



# CONNECTIONS

January 13, 2010

**In this issue:**

The Parent Story of the Decade	1
The Parent Story of the Decade	2
A Thank You Message from St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa Inc.	2
Reminder Parent - Parent Meeting	2
Looking for Volunteers	3
Montessori Education: Prepared for Life	3
Dates to Remember	3

## THE PARENT STORY OF THE DECADE

### Helicopter Parenting

By Tony E., Dundas Valley Montessori School

*The insanity crept up on us slowly; we just wanted what was best for our kids. We bought macrobiotic cupcakes and hypoallergenic socks, hired tutors to correct a 5-year-old's "pencil-holding deficiency," hooked up broadband connections in the treehouse but took down the swing set after the second skinned knee. We hovered over every school, playground and practice field - "helicopter parents," teachers christened us, a phenomenon that spread to parents of all ages, races and regions." Time Magazine, Fri., Nov 29. 2009.*



Does this sound familiar? You are not alone. This fascinating article on the dark side of the helicopter phenomena speaks to the importance of allowing children to develop independence. Sometimes the hardest part of loving your children is trusting them enough to make mistakes. In a time where children have never been safer, it is unusual to see children walking to school or playing outside unchaperoned. Even

when we try to send our kids outside to play, all the other children are inside so they just want to come back in.

The irony is that by protecting our children we make them more vulnerable. They don't look inside themselves for moral and cultural lessons - they look to adults to teach them and give them approval. We best protect our children from the dangers of water by teaching them how to swim. It would be shallow minded and more dangerous to instead keep them away from water. (Not to mention the loss of the joys of swimming.)

Montessori education has at its core a faith in the child. This is what most clearly separates it from other forms of education. We are not advocating letting the child run free from dawn to dusk. Freedom within clearly defined limits allows for a child to grow.

Please read the Time magazine article and for your New Years resolution step back and observe your own unique family so you can find the ways to slowly but surely encourage meaningful freedom in your own children.

*Continued on page 2*

By doing this you allow for independence and engagement in children and let them learn lessons on their own - we all know from our own lives that these are the most meaningful lessons.

As Montessori said 100 years ago - Help me to help myself. To read the Time magazine article please visit: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1940395,00.html>

## Thank you



I would like to thank you, your colleagues and your students for extending the spirit of this special season again this year to a number of Residents of St. Patrick's Home. Your thoughtfulness and generosity demonstrated that the true spirit of Christmas is alive and well in our community.

I would like to say a special thank you to your students who, in their interaction with our Resident's, were caring, courteous and respectful. Once again, they were a credit to your school.

I would like to extend to everyone at Ottawa Montessori School our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

Linda C.

Chief Executive Officer  
St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa Inc.

## REMINDER

### Parent - Parent Meeting



We invite you to attend the Parent - Parent meeting scheduled for **Thursday, January 14th** at **7 p.m.** Teaching staff will be present for the first half hour to chat with you over refreshments and then you will have the chance to speak with experienced parents from each level.

If your child is changing levels for the 2010 - 2011 school year, we hope you will join us for this meeting as part of the decision making process for your child's future education.

Please R.S.V.P Laurie at [info@ottawamontessori.com](mailto:info@ottawamontessori.com) or by phoning (613) 521-5185.

#### Event Info

Multi-purpose room

January 14, 2010

7 p.m.

You are also invited to observe in a classroom at the next level. Please contact Patricia at [registrar@ottawamontessori.com](mailto:registrar@ottawamontessori.com) or by phoning (613) 521-5185 to schedule an observation.



## **Montessori Education: Prepared for Life**

Trevor Eissler, author of *Montessori Madness*

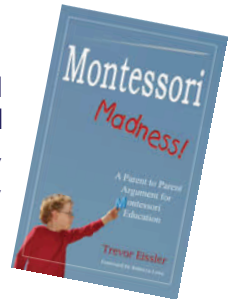
**Thursday, January 28, 2010**

OMS Gymnasium

7 p.m.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Trevor Eissler has written a book that challenges the direction chosen by traditional schools and supports the choice of a Montessori education with passion and understanding. He is a father of three Montessori students, a pilot, a flight instructor, an author, a storyteller, a juggler, a unicyclist, a Toastmaster, a pianist, a triathlete, and a husband. *Trevor wants to be a Montessori student when he grows up!*



### **MONTESSORI EDUCATION: PREPARED FOR LIFE**

Parents want to know how their children will do once they leave Montessori. How will they fit in during college or a career? Trevor brings examples from his life as a parent and as a career pilot, to show a non-educator's perspective on the vital importance of the universal principles of learning in the Montessori philosophy: the control of error, absorbent mind, community, rewards and punishments, concentration, etc.

(Trevor's book, *Montessori Madness* is still available to parents for free in the office if you do not yet have a copy.)

**A limited number of tickets are available. Please send in your payment for tickets in an envelope marked with your child's name and class and "Trevor Eissler", or see Laurie in the office. TICKET COST: \$10**

### **Looking for Volunteers**

The PCAE is looking for volunteers to work with co-chairs for the upcoming School Dance and Used Book Sale.

If you are interested please contact [pca@ottawamontessori.com](mailto:pca@ottawamontessori.com)



### Dates to Remember

- January 14, 2010 (7 p.m.)  
**Parent to Parent Meeting** (OMS Multi-purpose Room)
- January 22, 2010  
**2010 - 2011 Re-enrolment and Application for New Sibling Deadlines**
- January 28, 2010 (7 p.m.)  
**Montessori Madness with Trevor Eissler** (OMS Gymnasium)
- January 29, 2010  
**P.D. Day** (The entire school is closed)