

INDIA

Indian Montessori Foundation (IMF)

Events and Activities

Events reaching out to children, parents, support staff, teachers and administrators were conducted in the cities of Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai. The regular 'Thursday Talks', which are an attempt to create discussion forums for people from all walks of life interested in child development, continue to be successful, seeing larger audiences than before.

This year four talks were held on the following topics:

- Connecting Elementary Children to Cosmos
- Montessori Approach to Letters
- How Parenting Styles Affect the Social and Emotional Development of the Child
- Role of Books in the Language Development of the Child

A total of five workshops were held on various topics focusing on:

- Understanding the Needs of the Young Child
- Discovering Self through Drama
- Feed the Mind: A Children's Library at Home
- Multilingual Approach in a Montessori Environment
- Applying Montessori Principles: Creating School Policy

Due to the high level of interest in the AMI Assistants to Infancy courses in India, IMF helped to organise and facilitate a visit of A to I Trainer, Sara Brady. These talks were held in association with the Ratan Tata Institute, Mumbai and The Montessori School in Bangalore. Sara spoke on the Development of Independence in the Child from birth to three years and beyond. Both talks had a huge turnout and were very well received.

National Conference

The Indian Montessori Foundation holds a conference once every two years. The last conference was held in Mumbai, in February 2016. We are delighted to announce that The Fourth National Montessori Conference will be organised in Chennai, on January 12 & 13, 2018. Details about the conference will be uploaded soon on to the IMF website.

Publications & Media

The Absorbent Mind, The Formation of Man and Education and Peace will be published this year and are in the final stages of editing.

Montessori Matters (IMF annual Journal) – The long pending issues of 2013, 2014 and 2015 were finally published this year. The 2016 issue will be out soon.

The Touch Board (IMF newsletter) 6 issues were published this year with highlights covering many international and national events. Some new features were added this year such as; the 'Plant Corner', which focuses on local plants with their botanical

name and a detailed description, and 'Montessori Outdoors' featuring outdoor games for young children, which were both well received. The issues also featured poems for children and some anecdotes from Montessori environments.

The two music CDs with children's songs (one English, one Tamil) are still popular and doing well on our sales table. We have currently developed fabric pouches for the display/storage of classified pictures and multilingual classified reading. These pouches will be sold in sets of 10. It is planned that a CD with 38 sets of multilingual classified reading (material ready to print and cut) will be given free of cost to those who purchase two sets of pouches.

The IMF website has been upgraded and has a subscriber's page with attractive offerings. Subscribers can log in using their user ID and password to check the exclusive articles posted for them. They also have online access to all the issues of our newsletters/ journals and job openings listed by schools in various locations worldwide. Our team of volunteers is working towards expanding the database of the Montessori schools in the country and getting them listed on the website.

Memberships

IMF volunteers proactively give information about AMI membership both in reply to enquiries as well as to everyone on our mailing list. We encourage subscribers and all others to join AMI directly. We also have information about the benefits of joining AMI on our website.

IMF has around 200 subscribers to our annual journal and newsletters. We are working towards promoting and increasing the subscriptions across India. We encourage the students of various training centres in India to subscribe to our publications. We are also in the process of updating our database of alumni of various training centres in this regard.

Rukmini Ramachandran
Managing Trustee