



## THE SCHOOL

### School Motto

"Knowledge with Understanding"

### Mission Statement

Individualized learning and progress, student, parent-teacher involvement, a balanced social and academic programme, high values and a continually optimistic outlook combine to create the all-encompassing strength of Montessori's "whole person" approach. To this end, our Mission Statement is: "To continue on our path of striving for excellence in education recognizing the importance of respect, knowledge and individualization for each and every student."

### Ownership

The Montessori Learning Centre of Pickering is owned by Nicola Phillips. She acts as Principal / Administrator and the school is privately owned and operated.

### History

MLCP first opened its doors at 415 Toynevale Road in September of 1984 with 25 students and 4 staff members. The school at this point was owned and operated by Nicola Phillips and Dorothy Grazianni. The owner and principal of the school, Nicola Phillips and two other initial staff members continue to teach at the school. The school offered a full Montessori Programme with 2 classrooms - a *CASA* grouping (3 to 6 years) and a Junior Elementary classroom (6 to 9 years). As the first Montessori school in Pickering, it quickly expanded. An Ajax location was opened in 1988 at the corner of Rotherglen Road and Kingston Road. Two years after its purchase and opening, the partnership dissolved with Dorothy Grazianni retaining the Ajax location and Nicola Phillips retaining the Pickering location. Another location opened at 980 Dunbarton Road in 1989. The school grew steadily adding Intermediate Elementary (9 to 12 years) and the Senior Elementary (12 years and up). An Infant Programme was also added in 1996 catering to children from 6 months to 18 months old. Due to increasing numbers, 401 Kingston Road was purchased and the Pickering locations amalgamated to one site in September 1998. 409 and 417 Kingston Road were also acquired as an extension of the school; home at last! The curriculum has expanded and improved continuously throughout the school's life.



## **Purpose**

To provide for every student of the Montessori Learning Centre of Pickering (herein referred to as MLCP) an education rich in academic, social and emotional value. We commit to creating, for each student, the environment in which they can reach their full potential.

## **Educational Approach - The Montessori Philosophy**

The Montessori Method was conceived as an indirect approach to learning, presenting a comprehensive view of educating the child. Dr. Montessori regarded the classroom as a laboratory for observing children and testing and retesting ideas and aids to their growth. She approached education as a scientist and pursued her ideas with an open mind, always with strong respect for the child as an individual. It was a scientifically designed method intended to develop the whole personality of the child at the student's own natural rate of progress and thus free the student's potential for self-development within a prepared environment.

Dr. Montessori felt that for each of the four stages of human development (birth to six, six to twelve, twelve to eighteen and eighteen to twenty-four) it was necessary to change our basic approach to the child, not just give the student harder work.

The Montessori curriculum places no restraints on the student's ability and provides manual and physical activity through the use of concrete and abstract experiences to help the student gain mastery of him/herself and the environment.

The materials allow the child to explore the world through the student's various senses. Lessons allow the student to gain self-confidence and self-mastery - knowing how to do things for her/himself, through the successful completion of work that is meaningful to the student. S/he gains the confidence necessary to competence by experiencing only temporary failures as they work from the simple to the more complex. Dr. Montessori felt that self-education was of the greatest value and, that to be in control of one's self, the ultimate achievement.

What has always been most unique about the Montessori method is the detailed emphasis given to sensorial experiences, and therein lies the key to its great success in later learning.

"The Essential Montessori" - Elizabeth Hainstock



## **MLCP School Calendar (to be updated yearly)**

A calendar for the school year will be forwarded to registered children and given to staff during the first general meeting before school begins in the fall.

## **Future Plans**

The school commits to the continuing improvement of facility and programmes.

Additional financial security will allow for on-going facility improvements and undertakings.

There is a longer-term plan for amalgamation of all current buildings into one central, larger two or three storey building.

## **Memberships and Associations** (may vary in different years)

- ❖ OFIS - Ontario Federation of Independent Schools
- ❖ CCMA - Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators
- ❖ AMS - American Montessori Society
- ❖ ISAA - Independent Schools Athletic Association
- ❖ IMS - International Montessori Society