

IRELAND

Association of AMI Teachers Ireland (AATI)

Highlights

The highlight of AATI's event calendar was the enlightening language refresher course delivered by AMI Executive Director, Lynne Lawrence and AMI Trainer, Ann Dunne. They were very inspirational and our members embarked into 2016 with revitalised enthusiasm. Our schools continue to run successfully.

Events and Activities

This year has been an eventful year for AMI schools in Ireland. New regulations were brought in and have caused many Montessori teachers to struggle against these constrictions that do not help to encourage independence in child centred environments. AMI schools have been inspected by the Department of Health. Initially, there seemed to be little understanding for what constitutes an AMI Montessori environment; but through good communication an understanding has been established. The Department of Education has also decided that it would be beneficial to inspect all Early Years environments. Within these changes, the idea of children only needing care in early years is being eroded and opportunities for development and education are now expected in all early years' environments.

March 11 will bring together AMI teachers from all over Ireland for our conference and AGM. The keynote speaker is Evelyn Egan Rainey, who will give a workshop on art as a process with an emphasis on art and nature.

Membership

With no training college and added industry pressures our membership is suffering. Each year our numbers are dropping. When we hear of the great successes being achieved by AMI and its community all over the world it lifts the heart. Hopefully AMI's presence in Ireland will return with renewed strength in the future. Until then we will hold the faith.

Board and Committee

- President Alison Pigot
- Treasurer Aideen Brennan
- Communications Secretary Helen Blaney
- Schools Secretary Hilary Garvey
- Members Kate Stephens and Orla Kivlehan

Alison Pigot
President