

## **NORWAY**

### **Norwegian Montessori Association**

#### **Highlights**

NMF completed “Følg Barnet! Pedagogisk Fagplan for Montessoribarnehagen”, a pedagogical plan for Norwegian Montessori schools working with the first plane of development. The work on peace within the Montessori environment is woven throughout the plan, providing both method and practice. This document has been a work in progress for many years and it is a true highlight for NMF. The pedagogical plan is to be utilised as a tool within the environment, aiding to raise quality and standards of Montessori education in Norway.

#### **Events & Activities**

Four members of NMF attended the AMI Annual General Meeting in 2015. It was an honour to be present among all of the other nations. There were inspiring lectures and exciting ideas about the future of Montessori within a global perspective.

Our annual Administrators Conference held in November was a great success. The lectures included themes of Montessori management, reading and writing, learning differences, administration and a national project for inclusion, which addresses the responsibilities of the adult and child to create an atmosphere where all are included. Group work and discussion were integrated into the programme, as it is important in our work to strengthen relationships and build a strong Montessori community in Norway.

#### **Special Projects & Outreach**

NMF has also intensified development in the 12-15 age group. Many Norwegian schools continue expanding programmes to include the 12-15 age group. Norwegian Montessori schools have established a yearly gathering for educators of this age group with the explicit purpose of exchanging ideas and experiences and building a stronger community.

NMF has continuously worked together with the Ministry of Education to ensure the highest quality of education. We have been successful in our work to not raise the minimum number of students required to be an approved private school. This has been a great achievement for Norwegian Montessori schools.

The Vice Chair of NMF attended the Montessori Model United Nations teacher training in December. The goal is that the important work for peace and equality that MMUN strives to achieve will be integrated into the work of the third plane Montessori programmes. There is a plan for teacher training to take place in the fall of 2016 in Norway.

## Collaborations & Partnerships

NMF collaborates regularly with the following:

- Norwegian University Montessori teacher training
- The Independent school organisation, including the Norwegian Waldorf / Steiner school Association and Christian School Association
- Cooperation with all Montessori entities and organisations that work for the development of Montessori and the rights of the child are of the utmost importance for the association.

## Publications & Media

In the fall of 2015, we redesigned our *MONTESSORI* magazine. The first new issue was on the theme of Peace. The magazine features Norwegian Montessori schools, which aids in widening the awareness of community amongst the Montessori programmes. The magazine also includes Montessori literature and supportive articles. Our last magazine included an article from the Nobel Peace Centre, which greatly supported our work for peace development. The magazine supports the process of sharing ideas and spreading knowledge of our goals and principles.

## Memberships

The Norwegian Montessori Association membership has increased this year. We now have 40 Assistance to infancy and Early Childhood programmes, 71 Elementary programmes and 16 Adolescent programmes for ages 12-15.

In addition to our members, we have also increased our staff. We have worked hard this year to create a new team that will help to guide NMF into a bright future.

## Board & Committees

Jon Terje Bjørke - Chair

Jennifer Varbanov - Vice Chair

Board Members

Petter Torp

Helle Sagstuen

Hilde Tømby

Stephanie Chaigneau

Ellen Steina

The Board of Directors is a diverse working board committed to social responsibilities that include the rights of the child, the development of a peaceful world and an educational system that supports the Montessori method and the natural development of the child. The Board is comprised of AMI, AMS and Norwegian University Montessori educated members.

Jennifer Varbanov

Vice Chair