and Technology using scientific method, tools and techniques.**

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Expanding on areas introduced in LE Physical Geography, the UE curriculum provides a **unique opportunity for students to access and understand earth and its complexity, physical beauty and power.**

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Detailed study of continents, countries, communities and cultures, environment, basic human needs, and mapping human activities form a solid foundation on which to build bridges to global cooperation, interaction, understanding and tolerance among young citizens.

WORLD HISTORY

History at the UE level centers on **ancient civilizations, early exploration of the world, the timeline of modern history, art history, and an introduction to historical research.** Humankind's short time on earth is full of fascinating events and amazing developments that do indeed affect our daily lives!

USA HISTORY / CANADIAN HISTORY

Students learn about the **indigenous peoples, exploration and settlement by non-natives, colonial times, formation of the country, industry of the 1800s, development from 1865 to 1918 and from 1918 to 1945, states/provinces/territories, the people, government, politics and citizenship.**

LANGUAGE ARTS

Furthering the solid skills developed in LE, our UE Language curriculum fosters a love of reading and communicating. **At the core of this curriculum: skill development in speaking and listening, handwriting, spelling, grammar and syntax, reading, word study, the mechanics of writing, research skills, literature and persuasion.**

MATHEMATICS

Montessori math continues with the hands-on approach, **moving further into critical thinking and problem-solving skills, covering everything from the decimal system to graphs, statistics, practical applications, pre-algebra, and geometry.**

HEALTH SCIENCES

Montessori believed that a healthy body, spirit and mind were the keys to creating peaceful, productive citizens. Our approach



to health sciences in the UE curriculum **includes food and food handling, nutrition, individual and community development, wellness, physical education and sport.**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN THIS EXCITING NEW PROGRAM IS READY TO BE LAUNCHED, SEND AN E-MAIL REQUEST, INCLUDING YOUR FULL NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO:
upper-elementary@montessoritraining.net



www.montessoritraining.net

Spotlight on NAMC alumni

“Like seeds, nourish children and they shall grow and bloom.”

– Tanya April Yousif, British Columbia, Canada



Even as a young child, Tanya Yousif loved to teach. “I would make my younger brother play school with me,” says Tanya, “and I pretended to be the teacher.” Today, she is operating and teaching in her own Montessori preschool.

As an adult, Tanya pursued her interest in education, studying Child and Youth Care Counseling and Bachelor of Social Work, beginning her career in the childcare field in 1994. In 1998, she was introduced to Montessori, and she was captivated. “I observed a Montessori preschool classroom at Dale Gausman’s school, and fell in love with the way these children were learning,” says Tanya. “It was delightful and busy!”

While Tanya studied for her NAMC Preschool/Kindergarten diploma, she volunteered and worked at local Montessori schools. Upon acquiring her NAMC diploma, she began full-time employment. Two years later, a friend who had been overseas encouraged her to apply to a Montessori program in Thailand. Within a few short months she had sold all her possessions and was on her way to Thailand.

Tanya’s first experience was complete and utter culture shock. “I rode a motorbike on a dirt path to school,” says Tanya. “Stray dogs, water buffalo and monsoon season....too much fun!” She did not speak the language, and was commissioned to build and stock a Montessori preschool classroom from scratch, with no budget. Through the generosity of an American colleague at the school and a resourcefulness that was borne of necessity, Tanya succeeded in establishing and implementing her first Montessori preschool classroom. The children, representing 21 different nationalities, were eager to learn. “Within three months, the children were normalized,” says Tanya, “They were busy, busy, busy!”



Montessori Pre/K - Thailand

It was not long before Tanya was in demand. During her three years in Thailand, she taught Montessori in both private International and public school settings, participated in special Math and English camps, developed and implemented two Montessori preschool programs and trained teachers and assistants, introduced Montessori to families, and more. She was involved in the establishment of the Montessori Association located in Bangkok. In the meantime, she met and married her husband Aktham, and decided to return to Canada when she was expecting her first child.

US/Canada toll free: 1-877-531-6665

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Field Trip - Blossom Progressive Montessori

Tanya calls them the best three years of her life. The reward of seeing children respond so fully and quickly to the Montessori environment and develop a true love of learning, and to see teachers modeling and applying their training in the classroom, made all the effort worthwhile. It was exciting to share her knowledge with the Thai people, who were so interested in Montessori. Tanya returned home with a new appreciation for the educational and economic privilege of North America, and a love for the people of Thailand. She was ready to make her dream come true...to open her own Montessori Preschool in Canada.

Fourteen months ago, Tanya welcomed her first seven students to Blossom Progressive Montessori Preschool in British Columbia. Today, 60 students attend Blossom Progressive Montessori.

Tanya's inspiration is the children. "I just love to see the children come alive and develop a love of learning," says Tanya, "They enter kindergarten or grade one eager and confident. It is all about giving them that solid foundation for a life of learning." Tanya also credits her experience abroad – including Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, United Arab Emirates, and a journey across the Thai border into Cambodia – as being instrumental in her personal and professional development.

What lies ahead? "There is definitely more for me to do," says Tanya. In addition to expanding her existing program, she sees great potential for more Montessori schools in her region. Other dreams for the future include volunteering at a Montessori school in Italy, and writing/publishing children's books. Asked what she looks for when hiring teachers, Tanya is quick to respond. "Someone who shares the passion, who makes everything exciting and interesting, who has a peaceful disposition...you can tell right away," says Tanya. "They've got to have that fire, patience, and a big heart. A big heart goes a long way."



Tanya Yousif lives in the Lake Country area of British Columbia, Canada, with her husband Aktham and son Zachary, age 3.

Letter from a NAMC Graduate, March 2006

I received my Diploma today!
I am so happy.

The course was excellent. I really appreciate how quickly you responded to my work; you never left me in the dark! When I would receive an e-mail from you, I would be so nervous hoping that I did well. Thankfully I did, it was so nice to know you were always there if I needed you! The girls at work gave me a beautiful gift and card for completing the program. I am very lucky to be working in such a lovely, small school.

Now I can put my feet up before my big day! In eight days I will be married! I'm getting that nervous and excited feeling all in one! Tell the NAMC team thank you for their best wishes for David and me.

I'll be in touch again.
Thank you!

Sinéad
NAMC Pre/K graduate, Ireland





FUN with COMPOSERS
www.funwithcomposers.com

NAMC introduces *Fun with Composers*, a user-friendly music program for the classroom!

There's music in the air....and maestros everywhere! Just imagine your students enthralled and inspired as they move to the beautiful rhythms of the great composers such as Strauss, Mozart, Brahms and Bizet, to name a few.



If you are one of many who might say, "Me? Teaching classical music in the classroom? I just can't see it!" You are certainly not alone. Many schools would love to offer a dynamic music program for their preschool or elementary-age students. But without a music specialist on hand, it seems a daunting task, indeed.

Deborah Lyn Ziolkoski knows very well that not every teacher has the confidence or tools to introduce and execute a well-planned music program to the classroom. This 15-year music specialist with equally strong passions for music and education decided to create a program for teachers, parents and students that would bring the music of great composers alive in the classroom and at home. *Fun with Composers* was born, with the goal "that every child participates, feels successful, and most importantly, thoroughly enjoys the music." (from *Fun with Composers* mission statement).

When Deborah and *Fun with Composers* were introduced to NAMC in early 2006, Program Director Dale Gausman saw that it could be a valuable tool for our students and graduates. "*Fun with Composers* embraces much of the Montessori philosophy and method, even though it was not designed as a Montessori program," says Dale. "What I see is a very exciting, user-friendly classical music program that virtually anyone can implement and execute. The guides, DVDs and CDs contain everything a teacher needs to help students experience classical music in a fun and meaningful way."

"The purpose of *Fun with Composers* is to spark excitement and develop in children an appreciation for classical music," says Deborah. "It brings classical music from what can seem to children like a complicated, mysterious form to one that is completely child-centered and fascinating."



The Teacher's Guides (Ages 3-6 and Ages 7-12 programs, sold separately) contain lesson plans, reproducible pages that include composer images, biographies, music maps and activity pages to enrich student's learning experience. Also included is a CD with fun lyrics tied to real orchestral arrangements that encourage students to sing along and follow the music maps. DVD demonstrations of the teaching process, key teaching strategies,

and final outcomes of each composition show a condensed version of the Teacher's Guide, featuring real students.

Just for Kids Guides (CD included) are also available for sale. "I truly believe Just for Kids sets our program apart from others because the children can bring the music home to share with family and friends," says Deborah. Parents love Just for Kids too, which include all the maps, stories, composer images, and activity sheets that have been introduced in the classroom.



Prices for the program are very affordable, and at Gausman's request *Fun with Composers* is offering NAMC students/graduates Preferred Customer treatment, with a 15% discount off the Teacher Guide/CD/DVD purchase price. For more information, visit www.funwithcomposers.com and give Deborah your NAMC student number via email: info@funwithcomposers.com or telephone: 604.541.2928.

Deborah Lyn Ziolkoski is an elementary music specialist with the Surrey School District in British Columbia. She has a Bachelor of Education with a music major, and her Masters Orff level from the University of Memphis. In addition to her busy schedule with *Fun with Composers*, Deborah designs teacher-guided activities for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's elementary school concerts. Her Orff groups have performed at many events, including the National Orff Conference. Deborah lives in White Rock, BC with her husband Ed and their three daughters, Annika, Lauren, and Charlize.

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Toll Free USA/Canada: 1-888-700-1333
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www.funwithcomposers.com



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