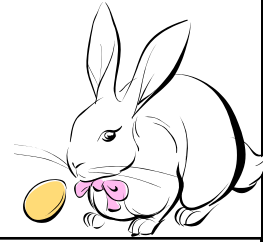




# Montessori Centres April 2015 Newsletter



*The things he sees  
are not just re-  
membered; they  
form a part of his  
soul. ~ Maria  
Montessori*



## Montessori: Valuing Diversity with Andrew Solomon

from [American Montessori Society](#)



Andrew Solomon, a Keynote speaker at the 2014 Annual Conference, discusses how teaching children to value diversity and accept differences can have a profound impact on society. [See The Video Here](#)



### Is Montessori The Origin Of Google & Amazon?

[Steve Denning Forbes.com](#) Contributor

In your extended absence, you permit me use of earth, anticipating some return on investment. I must report failure in my assignment, principally regarding the tomato plants.

Louise Glück, Vespers

Unfortunately our failure these days goes way beyond the tomato plants and extends to the entire education system, as noted in my two last articles, Wakeup Call For The Gates Foundation and What Does It Mean To Be Educated? The articles sparked a lively conversation, parts of which deserve highlighting.

Let's learn from Montessori

The idea that we don't have to reinvent the wheel was striking. The example of thousands of Montessori schools is before us. Montessori puts the student at the center. It is proven to work. As noted by Sivadlk it's working on every inhabited continent, at every economic level. The approach is over 100 years old but the ideas are timeless. The world is finally catching up with Maria Montessori's insights.

### Is Montessori the key to Apple & Amazon?

There was considerable interest in the Wall Street Journal article by Peter Sims, author of Little Bets: How Breakthrough Ideas Emerge from Small Discoveries (Free Press, 2011) about the possibility of a "Montessori Mafia", given that the Montessori approach has spawned a creative elite, including Google's founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, video-game pioneer Will Wright, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, cook Julia Child and rapper Sean "P.Diddy" Combs.

The Montessori learning method establishes a collaborative environment without grades or tests, multi-aged classrooms, as well as self-directed learning and discovery for long blocks of time.

Montessori methods go against the grain of traditional educational methods but they have uncanny parallels in the success of their alumni:

- Google [[GOOG] wasn't launched by Larry Page and Sergei Brin as a brilliant vision, but rather as a project to improve library searches, followed by a series of small discoveries that unlocked a revolutionary business model.

[Finish Reading Here](#)

### Dates to Remember:

- 4/6: Spring Break Over-BACK TO SCHOOL
- 4/10: PRIMARY: "Tooth Fairy Together" Dental Visit 9:00 am
- 4/13: PRIMARY: Indy Beekeepers visits 
- 4/22: PREK: Holliday Park Pond Study 9am-1 pm \*weather permitting we will eat lunch at the park
- 4/25: PRIMARY: Clowes Hall Stinky Cheese Man 9:30 -11:15 AM Cost: \$8.00




### Student Handbook

Our student handbook is available online. You can access it through our Web site ([www.montessoricentres.com](http://www.montessoricentres.com)). If you would like a hard copy, please let the office staff know.



**DIA DA** *School will be closed March 30th to April 3rd for Spring Break!*



**MENTIRA**

### Enrollment for the 2015-2016 School Year

If you have told us that you plan to enroll your child for the next school year, but have not yet turned in your signed contract and deposit, please do so as soon as possible.

Your signed contract and paid deposit is the only way we can definitely hold a spot in the classroom for your child.



### Spring Clothing

Spring weather in Indiana is notoriously unpredictable. Please dress your child in layers in the morning and consider leaving a jacket or sweater at school for chillier-than-expected mornings.

As the weather gets warmer, children will want to wear sandals. For safety reasons, we prefer that children wear tennis shoes. If you do want to send your child in sandals, please make sure that they have closed toe and a strap that fastens securely around the ankle. Crocs and flip-flops are not safe shoes for the playground and tend not to be comfortable for long walks.

We recognize that some children balk at wearing tennis shoes on a warm day. You are welcome to leave a pair of tennis shoes at school for them to wear during recess and walks.



### Coming In May

- ◆ **May 24th: School Picnic at Broad Ripple Park 10:30-1:30 PM**
  - ◇ **Bring a dish SCHOOL CLOSED Friday, May 22nd is the last day for Abbreviated Calendar Students**
- ◆ **May 25- 29th: School will be closed Memorial Week.**
- ◆ **Balanced Calendar Students will attend classes until June 26th**

### Montessori People

People who have been touched by Montessori comprise a growing and gloriously diverse group.

Its numbers include teachers and the educators who guide them; students and the parents who ask them about their day. Former students are still Montessori People, because, as some have told us, Montessori is for life. Montessori People in the public eye often demonstrate qualities Montessori seeks to nurture. For example, consider Montessori alumni Sergey Brin and Larry Page, the creative thinkers who founded Google, and Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon.

Other Montessori People include enthusiasts such as Kin, a 12-year-old Montessori graduate, and Gabriela Martinez, a Montessori infant teacher. They speak eloquently about what Montessori means to them, as do others whose stories we're proud to present.

#### Maya Angelou

Writer & world-renowned humanitarian

A lifelong self-directed learner, Maya Angelou is a poet, educator, journalist, historian, dancer, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer, and director who tirelessly encourages others to develop the best that is in them. It isn't surprising that she became a Montessori parent.



In her keynote address at the AMS 2007 Annual Conference, she spoke about courage. It takes courage to speak honestly. It takes courage to advocate for peace. It takes courage to rear open-minded, curious children in uncertain times. Montessorians like Maya Angelou know that the Earth's survival depends on us finding the courage to do all these things.

Dr. Angelou holds a lifetime position as Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. She has authored 12 best-selling books, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

**[Read about other Montessori people here.](#)**