

FRANCE

Association Montessori France

The board of the Association Montessori de France engaged in various crucial actions and projects, all trying to achieve the following objectives:

- Support of schools
- Communication
- Encouraging the implementation of visible projects through donations
- Engage in new partnerships with players supporting the same values as AMF
- Enhance membership loyalty

Highlights

At the annual meeting on 28 November 2015, AMF had the pleasure to celebrate its 65th anniversary. After the Association's General Assembly, all members including the greater public were invited to a conference titled "Montessori's outspread in the world" by André Roberfroid, followed by a talk by Sandrine Mallet about her association "KidsRfuture". AMF was delighted to share a cocktail and birthday cake with more than 100 people who had joined us for the celebration.

Mission

As defined by AMI, the mission of AMF is to support the development of the human being from birth to maturity allowing the child to become a transforming actor in the society for a world of harmony and peace.

AMF's objectives are as follows:

- To raise public awareness of the importance and relevance of these foundations for the future of our society.
- To promote Montessori in the French education system, by respecting Maria Montessori's principles.
- To support the growth and influence of Montessori pedagogy in France.

Events & Activities

We noted an increased interest from several French toy manufacturers that are fascinated by the Montessori approach. Society representatives are reaching out to these companies to offer more profound background on Montessori.

Further support existing and new Montessori schools in France

The "Montessori School Committee" has actively supported existing and new schools by also discussing their pedagogical quality standards.

- Update school records and the list of schools on the AMF Website. Today we recognise up to 80 Montessori schools in France that follow the main Montessori criteria and have provided all their necessary paperwork. They financially support AMF by paying 5 euros per child enrolled and encourage parents to join AMF.
- Report all accreditation visits for schools signing the Montessori "Charter". In the past year five new schools have signed the charter: Les Colibris (Biot), Le Kaléidoscope

(Choisy le Roi), Le jardin des enfants (Latresne), Graine d'Etoile (Méry) & Montessori'S Cool (Paris).

The charter's object is to represent all the signatory schools with the Association Montessori Internationale, the relevant ministries, professional organisations, European institutions and other public or private organisations that are nationally recognised.

Today, we have 13 schools who have signed the charter and who are formally engaged in providing Montessori pedagogical excellence to children and parents and represent it to the broader public and French institutions.

- Work hand in hand with schools that needed official representation for school anniversaries, grand openings, open houses, etc.

Collaborations and partnerships

Various partnerships have been continued and created, the most important ones being:

ATD-Quart-Monde

- The Paris Training Centre (ISMM) continues to monitor the cultural pre-Pivot team at the rate of one visit per month. ATD has hired a part-time graduate of the AMI 3-6 programme.
- The research work with Sebastian Pesch was structured. Teachers welcoming children and parents will be involved in the current research. Patricia Spinelli and Isabelle Séchaud participated in various working groups.
- The bodies of the platform for the school were asked to participate in a working group on "Ecole du succès pour tous". Marie-Aleth Grard, Vice President of ATD, EESC Member, led the work of the Commission and the EESC presented its report on 05.12.2015. Jean-Paul Delahaye, Inspector General of Education, appointed by his Department, worked with Marie-Aleth Grard to audit a number of players from the world of education, including AMF.

La Coordination pour l'éducation à la non-violence et la paix

Isabelle Séchaud continued to represent AMF at different meetings on developing a training offer for the Ecoles Supérieures du professorat et de l'éducation (ESPE).

Le Printemps de l'Education

Isabelle Séchaud participated in the preparation work for the Printemps de l'Education (March 21 and 22). The success of this initiative encouraged the continuation of the movement.

Publications & Media

The "Internal Communication Committee's" main projects for 2015 were to:

- Inform members about current events such as major national educational topics, Montessori pedagogy and related themes, initiatives taken by French and international Montessori schools. The committee has created a brand new editorial concept for *Lien Montessori*, its quarterly publication for all Montessori stakeholders in France.

- Encourage membership of AMF
- Integrate members and make them contribute to the collection and dissemination of information.
- In addition to the quarterly journal, the AMF newsletter has been sent out every other month.
- Another project was started for a new presentation flyer of the Montessori movement in France.

For 2016 we plan to maintain the pace of publications and will engage in a document for all members and future members about why it is important to join AMF.

The “External Communications Committee” primarily worked on:

- The enrichment of our media contact database.
- Extending the overview of articles and publications (online & offline—more than 200 articles published).
- A unified message for all members of the AMF board to the media.
- Create an agenda highlighting all important education related events in France.

For 2016, the committee plans conferences for the AMF members, one or 2 breakfasts with journalists and a public event around our General Assembly at the end of the year.

Board & Committees

Mathilde Adam Bourdin and Anne-Marie Claude Gasselin have both stepped down from the board of AMF. We are happy that we have been able to find great replacements and have even been able to fill the vacant 12th position on the board.

The members of the new board are:

Chair: Valérie Blu

Vice Chair: Simone Hammer

Secretary: Isabelle Séchaud

Treasurer: Heloise Wirth

Assistant Treasurer: Philippe Compagnon

Administrators: Muriel Bouchon, Patricia Peterson Fontenay, Charlotte Poussin, Danièle Viguier Duvivier, Cécile Villaret, Anouche Merdjanian and Emmanuelle Gannat.

Simone Hammer

Vice Chair