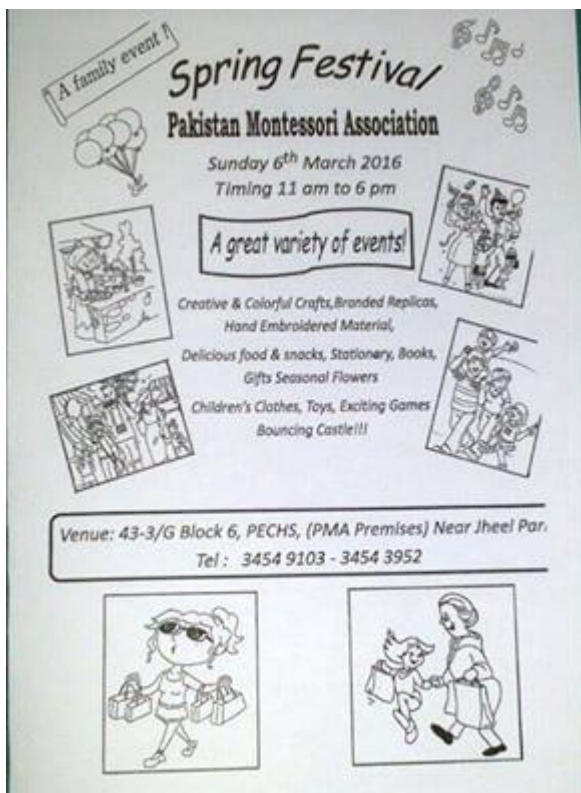


# The Montessorian

## PMA Spring Festivities March 2016

Pakistan Montessori Association held a children friendly Spring Festival in March. Stalls included games, activities for children, toys, candy floss, popcorn, the bouncing castle and the clay wheel being the most popular. Children from different schools performed in the Performing Arts Corner at a given time and many enjoyed individual performances. It was interesting to note how children worked with concentration oblivious of the music or noise around them, while working at the activities stalls. Commercial stalls included handicrafts, arts and crafts, mehndi, face painting, lucky dip, games, gift stall, household linen, ladies' scarves, books, clothing, jewelry (Turkish and gold imitation), and branded replicas, popular amongst ladies and teachers. Some schools contributed by displaying banners and hiring food and soft drinks stalls. Food stalls included bun kebab, aloo chat, aloo kachori, sandwiches, Haleem, baghare bengan, baked items and many more. The event was visited by over 1000 visitors including parents, members, friends and families.

The main reason to hold this festival was to promote the ground at the PMA PECHS branch which is available for rent to schools for sports, concerts and other Montessori related activities. Hopefully, PMA will be celebrating next spring at the Gool Minwalla Montessori Campus at Clifton, to promote the ground, which also is available for rent.



PMA president Zohra Gaya and vice president Farida Fazal enjoying the Spring festival



Waiting to perform 'Taj Dare e Haram'



The Clay Wheel



Children with costumes of various professions introduce themselves



Enjoying beating the drum



Singing national songs wearing national costumes



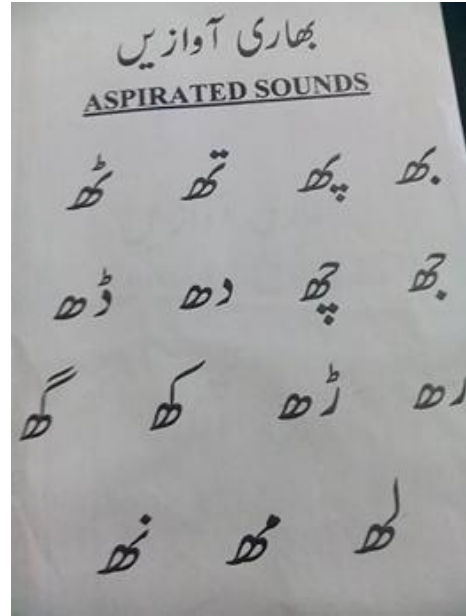
Solo Performance

### Urdu Linguistics by Asma Nayeem

The scientific study of language and its structure including the study of grammar, syntax and phonetics is called linguistics. Our senses play an important role in language acquisition. In Montessori schools language is introduced keeping in mind the importance of sensitive periods. Very interestingly teaching Urdu phonetically is a new trend and it has made the task simple and attractive. Urdu is simply a phonic language and unlike English there is no need of complicated phonogram forming procedures. The long and short vowel sounds have their special symbols/letters. Precisely every single sound has a prescribed symbol/letter.

The aspect of speech sounds and their articulation have always seemed so interesting to me, my interest grew further in the subject when I had the opportunity to teach Urdu to my Montessori students and I found out children learn Urdu easily and at a faster pace when it is taught the phonic way.

Sharing my ideas with the respected teaching fraternity at PMA was indeed an honour for me. However the time constraint inhibited me to elaborate further as to me phonology is a vast subject and requires longer time duration so I hope to get another session on the same subject soon.



An interesting talk on Urdu Linguistics was given by Asma Nayeem at the PMA January meeting. She discussed the history of different languages and briefed the participants on linguistics of various languages.



## Lecture on Development of Movement and Independence

PMA members enjoyed a lecture on Development of Movement and Independence in the April meeting, by Nilufer Ahmed. She started off with the nervous system as the physiological background of movement and that the child gains independence gradually through movement. She explained Dr Montessori's doctrine of centre and periphery and her belief that **there is no substitute for movement**.

The lecture ended with a quick mention of how movement leads to independence.

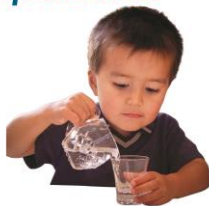


### Movement DVD



Babies and toddlers who are creeping, crawling, and furniture walking demonstrate the principle that the brain and the body grow through movement.

### Independence DVD



This DVD shows a diverse group of toddlers and young children in the process of becoming independent.

To purchase DVDs and booklets visit <http://montessori-namta.org/Aid-to-Life-Initiative>

## PALESTINIAN TEACHER HANAN AL HROUB WINS US\$1 MILLION GLOBAL TEACHER PRIZE 2016

Announcement made by His Holiness Pope Francis

**Hanan Al Hroub**, from Samiha Khalil High School, Al-Bireh, Palestine, has been awarded the **Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2016**, awarded under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai. Announced via a special video message broadcast into the Global Teacher Prize ceremony taking place at the Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF) 2016 in Dubai.



The winner was chosen from ten finalists by a Global Teacher Prize Academy. All ten finalists were invited to Dubai for the Award ceremony at the Global Education and Skills Forum 2016 (GESF).

The other nine finalists for the Global Teacher prize 2016 were:

**Aqeela Asifi**, who teaches children at the Kot Chandana refugee camp, Punjab, Pakistan

**Ayub Mohamud**, a business studies teacher at Eastleigh High School in Nairobi, Kenya

**Colin Hegarty**, from Preston Manor School, a comprehensive in Wembley, North West London, UK

**Joe Fatheree** from Effingham High School, Effingham, Illinois, USA

**Kazuya Takahashi**, a teacher at the Kogakuin University Junior and Senior High School, Tokyo, Japan

**Maarit Rossi**, a maths teacher at Kartanontaranta School, Finland

**Michael Soskil** from Wallenpaupack South Elementary School, Newfoundland, Pennsylvania, USA

**Richard Johnson**, a science teacher at Rostrata Primary School, Perth, Western Australia

**Robin Chaurasiya**, from Kranti School, Mumbai, India

## Pakistani Teacher Aqeela Asifi ranked among Top Ten Teachers of the World



When Aqeela Asifi was nominated for the “Global Teachers Prize” in 2016, she was also nominated alongside ten of the best and most dedicated teachers from around the world – which is an achievement within itself. Aqeela Asifi was trained as a teacher in Afghanistan, but unfortunately, was forced to leave her home country when the Taliban took it over in 1992. When she arrived as a refugee in Pakistan, there were no operational schools in the local refugee camp (Kot Chandana camp), and the general conservative attitude of the people meant that educating girls was going to be a very difficult task.

She has received a lot of international recognition for her strides in the field of education and female empowerment. In 2015 she won the “UNHCR’s Nansen Refugee Award” and a \$100,000 grant to continue her effort to education the masses and to help pay for her education projects. After winning this award she exclaimed, “When I began my mission to educate Afghan girls, I could not have imagined that one day it will win me this award. I cannot express my happiness”.

Aqeela set up her first school in a borrowed tent and worked hard to overcome the resistance and negative attitudes of people in the society. Today, there are nine schools in the camp with countless female teachers and over 1,500 students, including 900 girls.

Aqeela’s school has produced over 1,000 graduates (mainly Afghan refugee girls, but also local Pakistani children). Some have become doctors, engineers, government officials and teachers in Afghanistan.

## Montessori Memories

### Birthday Greetings to Mario Montessori (Snr) 31st March



There is some speculation about Mario Montessori's exact date of birth. But according to Mario he was born on **31st March 1898**.

#### His association with Maria Montessori.

By the early 1920s Maria lost a few of her close associates and she began depending on Mario more and more. He played the role of a buffer between her and those who were always trying to climb on the bandwagon of her fame. They had some profitable scheme or other Mario protected his mother from such people. He started accompanying her in all her tours and assisted her in the conduct of her courses. Together they established the Association Montessori Internationale as a parent body to oversee the activities of schools and societies. This work extended all over the world and included supervision of the training of teachers. After the establishment of AMI the activities of the Montessori movement became quite organized. It was mainly due to the efforts of Mario.



Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves.

To consider the school as a place where instruction is given is one point of view. But, to consider the school as a preparation for life is another. In the latter case, the school must satisfy all the needs of life.

*Maria Montessori*

## Montessori House

A once in a lifetime opportunity and the generous support of major benefactors, Orcillia and Nicky Oppenheimer, has enabled AMI to purchase the adjoining property to its Amsterdam Head Office. This will enable the establishment of Maria Montessori House incorporating a **Museum, Open Archive and Research Centre**. The hundred-year-old house needs to be stripped from top to bottom and converted into a welcoming, interactive space. We are aiming to fundraise at least 1.5 million Euro to be able to build an exceptional centre.

### How You Can Donate

All donations, large or small, are welcome. Each donor will receive a "Brick Certificate" and all donor names will be recorded on a Founding Member Plaque.

Donation categories:

**Friend:** any amount up to USD 1,000

**Contributor:** USD 1,000 to 5,000

**Pioneer:** USD 5,000 to 10,000

**Benefactor:** USD 10,000 to 50,000

**Founder:** USD 50,000 - 100,000



### Visits Study Maria Montessori

AMI gladly welcomes visitors to the study of Maria Montessori.

Generally speaking, visits can be arranged on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please contact the AMI secretariat ahead of your planned visit enabling us to arrange a time slot which is mutually convenient.

Phone: +31 20 6798932

Email: [info@montessori-ami.org](mailto:info@montessori-ami.org)

## Announcements

### **Montessori Education for Social Change: Serving Humanity–Celebrating Solidarity**

30 July-13 August 2016

Aalankrita Resort, Hyderabad, India

The Educateurs sans Frontières Assembly is a platform for revisiting Montessori principles and practices with a social dimension.

Montessori based innovative educational projects are discussed, and eminent speakers present their work in allied fields, with an aim to deepen our understanding of Montessori principles and reflect upon the welfare of children in the global community.

For more information and to apply for a place at the Assembly, visit [www.montessori-esf.org](http://www.montessori-esf.org) or send an email to [info@montessori-esf.org](mailto:info@montessori-esf.org)

28<sup>th</sup> International Montessori Congress Prague 27 - 30 July 2017  
**Pathway to Peace: Montessori Education for Social Change to Peace**  
For more information visit [www.montessori-ami.org](http://www.montessori-ami.org)

**Montesori Maths material and Puzzles for rent. Contact : Amna Masood ----0307 2912868**

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