

TUNISIA

Association Montessori Afrique du Nord (AMAN)

The society was created in 2013 and affiliated to AMI in 2014. In 2015 we had the opportunity to empower our social network; the newly established AMAN is working on promoting and spreading Montessori philosophy and pedagogy as well as enhancing our staff potential, which must be appropriate for our high level of exigency.

Highlights

Our highlight was the affiliation agreement of AMAN with AMI, which was successfully signed in April 2015 during a lovely ceremony, together with the participation of Férid Chouikhi (president of AMAN), André Roberfroid, Philip O'Brien, Megan Tyne, Michelle Sprenkels and Lynne Lawrence.

Since last year, we have been working on refining our 2014 goals and developing a new strategy for AMAN.

As a strong believer in the Montessori vision, Mr Férid Chouikhi, was and still takes a crucial part in the educational reform in Tunisia (that went through radical changes after the revolution). Besides, his mission lies in implementing human values on which the Montessori Philosophy is based.

Moreover, AMAN is working, not only on educational reform, but also on enhancing professional skills for trainees that are in the process of becoming Montessori educators. Further, to strengthen our social network, and to obtain more effective results, the members of the association (educators/parents) worked on various educational aspects: cultural and entertaining activities that should contribute to the potential enrichment of children and enable them to develop independently their physical and mental skills.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

In order to contribute to a better understanding of Montessori by parents/members AMAN organised in November, March and June 2015 several workshops about:

- The application of Montessori pedagogy.
- How to support children at home.
- The relationship between parents and the Montessori school.

In February 2015, we organised a conference, which took place in AMAN headquarter, on the topic of giving better explanation to parents on the difference between Montessori and the classical schools and provide them with clear arguments, "why should we opt for a Montessori school for our children?" while introducing the Montessori approach and working methods.

Moreover, to strengthen the awareness of Montessori philosophy, pedagogy and method, enhancing communication and interpersonal relationship skills, AMAN organised and offered several workshops for educators, who are also members, on the topic "How to be aware of Montessori Philosophy and how to apply it in their way of education?"

Montessori children took part, all year, in different clubs, organised and offered by AMAN. In June 2015, members and parents were invited to a performance where the children presented the outcomes of the different activities: arts, theatre, physical education and music.

In December 2015, AMAN organised the second Linguistic Training with members, teachers, parents and children. The tour began at La Goulette, across the Mediterranean Sea to Lyon, Haute Savoie, Geneva, Marseille and back to Tunisia. AMAN organised throughout the year several cultural trips to different regions in Tunisia such as: Kairouan, Monastir, and Zaghouan.

Special Projects and Outreach

In collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Education, AMAN began to promote the Montessori Pedagogy and Philosophy in public institutions (primary, prep and secondary schools) by visiting schools and organising inter scholar exchanges.

Foundation of the Training Center CFMMT (Centre de Formation Maria Montessori de Tunisie).

The courses were originally planned for 2015, but unfortunately, the lack of trainers urged us to postpone the start to the second half of 2016. The courses are organised and offered, in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, for License graduated people, who are interested in Montessori Pedagogy and working as a teacher at a Montessori school (0-3, 3-6 and 6-12).

Two of our members and teachers at the school "Ecole Montessori Internationale de Tunisie": Maroua Jelassi and Sondes Chebbi, obtained their Casa dei Bambini diploma in August 2015.

AMAN is preparing for a Forum that will take place in Tunis in September/ October 2016, whose theme will be: "New Education for A New World".

Collaborations & Partnerships

AMAN is collaborating with the Tunisian Ministry of Education, Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, Ministry of Woman Family and Childhood, but also with different participants who took part at the discussion of the Educational Reform.

The following issues were discussed:

- Montessori pedagogy as different from the classical way
- A training policy for Montessori teachers
- Social projects and their developing of human values in Tunisia
- Promotion the Montessori Method in the education of children and care of the elderly

Publications & Media

- 05/05/2015: Press conference

- Who is Maria Montessori?
- The Montessori pedagogic and philosophy
- AMI/AMAN

- The Application School: Ecole Montessori Internationale de Tunisie
- 08/05/2015: Presentation of the Association AMAN and the application school on a TV-Show (Aljanoubia)
- Different articles were published about Montessori Pedagogy in the Tunisian press.

Memberships

At this juncture, AMAN has 50 members.

Board & Committees

Members of the Board:

Férid Chouikhi (President)

Maroua Jelassi (Vice President)

Sondes Ben Zina Chebbi (General Secretary)

Saifeddin Chouikhi (treasurer)

Sonia Jrad (Member)

Fakhreddin Chouikhi (Member)

Khaoula Khiari (Member)

Férid Chouikhi

President