



Message from the Guild

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. We would like to keep you updated on everything involving the Guild. This school year we will not be pursuing big fundraising events but be ready to party to celebrate 10 years of Montessori By The Sea!

On September 23rd the AGM was held during which the new Executive Committee was chosen, and 3 new active members were welcomed. As always we printed the names and contact information of all the guild committee members on page 2 of this newsletter. If you have concerns, ideas or suggestions concerning the Guild or the school you can contact any person on this list and your input will be discussed during the parent guild meetings.

With the revenue from the Book & Toy Sale we held in June we were able to finance two sets of science books and DVDs. These books and DVDs were recommended by Mr. Guy Harrison who gives science lectures to the kindergarten, elementary and middle school groups. Please read the caption on this page for more information.

Due to heavy rain the traditional welcome BBQ at the beginning of the school year had to be rescheduled and was held on October 10th. It was a great opportunity for everyone to make new acquaintances as well as to greet familiar faces.

A new project we have planned for this year is the production of teatowels adorned with the selfportraits of all the students. On page 2 of this newsletter we have information about the Montessori Teacher's conference that was attended by some of the school's teachers.

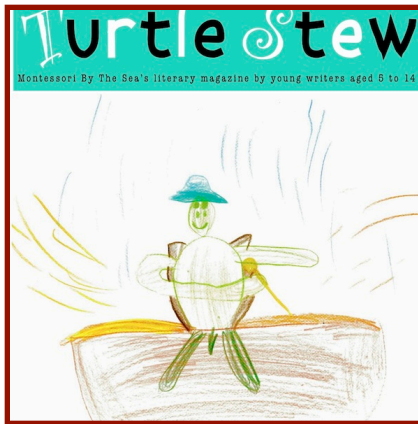
We also hope to have the first edition of our new literary magazine ready by Christmas.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2010!

The MBTS Parent Guild Executive Committee.



Keep a look-out for our new fundraising project: keepsake tea-towels featuring the MBTS students' selfportraits.



The first issue of the Turtle Stew magazine is planned for this December.

Teatowels

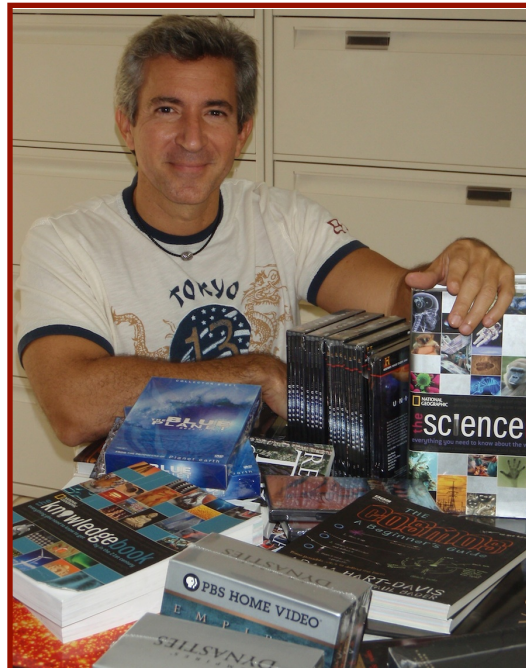
The children have been busy at school drawing their self-portraits for our new fundraising project that will feature all their wonderful faces on a keepsake teatowel. During the Christmas Concert we will be selling these at our stand, so keep your eyes out for these great stocking fillers!

Literary Magazine

In December you will find the first issue of our new literary magazine, called 'Turtle Stew'. The children have been very creative and have contributed stories, poetry and artwork for a wonderful display of the students' many talents. Printed copies will be for sale at our stall during the christmas concert and a digital version will be downloadable from the MBTS website. We hope you will enjoy the magazine as much as we do.

Mr. Guy's Book & dvd list

The science books and dvds from Mr. Guy's recommendation list the Guild donated to the school arrived last month. These are beautiful reference books and world renowned documentaries that are sure to captivate the children's fascination. The school asked Mr. Guy to divide the books for appropriate age groups after which they were distributed among the classrooms where the children can peruse them freely. The dvd documentaries will illustrate science and history lessons.



Mr. Guy presented the books and DVD's from his recommendation list to the MBTS teachers



Teacher Presentation

Four teachers attended the Montessori Conference in Florida this November and their trip was as always partly sponsored by the Parent Guild, since professional development is considered an important aspect of the school. The teachers returned spirited and filled with fresh ideas. They organized a presentation of what they had learned for interested parents during the Parent Night on November 25, which was much appreciated by those attending. The enthusiasm of the teachers was contagious as they described the meetings with other teachers and new ideas they learned at the seminars and workshops, and presented the new materials and lessons they acquired during the conference.

Ms. Ali played some wonderful new cd's and had everyone walk a chord to stimulating music and mimic animals to the sound of a relaxing tune. Please read below Ms. Sarah's (Lower Elementary) recap of the conference.

Fun-raising vs. Fundraising: celebrating 10 years of MBTS!

We all know that Cayman like the rest of the world is going through some tough economic times. Therefore we have decided to skip big fundraising events this year and to concentrate on other aspects of the Parent Guild's objectives. So we will not organize the Golf Tournament this year. On the other hand we have a big reason to party! The Parent Guild invites you to celebrate the 10 years anniversary of the school with a fun dinnerparty (no auction) and a complimentary glass of champagne to toast to the school! So mark your calendars at February 27th 2010 for a fabulous night out. (smart casual/cocktaildress) Details will follow soon!



Quote

"Our care of the children should be governed not by the desire to 'make them learn things', but by the endeavor always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence."

Dr. Maria Montessori

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Conference report by Ms. Sarah

In November, three of our (current) staff members participated in the 13th Annual International Montessori Conference. The conference, which hosted this year in Sarasota Florida, welcomed hundreds of participants and presenters from around the globe, including Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Indonesia, and Pakistan. Over the course of three days, Ms. Kristina (Casa Teacher), Ms. Ali (Music Teacher) and Ms. Sarah (Lower Elementary Classroom Assistant) attended workshops and plenaries ranging in topics from Music in the Classroom to Bringing Science to Life. There was also an opportunity to purchase additional materials for our school, including an interactive puzzle map of the Caribbean, numerous mathematics materials, and music materials. It was both an inspiring and rejuvenating experience, and we thank the Parent's Guild for being a key sponsor of this trip. — Ms. Sarah, LEU