

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Maria Montessori Training Organisation
26 Lyndhurst Gardens
London
NW3 5NW

+44 20 7435 3646 | www.mariamontessori.org



Training Centre

Courses

The Institute continued offering courses at all 3 levels during the year: two full time and two part time (two year) 3-6 courses were offered, the second module of the 105th course took place over the summer, running parallel with the first module of the new 107th summer course, the 0-3 modular course that commenced in January 2014 completed in November 2014, and the 6-12 course that began in April 2013 completed in September 2015.



Graduates receiving diplomas from Lynne Lawrence

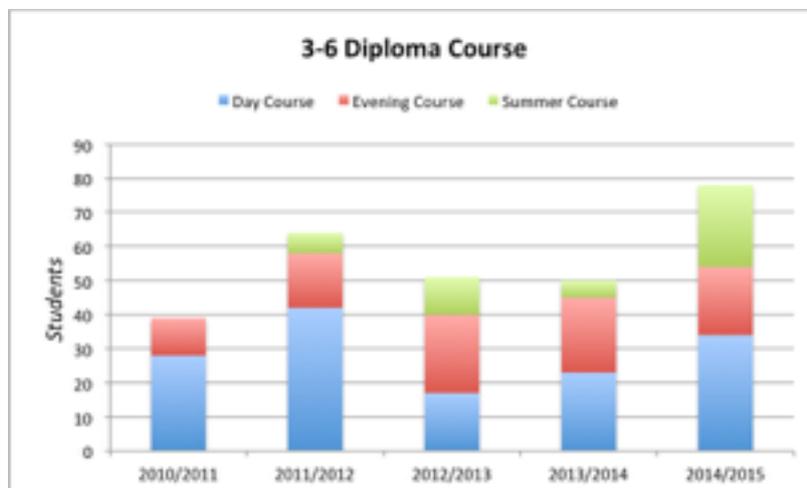


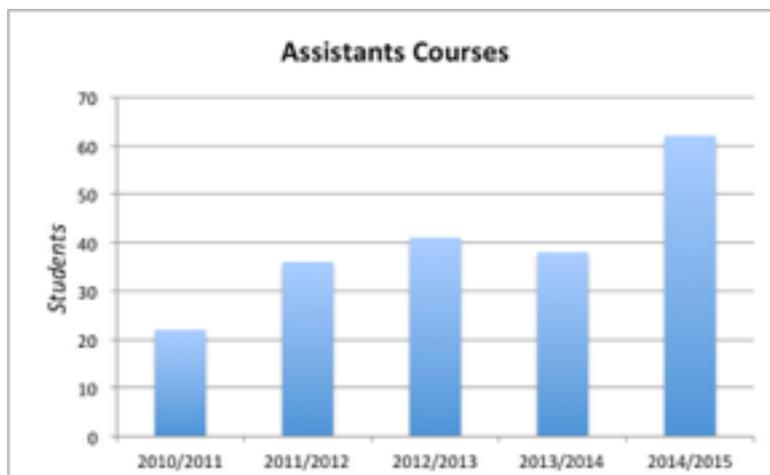
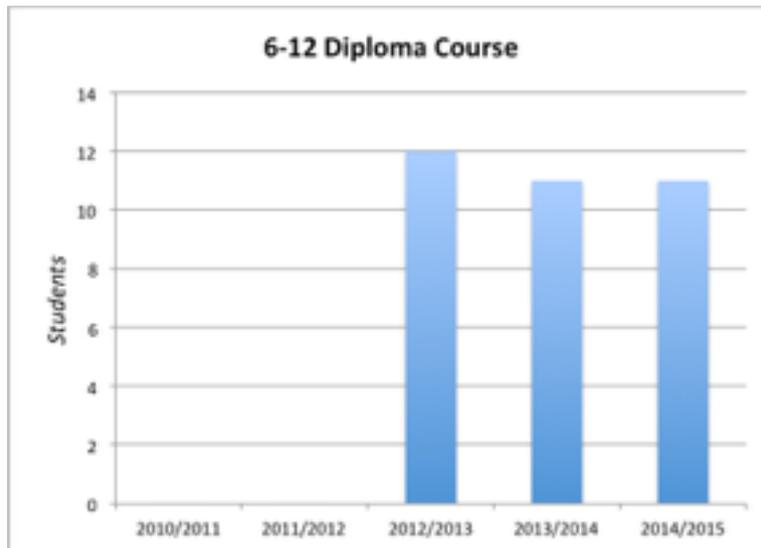
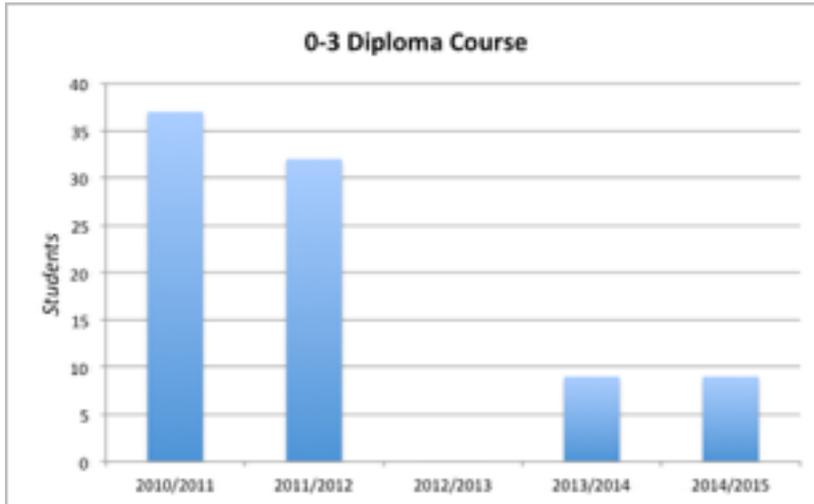
0-3 Assistants Certificate Course at Hampstead

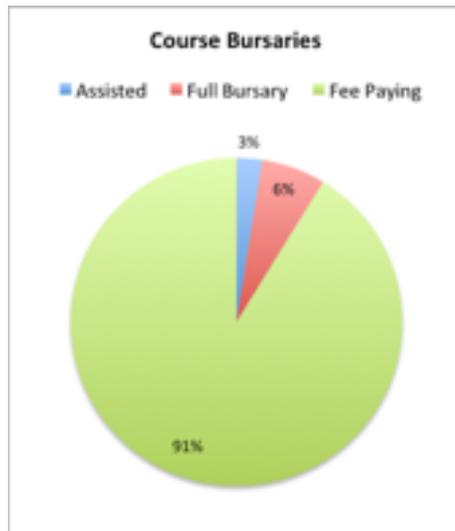
Alongside the Diploma courses, two Assistants Certificate courses at the Primary level were held as well as, for the first time in London, an Assistants Certificate course was held at the 0-3 level. The 0-3 course proved to be very popular with 34 students attending. A Post Diploma Observation course was also held during the year.

Students graduating from the part-time and full-time courses in 2015 did so with a 94% pass rate, and graduates from the 0-3 modular course had a 100% pass rate.

Student Numbers







Accreditation of Maria Montessori Institute

Institute staff continued to work on the introduction of Early Years Educator qualification alongside the AMI Diploma. The qualification is required to be offered from September 2015 in order to allow MMI graduates to be officially recognised as qualified school staff members. Institute staff have undertaken Assessor and Verifier Training to enable this qualification, offered by Lifetime Awarding, to be officially assessed.

The high quality of our training courses was recognised by the positive report from the Schools Inspection Service.

Premises

The move of the training courses to premises located in Baker Street, Central London opened up the opportunity to offer a wider range of information seminars and is popular with students as a result of its accessible location.



Expansion Beyond the UK

MMI Training Staff continued to support AMI courses overseas: Louise Livingston is one of the five AMI trainers taking part in the 'faculty' approach in China, Elina Rautasalo is involved in AMI training in the Czech Republic and Cheryl Ferreira is the Director of Training for the 3-6 modular course being held in New Zealand. Staff acted as AMI examiners in Greece, Romania, Finland, India, Pakistan and Korea.

Vikki Taylor and Lynne Lawrence gave a Refresher Course for National Montessori Trainers, previously trained by MMI, in Tanzania. Talks were also given in Finland, India, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Romania.



MMI Trainers Cheryl Ferreira, Elina Rautasalo, Louise Livingston and Vikki Taylor with Lynne Lawrence

School

Classrooms

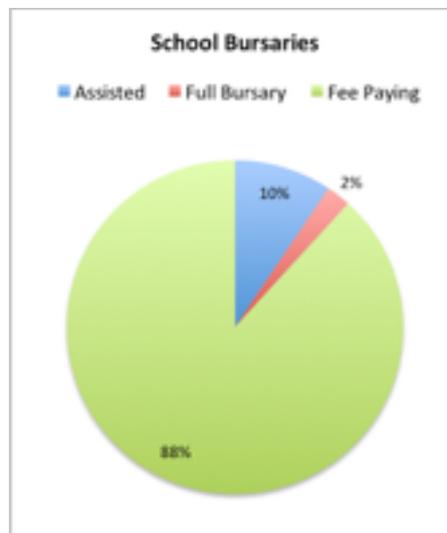
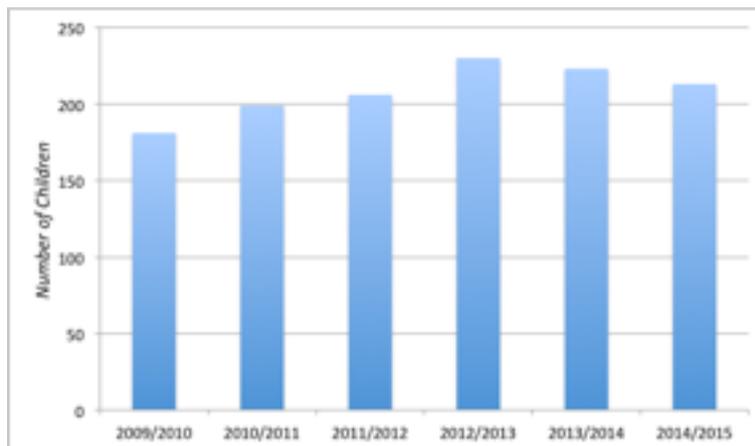
The Coach House extension work at Hampstead was completed in January 2015 and the space has provided a Children’s House classroom. This has enabled the larger Elementary class to relocate to the main building. The number of children attending the Elementary classes at both Hampstead and Bayswater has continued to increase.

A new school site located in Holland Park will be ready to commence in September 2015. Refurbishment to the premises has taken place and information sessions have begun.

The MMI School continued to successfully support Special Needs children across all sites.

The Ofsted inspection at Bayswater in June 2015 awarded the site an overall ‘good’ rating.

School Numbers



Premises



Coach House Children's House at Hampstead

The newly extended Coach House at Hampstead made it possible for both the Children's Houses at the site to have direct access to the garden making it easy for the children to work outside. Work was also completed on the provision of a kitchen garden for use by all the children at the site.



New Holland Park Children's House ready to commence in September 2015

The new site at Holland Park has been refurbished and fully furnished as a Children's House classroom. Ready to commence in September 2015, the site has space for 30 children from 2½ to 6 years. This will provide a third feeder school for Bayswater Elementary.

50th Anniversary



Anniversary Logo

The School at Hampstead marked its 50th anniversary year with a series of celebratory events and activities throughout the year. A special logo was designed by the elementary children at Hampstead to commemorate the year.

The celebrations culminated in the Summer Garden Party in July 2015 at Hampstead. Along with staff and parents from all sites, staff from the past decades as well as school alumni were also present.

The different pledges and activities undertaken by the children and staff for the "50 at 50" challenge were showcased.

All school sites were actively involved in a “50 at 50” challenge and activities included each school planting 50 bulbs, 50 wishes on the Christmas tree, baking 50 cupcakes, cycling 50 miles, folding 50 origami cranes, doing 50 sums and many more.



Baking 50 Finnish star pastries at West Hampstead, planting 50 bulbs at Bayswater and 50 Valentine's Day hearts at Hornsey Rise

Montessori Model United Nations

A large delegation from our Upper Elementary classroom participated in the 9th Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) held in May 2015 in Rome, Italy. The MMUN Program simulates the work of the UN Systems with the focus on peace education and global citizenship. The mission is to inspire youth by giving students (9-15 years) an opportunity to formulate, present, debate and revise positions on current issues that are affecting people of the world.



Maria Montessori School delegation at MMUN Rome 2015

Five teams representing Fiji, Costa Rica, Liberia, Mexico and Argentina worked very hard in the weeks leading up to the conference and continued to do so at the various meetings, debates and discussions there. The conference provided them with a platform to start thinking about their role in changing the world for the better and they all left feeling encouraged and empowered that their generation can make a difference.

The children have already started planning for 2016, including ideas on how to raise funds to help more students to be able to travel for the conference.

Partnerships

Association Montessori Internationale

The Organisation continues to co-operate with the Association Montessori Internationale whose courses they run. Mrs Lawrence is Executive Director of AMI and Mrs Worthington is Financial Advisor to AMI and they hold these positions in addition to their normal range of duties carried out for the MMI. Louise Livingston is the Coordinating Secretary for the AMI Materials Committee.



Lynne Lawrence speaking at the AMI AGM

The MMI was represented by a number of staff, many of whom attended for the first time. Wendy Ines, MMI Board member, also attended.

Youth Hope Foundation

Both schools are doing well with numbers, with over 100 children at New Canaan and 50 at Kisima. Maintenance work is underway to improve facilities at both sites.

In August, the school hosted Jules Layman who has been teaching in international Montessori environments for over 30 years and is actively involved in AMI's Educateurs sans Frontières. She was very touched by the work being done and commented on how the school serves as a model for children in similar circumstances around the world.



Corner of Hope, Kisima

The Yokohama Montessori School in Japan donated shoes for the children. The shoes have been sent to the Maria Montessori Institute, London for safekeeping until January 2016 when they will be distributed at both sites.



Painting Timelines

Module 3 of the Elementary Course took place in August 2015, with Jean Miller, Poinsy Pino and Eric Gumah. Along with lectures, a large part of the module was spent on material practice as well as preparing and colouring the Timelines and Charts that form the basis of Montessori elementary. The highlight was a class visit to the Menengai crater that the group organised themselves as a demonstration of the 'Going Out' activity.

Bronzefield Prison

The 'Born Inside' project transferred to Bronzefield Prison. In conjunction with Pamela Windham Stewart MA, Psychotherapist, a support and education programme was designed to offer pregnant mothers and mothers with young children born or living inside the prison. The hands on project focuses on the developmental needs of young children and how mothers can support them for minimal expenditure.

Donations from individuals have been received during the year but investigation continues into potential sources of funding to enable the continuation of this project.

Arthur Waser Foundation

This Foundation funded a Refresher Course in Tanzania given by Lynne Lawrence and Vikki Taylor in February 2015. Attendees were National Montessori Trainers, previously trained by the Maria Montessori Institute in London. It is intended that a Diploma Course (3-6) will commence in Tanzania in 2016, funded by the Arthur Waser Foundation and run under the auspices of MMI.



Lynne Lawrence with AMI Trainer Philippa Romig who will be working on the course in Tanzania

Support for the Montessori Community

Mentoring

Lilian Kimata continued in her role as Mentor Teacher at the Great Beginnings School and Louise Livingston, Cheryl Ferreira, and Vikki Taylor mentored external schools on request. A total of 5 schools outside of those belonging to the MMI were provided with mentoring during the year.

All 3-6 training staff mentored our Children House classes and AMI elementary trainer Alison Awes has been mentoring both our Elementary classes.

Short Courses

Lead and Direct, a 3-day workshop on the principles and practice of successful school management from a Montessori perspective was held in February 2015 at the Baker Street premises. The workshop was presented by Peter Davidson, Assistant Head of School at Montessori in Redlands, California USA.



Peter Davidson with Lead & Direct participants

An Elementary Professional Development Day was held in March 2015 at Hampstead. AMI Elementary Trainer Alison Awes presented the seminar on Freedom and Responsibility in the Montessori elementary classroom.

Prospective Information Sessions

The Institute held information sessions throughout the year for prospective students, parents and the general public. The Schools held a similar number of information sessions open to prospective parents. These Open Forums explain the basic aspects of the Montessori approach to education.

Parent Education and Support

Throughout the year Parent education evenings were held at each School site, which were open to all parents of children in the School. Alison Awes, AMI Elementary Trainer, gave a talk to parents interested in Elementary education.

The parent support programme, has been rolled out to all of our sites and has been favourably received. There was considerable focus during the year on how best to inform and communicate with parents of the 6-12 age group.



Special Visitors Day at Hampstead Elementary

Staff Professional Development

One of the training staff members continued with the 0-3 training of trainers programme and 2 members of staff completed the 6-12 Diploma course. Five staff attended the 'Lead and Direct' workshop and 3 members of staff attended the Assistants Course at the 0-3 level.

Staff spoke at conferences in India, Finland, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Archives

The archival project is supported by The Westridge Fund. Further documents have been cleaned and catalogued and attention is now turning to the considerable visual archive in an attempt to preserve old photographs, 16mm film, slides, Super 8 and VHS videos.

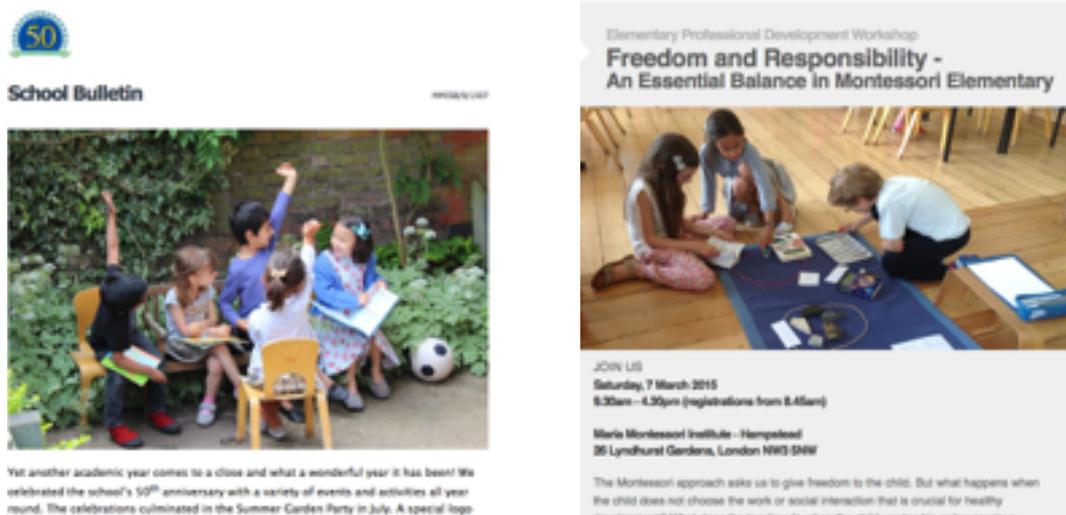
Relevant texts were sent to AMI for publication. Many individuals are now using the archive to search for information and primary source material.

Publicity and Promotion

Communication

Regular email communication and the expansion of information available on the website has enhanced the dissemination of information to our community.

Mailchimp was used extensively for regular bulletins for parents, event and course information and invitations, school updates etc.



Examples of School Bulletin and Event Invitation

Website

The new website, launched in June 2014 has continued to be refined. The site provides detailed information on the whole Organisation and what it offers. It incorporates a sign-in area for parents and students in order to provide more detailed information. Online application for training courses and for the waiting list for school places is now available.



MMI website statistics - June 2015, provided by Point 6

Marketing and Promotion

Along with our courses, individual sites as well as the school as a whole were promoted via adverts placed in the following paper and digital publications:

Ham and High

Families North and west

Gas and Air

Parents Directory North and Central

Hot Courses

Islington Gazette

Flyers were designed and distributed in the relevant catchment areas.

Maria Montessori School
Dedicated to helping each child lay the best foundation for life

Our three schools in North London offer an authentic Montessori education for children from 2½ to 6 years old

Hampstead - Lyndhurst Gardens, NW3
West Hampstead - Abbey Road, NW6
Hornsey Rise (Crouch End) - Ashley Road, N19

Are you interested in working with children?
Would you like to learn about their development and your part in it?

Maria Montessori Institute

More than just a job
Visit our website:
www.mariamontessori.org

Contact us for further details:
020 7435 3646
schools@mariamontessori.org
www.mariamontessori.org

AMI

Examples for adverts and flyers to promote courses and school

The Organisation



During the year, the Steering Committee and the Management Committee met regularly to strategically guide the Organisation. Strategy meetings were held to focus on ways in which Montessori knowledge could be disseminated to a wider audience.

The Health and Safety Committee also met regularly and the school held regular staff meetings.

The Bursar and the Administrative staff continued to work hard to establish new procedures and policies fitted to the growing number of activities and increasing complexity of the Organisation.

The MMI Board

Board Members

Mr R. A. Partridge (Chairman)
Mr D. Murphy (Honorary Treasurer)
Mr B. Faccini
Mrs E. Hood
Mrs W. H. Innes
Mrs A. Lake
Mr D. Mukarji
Mrs H. K. Patell
Mrs I. Raphael
Mrs F. Scott
Mrs P. Wild

Company Secretary

Mrs L. Webster

The Future

We will continue to support trainers in training as well as identify potential trainers at both 0-3 and 6-12 levels for the UK and additional lecturers at the 3-6 level.

We will also continue to develop our plan to publicise the work of the Training Centre to potential students in the EU and aim to create increased awareness of the Organisation's unusual outreach projects & additional charitable work.

Our current qualified trainers will be utilised to spread training in other parts of the world such as the 'Help the Children Projects' in Africa. Working with the Arthur Waser Foundation we will continue to offer course bursaries to students from Tanzania.

Modular courses for teachers of 0-3 and 6-12 age groups will be planned in addition to 3-6.

School administrator training for Head Teachers and a parent education programme for parents both within and outside of our own school community will be planned.

We hope to expand the kitchen facilities at our Hampstead site and create a large lunch room which may also be used as a meeting space.

We will continue to expand the age range of our schools with the expansion of the Elementary class and will continue to search for suitable premises for the establishment of an infant community and expansion of our existing School. We will offer pedagogical support to other organisations hoping to establish a Montessori adolescent school.

Our bursary and assisted places policy for the School will continue to enable financial assistance to be given to a greater number of families who might otherwise not be able to benefit from a Montessori education.

We are one of the few AMI training centres in the world that offer AMI training and a model school where the philosophy, concepts and techniques can be seen in practice and which provides access to an archive for researchers.