

The Montessorian

PMA Annual General Meeting 2017

L to R Kishwar Allawala, Zohra Gaya and Banoo Kijat

The Annual General body Meeting of Pakistan Montessori Association was held on 7th October, 2017, presided by President, Mrs Zohra Gaya.

The General Secretary Kishwar Allawala read the minutes of the of the last meeting were proposed by Parveen Islam and seconded by Azra Sayani. The Annual report was proposed by Zarina Anwar and seconded by Asfiya Siddiqui. The annual Accounts were read by Treasurer Banoo Kijat, proposed by Tayyaba Saleem and seconded by Itrat Banoo.

Mrs Zohra Gaya, spoke about the forthcoming refresher by Cheryl Ferreira.

It was decided to hold a Language Refresher course by Cheryl Ferreira, AMI trainer, if enough AMI primary directresses are interested to attend.

Ms Tayyaba Saleem is agreeable to hold an Assistant's course as an Auxilliary trainer if permission is granted by AMI Head Office. (Amsterdam.)

Mrs Gaya mentioned the forthcoming seminar on Education for Life in January, where Mrs Farida Akber, Ms. Shehnaz Wazirali and Aasiya Sachwani will be speaking. The meeting ended with refreshments



English and Urdu books on display

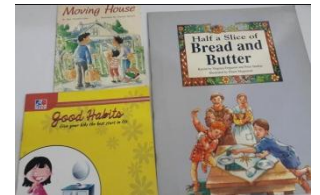
Workshop on Stories and Poems

A workshop on stories and poems was conducted by Tayyaba Saleem in October before the AGM. She started off with what the need was for stories and poems. It mainly builds a rapport with the children and enriches the vocabulary. Stories and songs or poems should be introduced in an enjoyable manner. An interesting point to note was to speak in one language so as to avoid confusion in the child. It is better to keep a time for Urdu and a separate time for English, if there is only one adult in the class.

Changing the words in the story will confuse the child as he is going through a sensitive period or order. Stories help in development of local culture too.

The very young children from two years to three years can have books with illustrations, and should be simple with real pictures and reflect one's own environment. e.g Nadir ki kahani. Gradually the text can be increased. After the age of five, fairy tales and imaginery stories can be given. Children should be explained the meaning of library and books should be changed regularly, with favourites to be retained at all times.

It was an informative session for non-diploma holders and a much needed refresher for AMI diploma holders.



The board and team of Association Montessori Internationale send their very best wishes for a joyful Season and continued satisfaction in your Montessori Work.

In the child is much knowledge, much wisdom. If we do not profit from it, it is only because of neglect on our part to become humble and to see the wonder of this soul and learn what the child can teach.

Maria Montessori, "Reconstruction in Education"

The Elements of Art Workshop



A well attended and most interesting Art workshop was conducted by AMI school teachers at the PMA monthly meeting in November. Art teachers Ayesha Khalid, Iqra Arsheel and Nosheen Ashraf supervised by Samreen Javed , the academic co-ordinator gave a very interesting presentation on different aspects of art work. The presentation included, line drawing freehand, shapes, line and shape composition and colour by making a colour wheel with tints and shades. This was followed by use of varied textures of objects to paint on and use as a print. Texture Art, splat painting, tape resist, smudge painting and marbling were shown and done by the participants.

Participants showing shades of colours



Nosheen Ashraf, Ayesha Khalid, Iqra Arshad, Samreen Javed enjoy refreshments after the workshop



How to Talk to children About Tragic Events

After tragic events like terrorist attacks, school shootings and natural disasters, feelings of panic and fear rise, and extensive news media coverage can heighten those feelings – especially in children. While adults grapple in the aftermath of such heartbreaking current events, it's important to help calm kids' fears.

[Marianne Wamboldt, MD](#), a physician at Children's Hospital Colorado, offered this advice: "Most parents have all the skills necessary to help their children deal with these events. Children are very aware of their parents' worries, especially during crises. Parents should admit their concerns to their children, but stress that they are coping with the concerns."

Tips for parents after tragedies

The behavioral health experts at Children's Colorado have outlined the following tips for parents to comfort and talk with children:

Increase parental availability

Parents should be accessible to their children physically and emotionally. Children are likely to be scared and anxious in the aftermath of this crisis, but nurturing and supportive parents provide a safe space for children to vent their emotions.

Decrease media availability

children don't understand the process behind a story they see on the news. Every time they see coverage of the crisis, they perceive it as happening again. Parents should be sensitive to this and limit the amount of crisis-related media their children can access. Watching too much news coverage is stressful and traumatizing for adults as well, so parents limiting their watching news of the trauma can help them stay calmer for their child.

Display and promote stability

children will look to their parents for cues on how to react to a crisis. If parents are anxious, particularly about appearing in a public place, the children are likely to be nervous as well. Parents should project stability and calmness in relation to the event. Keeping your child's routine as normal as possible gives children a sense of stability and helps them feel safe.

Be open to kids' fears

After a crisis, children are most likely to fear the possibility of fear returning. They are less afraid of the event happening again than they are of re-experiencing the anxiety of that day. Children need to tell their story, so parents should give them plenty of time and space to do so. It is natural for younger children to play out their fears, and it is okay to watch them play and/or interact with them in the play as a way of understanding their concerns.

Be prepared for questions

Many questions children ask will be difficult, if not impossible, to answer. Parents should explain that acts of terrorism and violence are random events and discuss steps that our own community takes to ensure public safety. Remind kids that public officials like police and firefighters are there to protect them. Parents can also consider their own skills and how they want to advocate for public safety.

Obituary

Majida Sufi
24th June 1932 – 16th September 2017



Being thankful to Allah, parents and to do righteousness
الصَّالِحِينَ عِبَادِكَ فِي بِرْحَمَتِكَ وَأَدْخِلْنِي تَرْضَاهُ صَالِحًا أَعْمَلَ وَأَنْ وَالِدِي وَعَلَى عَلَيَّ عَمَّتْ أَنْ الَّتِي نِعْمَتَكَ أَشْكُرُ أَنْ أُوْرَغِنِي رَبِّ
My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favour which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do
righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants.
Surah An-Naml - 27:19

Following a stroke the previous Sunday which left her comatose, Ammijan survived 5 more days in hospital comfort care at home. Once all 3 of my brothers had arrived from Bakersfield, Detroit and Boston by Friday evening she breathed her last naturally in her sleep to meet her Creator as per her wishes at my home in Irvine, California a few hours later at 1 am on Sat, Sep 16, 2017. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. She was laid to rest in Islamic Garden cemetery in Westminster Park the next day.

I also remember my mother appreciating the making of Montessori apparatus by Ansari Sahib. She also helped Dr. Ismail Saad as a subject matter expert in the Urdu translation of Montessori's book The Absorbent Mind.

Nasir Sufi (son)

As a Montessori student I remember exploring things like the pink tower, cylinder blocks, colour tablets, and various other geometric objects and cards which also felt like fun as learning tools. I appreciated my mother very much in everything she did for all of us. She had this special talent in handling toddlers and had a remarkable understanding of their psychology. She used to explain to me how the 'Absorbent Mind' works and how it sponges off and assimilates things happening in the surroundings. Sometimes when I went to pick up my mother from the Montessori school, along with my elder brother Amer, she would show us various Montessori apparatus which was always evolving into something new and intriguing. We could see children completely focused and absorbed in various activities like pouring, showing hand to eye coordination, trying to figure out how and where to place or fit various shaped objects - seemed like a new challenge and a mystery each time they tried something new and sense of satisfaction when they succeeded in it.

Just as she was a devoted mother and a wife she was also very dedicated to teaching the Montessori system of education and devoted a large part of her life to it.

With caregiver Yolanda



She was truly one of a kind
A beautiful gem that's hard to find
Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure,
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.
Dearer still as the days depart,
She lives forever in my heart
Your Loving son,
Rashid

Majida Khala, was the most unique and accomplished person, not just in our family, but in the community, in Pakistan and America. Everything she did, came from mind and heart together. No wonder the results were so amazing. If she made a promise to you, she would move mountains. I am so grateful to God for having such a wonderful example of dedication and commitment. She is the reason I went to Montessori as my first career. She has given so much to all and is a part of all of us.

Yasmin Dubash (niece)
Course of 1979

I started my career in AMI Montessori where I met Mrs.Sufi , since that day she has been my role model and helped me greatly with my teaching experience. Her extremely polite ways with children, not only helped build their confidence, but showed her dedication towards them. I still remember the little things she taught me, which I am still applying in my teaching today.

Samina Hyder

I have fond memories of Majida Aunty having me sit with her after school and teach me multiplication while I was waiting for my mother to come pick me up. Amazingly over time Majida Aunty was able to teach me the multiplication table till 12. Even to this day when I do any multiplication I think of my first teacher in my life, my Majida Aunty. May Allah bless her soul, Ameen

Saleem Yamani (AMI Montessori – student)

In the memory of our beloved Majeeda behan and most precious aunty who is missed among us today with deep sorrow. She loved us truly and prayed for us always. We have all enjoyed her sweet loving visits and phone conversations about deen, Quran, and Arabic, always correcting us on it.

She was so proud of her all sons and their families and their children, specifically Amman who was most humble and helpful to her, Mashaallah. She was very proud to see that they were motivated by deen and served in the cause of Allah. She always asked us to pray for them too. May Allah (swt) rest her soul In peace and grant her best place in jannat al firdous Inshaallah. Ameen.

Hamida, Esmat,Aziza, Huma Khalid,Maryam Ali

Celebrating grandson's first birthday



Celebrating Mr Sufi's birthday - 1990



Thanks to the Sufi family for the photo contribution

I met Mrs Majida Sufi in the late 1990s. Mrs Gool Minwalla was involved in many organisations and Mrs Sufi dealt with PMA affairs. She was a dedicated worker as administrator and teacher. In her class she used all the Montessori apparatus and gave her best in all the positions she held. She was an able General Secretary for many years and served as PMA Treasurer and Vice President. She was solely in charge of Mrs Minwalla's AMI school in the PECHS branch, apart from her Association work.

Mrs. Minwalla was Head of Pakistan Montessori Association and Mrs Sufi was the back bone.

May her soul rest in peace.

Habiba Thobani (Advisor and former PMA President)

My association with Mrs Sufi goes back many years because of Montessori work. She was one of the pioneers who worked under Mrs Minwalla to spread the Montessori philosophy in Karachi. She came across as a strict disciplinarian but really was a very gentle and soft spoken person. Her knowledge of the Montessori philosophy was commendable giving minute details and explanations of the method. The Montessori world has lost another stalwart. May her soul rest in everlasting peace.

Zohra Gaya (PMA President)

Mrs Sufi, a colleague and senior, was known to me since we did the training. She was then lecturing students in Urdu and all benefitted greatly from it. Her strict adherence to the Montessori principle and its spirit was transferred with much dedication and love. She had a passion for teaching and helped anyone at home and others whenever she had the opportunity. She herself was a seeker of knowledge till the very end. May Allah grant her a high place in Jannat. Ameen!

Farida Fazal (PMA Vice President)

Dear Mrs Sufi – a smiling and energetic person as I've known her. Always willing to share her life experiences of Montessori work. She will be missed by all of us.

Banoo Kijat (PMA Treasurer)

Mrs Sufi was a dynamic Montessorian and an extraordinary human being. She was a simple lady with strong ideas and a deep sense of justice. Above all, she was an institution in herself! I consider myself to be fortunate to have known her and worked with her in various capacities.

Kishwar Allawala (PMA General Secretary)

Mrs Sufi always spoke of nature and its beauty. This beauty which encompassed her as a being. One of the most generous persons when it came to sharing knowledge, energy and love. You will be missed.

Farah Sarfraz (PMA Joint Secretary)

I had the privilege to know Mrs. Sufi in 1982 when we attended the International Montessori Conference in Amsterdam. However, I got to know Mrs. Sufi better when she moved to Orange County, California, where I reside. She was no doubt an amazing Montessorian, who worked for the cause, all her life. In her personal life as well, she had very strong views and had no hesitation to express them. People would get intimidated by her ways but most of the time people respected her for her sense of right and wrong. May Allah bless her for touching so many lives and helping them in many ways. May her soul Rest in Peace

Roohi Gaya Ismail

Mrs Sufi was very dedicated, focused and sincere person. Two of my children were her students. She always had a very special gift for them and good advice even after they were married. She was one of a kind, always busy with the child and for the child. May she rest in peace, in Jannat. Ameen.

Farida Zafar (PMA member)

The following message has been included from rest of the PMA members.

Mrs. Majida Sufi, a true Montessorian, with great human values and dedication matched to very few. You will be missed. May Allah rest your soul in peace. Ameen.

Farida Akbar (Co director MTTC), Salma Imtiaz (Co director MTTC), Nusrat Humayun, Nilufer Ahmed, Maheen Pasha, Shireen Gaya, Masooma Alibhai, Nargis Sheerazi, Zeeba Rizvi and Zubeda Asghar.

Montessori Memories with Majida Sufi

Tea at the Ansaris



A visit to Zeeba Rizvi's school Dec 2011



Tea at Habiba Thobani's in honour of external examiner, Hilla Patell in 1970



With Farida Fazal in Los Angeles, in 2015



Dinner at the Gaya's in honour of external examiner, Marcillia Palocchi



Thanks to Habiba Thobani, Zohra Gaya, Farida Fazal, Salman Ansari and Zeeba Rizvi for photo contribution

Announcements



PMA Seminar on Education for Life at the Pak American Cultural Centre(PACC) Auditorium on 20th January 2018, 10am-1.00pm. Cards available at PMA

Language Refresher Course, Pakistan – May 2018

The Montessori Teachers Training Centre is happy to announce an AMI Language Refresher Course organized by Pakistan Montessori Association and conducted by Ms.Cheryl Ferreira: AMI 3-6 Trainer, London and Representative of AMI Netherlands. The Refresher Course to be held on the 12th 13th 14th of May 2018 will be a unique opportunity for AMI Diploma holders in Pakistan to update themselves with regard to the Language activities, in the current context. Your participation will be required on all three days from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm in order to receive a Refresher Course Certificate, issued by AMI, The Netherlands.

Kindly note that this course will only be available to those who have completed the 3-6 year Primary course Diploma at any AMI affiliated training centre.

- Course Fee : PKR8,000/-

For registration please fill up the application form available at the office of the Pakistan Montessori Association and hand it over to them 1st of January 2018 between 9.00 p.m. and 12.00pm Mondays through Fridays.

For further clarifications please call Kishwar Allahwala Pakistan Montessori Association on 34543952, 34549103 during school hours.

AMI 2018 AGM and Montessori Forum

12-16 April 2018,
Amsterdam.

**6th Assembly of Educateurs sans Frontières**

We are pleased to announce that the Sixth Assembly of Educateurs sans Frontières (EsF) will be held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from 4-18 August, 2018

**29th International Montessori Congress Bangkok, Thailand 16 - 19 July 2021****Managing Committee**

Zohra Gaya – President
Farida Fazal – Vice President
Kishwar Allawala – General Secretary
Banoo Kisat – Treasurer
Farah Sarfraz – Joint Secretary

Other Members

Nilufer Ahmed
Shireen Gaya
Maheen Pasha
Zeeba Rizvi
Nargis Sheerazi
Masooma Alibhai

Thanks to: Habiba Thobani, Zohra Gaya, Farida Fazal, Kishwar Allawala, Banoo Kisat, Masooma Alibhai , Nasir Sufi

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