2006 Modern Montessori International (LONDON) A LEADER in Montessori International Group Modern Montessori International Group

Posing With Our Student From Claymore

The Corporate Newsletter of MMI Group

Issue No. 01/2006



Mrs S R Nathan



▲ A Wavm Welcome



▲ Sitting In One Of The Montessori Classes

Singapore's First Lady Graces MMI

Corporate Headquarters and Claymore Centre



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Word From the Editor

As reported in the last issue of EXPLORE, the Modern Montessori International Group's two academic subsidiaries, MMI Business School and Modern Montessori Training Centre, have been awarded the Singapore Quality Class for Private Education Organization (SQC-PEO). Since then, we have started enrolling international students for our full-time diploma courses.

One more exciting piece of news has just come our way, as MMI is now pairing up with Australia's University of Southern Queensland to launch the Bachelor of Early Childhood degree program for students who wish to further their studies at the tertiary level. The pioneer cohort of students, a number of whom were former MMI diploma. holders, have commenced their first semester in July.

Overseas, there are certainly some interesting developments taking place in countries like Hong Kong. and Indonesia, where MMI is looking to establish a foothold. We will have more information here pertaining to these enterprises as the months unfold.

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MMI Hong Kong Takes Flight



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Modern Montessori International (Hong Kong) Limited has found base at the Connaught Commercial Building located at 185 Wan Chair Road.

Wan Chai is one of the busiest commercial areas in Hong Kong with many small- and medium-sized companies gathering, likewise various shopping centres and restaurants serving cuisines of different countries. Wan Chai North features office towers, parks, hotels and a worldclass conference centre.

MMI HK will be a strategic international office for the MMI Group as part of the latter's Asia 21 expansion plan to extend its operations to the People's Republic of China. It hopes to implement both teachertraining programs for adults as well as enrichment services for children.

MMI Ties Up With Dumex

We have revamped our Modern Montessori Learn About Phonics education set with a jazzy new packaging, but the contents and objectives remain intact that is, to introduce the joy of reading to children.

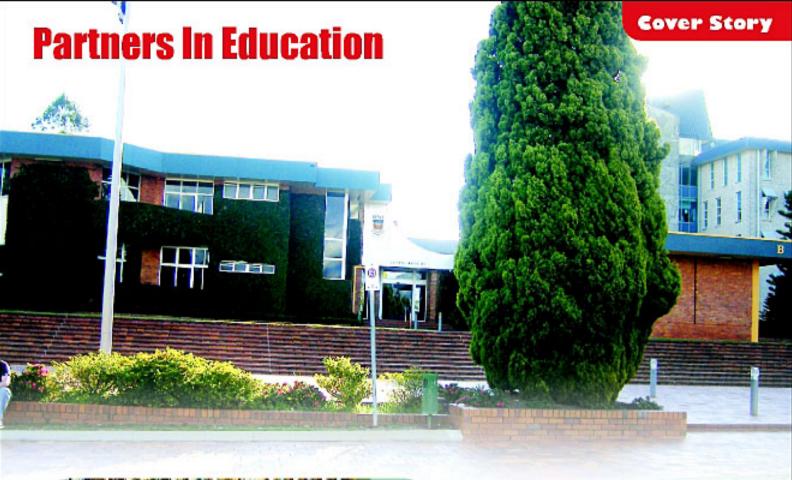
Modern Montessori International Singapore has tied up with nutritional food glant Dumex Singapore to offer 5000 lucky Dumex bables each a complimentary Phonics set with every purchase of a specific Dumex product.



About the Montessori "Learn About Phonics" Set

Alphabet sounds are learned individually, and then combined to form short words. The child sounds these words out phonetically, Gradually, he will be able to blend these sounds together and say the whole word.

The teaching of sounds and letters is through a multi-sensory approach The child will hear the sound, see its representation in the form of a letter and feel the movements involved in its writing.





Associate Professor Gillian Potter , USQ Associate Dean (Academic), Professor Bill Lovegrove, USQ Vice Chancellor, and Dr. T Chandroo, MMI Group Chairman/CEO.

Under the USQ-MMI partnership agreement, graduate students from MMI can qualify for USQ's Bachelor of Early Childhood degree programme with either one of the three diplomas – namely in Pre-School Teaching, Leadership and Montessori – and can gain advance standing upon admission into the university.

Professional observation, which has to be done on a semestral basis, can be conducted at any of MMI's 25 professionally run pre-school centers located islandwide in Singapore.

All the lectures will be conducted in Singapore and all of MMI's USQendorsed trainers are specially appointed, highly qualified professionals in the field of Early Childhood Education, who possess at least Masters in Education or PhD.

With USQ's vast experience and MMI's substantial resources, along with a common goal to provide nonpareil education services to the masses, the Bachelor of Early Childhood degree program will be a success.

Modern Montessori International has collaborated with Australia's University of Southern Queensland (USQ) to launch the Bachelor in Early Childhood (BECh) programme. This provides our Diploma students a dedicated progress path to further their course of studies.



About USQ

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) is based in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. The institution was established in 1967, and became a full university in 1992. It has international study support centres in Bretten (Germany), Fairland (South Africa), Botswana and Brisbane.

It has approximately 27,000 enrolments, including over 7,400 international students. More than 100 nationalities are represented and about 5,000 international students study USQ programmes while remaining in their home countries.

USQ offers programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level by on-campus, off-campus or online study. Some students choose different modes of delivery for different periods of their study.

Programme Aims

This programme is a three-year full-time equivalent external program designed to prepare students to work in early childhood care and educational settings, as well as to become a Director of a childcare centre.



MMI India Signs Franchise Agreement with MES at Calicut, Kerala

MMI India is pleased to announce its latest franchise partnership with Kerala's Muslim Education Society (MES).

After going through a thorough selection process, MES has decided to choose MMI based on the strength of our London-based Montessori curriculum, which they are very much impressed with.

Calicut is the third largest city in the southern state of Kerala in India. It is the headquarters of Kozhikode district, and was formerly the capital of an independent kingdom, and later of the erstwhile Malabar District.

Having already set up centers in part of Delhi, namely Gurgaon, Vasant Vihar and Greater Kailash II, the MMI Group is now expanding to other parts of India.

Calicut has a population of close to a million people and thrives with educational institutions like the Indian Institute of Management, Calicut Medical College and the National Institute of Technology. Well-established pre-school centers are far and few between; Montessori education for children, in particular, is something entirely new.

The MMI-MES partnership will, no doubt, beget high-quality early childhood programs and top-class education services for both children and their parents.



About MES

MES is a full and private university offering tertiary courses in medicine, engineering and information technology, among others.

Boasting an aggregate student strength of 70,000, MES' English Medium Senior Secondary School implemented the first fully computer-aided education facility and digitalised classrooms in Kerala.

Under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Faizal, a renowned neurosurgeon in Calicut, MES has expanded exponentially over the years and is now looking to make a foray into the fields of healthcare and early childhood education.

Updates from MMI Thailand

Contributed by: Mrs. Patricia Barber (Head Administrator, MMI Thailand)

MMI Thailand has now completed its first year of operation! On the whole it was a very successful and eventful time, enjoyed by staff and students alike.

It has been wonderful to watch the children open up and bloom into the wonderful world of Montessori. To see them develop using their own intelligence and understanding of the Montessori materials, a joy, their confidence and love of swimming, outdoor play, and simply taking off their own shoes, dressing and undressing, amazing.

We have now introduced After School Activities, Swimming and Plano Lessons, with the intention of expanding in the new school year. Saturday school has been a huge success with interest in continuing this too.

To compliment thematic subjects (5 senses) we have been on trips to a Children's Discover (hands on) Museum, Ocean World, and Samitivej Hospital. Enjoyed by the children and the staff! Earth week

saw an arrangement of amazing creations constructed out of recycled materials, and Book Week was a wonderful time of parents reading and sharing favourite books with our students and the sale of children's books from Foyles Educational Books. International Art Week followed where students and parents discussed and demonstrated an art from their culture, culminating in a day where students and staff dressed in National Dress and a wonderful display of art, produced by the students, from around the world.

Some of our students are enjoying our very first Summer School programme, where they have been enjoying learning about the 'Three Little Pigs' and their houses and a Big Bad Wolfl As well as enjoying swimming, outdoor games, songs, stories and of course Montessori time.

Next year will see new staff joining MMI Thailand, so ensuring another wonderful experience which we will be sharing with you all as the occasions arise.



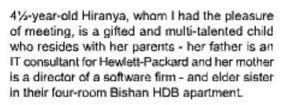
Developments from MMI Sri Lanka

MMI Sri Lanka's Diploma in Montessori Method of Education teacher-training program has taken off well and is presently in its second quarter. The pioneer batch saw some 30 students onboard and the current cohort has about 10. The center projects an enrolment figure of 120 students by the end of 2006 and hopes to excel even better next year.



MMI's Little Geniuses



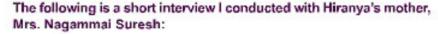


In the course of my two-hour interview session with Hiranya and her mother (Daddy was working at the time of my visit), I was treated to a gamut of entertaining talent display by the bubbly young girl who seemed to possess endless bounds of energy. She sang, danced, recited poetry and even played chess and memory games with Mommy.

to study at MMI
Thomson, is currently
attending school at Bhavan's Global Indian
International School - along with Sis. She was
featured in The New Paper for her mastery of

International School - along with Sis. She was featured in The New Paper for her mastery of the Microsoft FrontPage software and has, over the years, gamered numerous awards and accolades for her accomplishment in performing arts, etc.

Despite achieving so much at such a tender age, Hiranya's parents have kept her down to earth - inculcating her with proper family values and also encouraging her to contribute towards charity as well as caring for the elderly and needy.



Tell us more about Hiranya.

She is a very active young girl who enjoys studying and playing. She especially lowes reading, typing and coloring. Her favorite sports are cycling and badminton, which she often plays with her dad, and her favorite games are word search and memory matching. As a family, we often engage in chess, carom and also guiz answering sessions.

Why did you choose to enroll your child with MMI?

Modern Montessori provides an environment where children have the freedom to do their own activities. This trains them to be disciplined and independent. Moreover, the Montessori tools promote effective mental and physical development.

Describe your experience with MMI. How has it benefited the child? Any significant difference(s)?

As mentioned, Hiranya has become more independent. She can now wear her own shoes and roll out her own mat for practice. She is also starting to interact more with people and making more friends.

As a parent, do you think Montessori has benefited you? Do you practice it at home yourself?

At home, we engage in phonics and practical life activities like pouring and spooning. We also teach Hiranya spelling and pronunciation.

Hiranya, who used

How can MMI improve to serve both parents and children better? Perhaps the hours of lessons can be increased.

What would you say to parents who have doubts in the Montessori Method of Education?

As far as MIMI is concerned, the curriculum and materials greatly improve my child's confidence and self-esteem. I can personally vouch for this.

is there anything that you will like to add?

Setting a strong foundation is important for young children. Parents should also play an active role in the education of their children.

Melissa Tan - 6 years old

MMI congratulates the parents of Melissa Tan for placing second in the 6th Annual Inter-School Ice Skating Championships held at Jurong Entertainment Centre's Fuji Ice Palace from 3 - 4 June 2006.

The 6-year-old kindergarten 2 student from MMI Choa Chu Kang at Phoenix Walk won a total of two medals - 2nd position for her solo performance of 'Jungle Song' and 5th position for a surprise event (i.e. a game).

Young Melissa took up ice skating only six month ago, under a group class. In May 2006, she took up individual lessons with her coach, Mr. Raymond, to practice and rehearse for the 'Jungle Song' solo item.







MMI Appoints Franchisee in Jakarta, Indonesia

The MMI Group has engaged a Master Franchisee in the Republic of Indonesia for its world renowned Montessori Method of Education.

Mr. Osith Ramanathan, Director of the Group's subsidiary Modern Montessori International East Asia Pte Ltd, recently inked an agreement at the MMI Corporate HQ at Orchard Towers with Ms. Sony Raju Vasandani, Founder and Director of Yayasan Sunshine, to set up and run Montessori pre-school as well as teacher-training centres in various parts of Jakarta.

With a national population of 245 million people, with capital Jakarta accounting for 9 million, Indonesia is certainly a viable market for MMI's brand of business.



MMI Does Its Part For Charity

In the spirit of giving back to the community, MMI's pre-school branches got together and did our part for charity. Through fundraising activities such as public donations and a family carnival held at MMI Kovan, funds were raised for the Singapore Children



Society (SCS). The cheque was presented by MMI Director of Pre-Schools Mdm. Shella (right) to SCS Director Ms. Amutha.

In addition, clothing, stationery and food items were also donated. This is just our small way of showing that we care.

Updates @ MMI Claymore

On this bright and cheery morning, children and teachers of MMI Claymore celebrated their Passport to the World - Japan Day. Some Japanese mothers and children arrived garbed in their traditional Japanese summer costumes - namely yukata for moms and jinbei for kids. Domo arigato gozaimashita!



Classes jumpstarted with kamishibai, a Japanese picture card story-telling.



It was proceeded by origami, or Japanese paper craft making.

A group photo before we say sayonara!





 Next up was Japanese snacks of fruit candies, marshmallows and rice crackers.

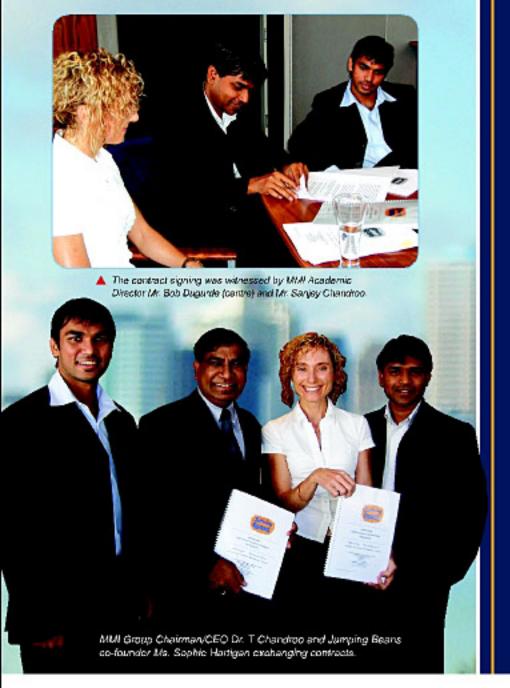


Jumping for Success

The MMI Group's associate company, CSD Consultants, has inked an exclusive Master Franchise Licence agreement with Auckland's foremost early childhood physical learning centre, Jumping Beans International, to propagate the latter's brand outside of New Zealand.

Under the licence agreement, Jumping Beans will continue to produce its popular series of educational animated programmes for young children. MMI, on its part, will help to promote this series through a proposed five-centre chain establishment that it plans to set up islandwide in Singapore within a year.

MMI's core competence, the Montessori Method of Education, will also be infused into the syllabus at these centres along with Jumping Bean's own unique activity-based curriculum.





About Jumping Beans

Jumping Beans offers a fun physical skills program for children ages & weeks to 6 years in a safe, fun and frienally environment. A household name in New Zealand with over 20,000 children having experienced the Jumping Beans program, Jumping Beans International is now taking this unique business to the world.

The Jumping Beans session is the highlight of the week for thousands of children. The proprietary Jumping Beans program teaches physical confidence, develops brains for learning by stimulating essential learning pathways for emotional, social and intellectual intelligences. Jumping Beans can transform the way a child learns in one semester.

The Jumping Beans program is delivered in community classes, fitness centres or in child care groups. Community and fitness alasses involve two feachers, up to 24 children. with their caregivers and a full set of apparatus. These classes are 40 minutes to 1 hour in duration. Childcare classes involve one teacher with a half set of apparatus and up to 15 children with support staff from the childcare. Fitness centres can use either model.



























Word From the Editor

As we heralded the beginning of 2006 and ushered in the Year of the Dog, the Modern Montessori International Group is primed to face new challenges. Having a good 2005 provided us plenty of momentum to roll in the forthcoming months.

Already, many interesting and exciting new developments are in the pipeline. These include the admission and enrolment of international students into our full-time teacher-training programs. Our recent conferment of the Singapore Quality Class for Private Education Organization (SQC for PEO) enables us to do so under the 'green lane'.

Also on our scholastic calendar is the impending launch. of a bachelor degree program, which we will be collaborating with a foreign college. Presently, our Academic Department is in the final stage of negotiations with the university's Dean's Office. If all goes well, we should be able to commence our classes in the summer.

2006 also marks the year where MMI Singapore opens its 26th pre-school center. MMI @ Sengkang, as it is called, is the Group's first ever 'boutique childcare center'. Hopefully, this is a sign of better things to come!



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MMI Receives CaseTrust Endorsement

MMI Group's two teacher-training subsidiaries, namely MMI Business School and Modern Montessori Training Center, have been accredited with CaseTrust For Education by the Consumer Association of Singapore. This is in recognition of our schools' clear fee policies and well-defined student redress practices.





All smiles: MMI Singapore's Executive Manager Mr. Simon Tay (right) accepting the CaseTrust for Education accreditation from CASE President and Member of Panlament for Altunied GRC Mr. Yeo Guat Kwang.





MMI Incorporates 2 New Offices In Asia

Sri Lanka

Ceylinco Modern Montessori International (Pvt) Ltd, a joint enterprise in Sri Lanka between the MMI Group and the local Ceylinco Consolidated, has leased its own four-story building - Ceylinco MMI Building - in the nation's capital.

Plans are already underway to commence both teacher-training courses and pre-school programs in the first or second quarter of 2006.





Hong Kong SAR

Modern Montessori International (Hong Kong) Limited has been recently incorporated as a major part of the MMI Group's ongoing expansion into Greater China.



A key economic player in Asia, the strategically located former British colony has been a thriving commercial and financial hub for decades.

MMI HK, when it goes into full operation in the second quarter. of 2006, plans to launch teacher-training courses specializing in the Montessori Method of Education for children aged 21/2 to 6 years as well as an enrichment centre.

THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER, OF REAL PROPERTY OF

An Honour Above All

It was a tremendous honor for Modern Montessori International on March 10, 2006, when the First Lady of the Republic of Singapore, Mrs. S R Nathan, graced MMI's Claymore childcare centre and its Corporate Headquarters on Level 24 of Orchard Towers for a 21/2-hour visitation.

Mrs. Nathan's entourage arrived at Claymore at 10 a.m. sharp and was immediately greeted with a warm welcome by the children who presented her with a beautiful handmade garland. Mrs. Nathan then proceeded to light the lamp as a symbol for hope and brightness.

The First Lady sat in for the classes and observed how Montessori is imparted to the young children by our specially trained teachers before everyone gathered for a group photograph.

Mrs. Nathan then visited MMI's HQ and was introduced to all its staff. She then sat in for both the Montessori and the pre-school teacher training classes, whereby students presented several interesting and informative items (e.g. skits and songs).

A reception was then held in the Boardroom and Mrs. Nathan as well as representatives from both MMI and MCYS engaged in discussions pertaining to early childhood education in Singapore.

Needless to say, it was a most rewarding and invaluable experience for everyone here at Modern Montessori International.

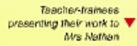
Specially thanks and appreciation also to MCYS Director Mr. Lee Kim Hua (standing far left), Deputy Director Ms. Ismail Ellias (standing 4th from right) and Senior Family Services Officer Ms. Julita Mohd Hussen (not in picture) for taking time to join Mrs. Nathan on her visitation.



 Lighting the lamp at Claymore



Observing Montessori children at work







MMI India Highlights

Independence Day

The school was decorated in tri-colours with kites and balloons. The dress code of all the children, teachers and quests was the same. Ms. Dhara Jaipuria, Pro-Vice-Chairperson MMI, unfurled the national flag. which was followed by the national anthem and presentation of numerous patriotic songs.





The Montessori Week

To make the parents feel a part of their children's learning process, a Montessori Week was organised. They accompanied their children and watched them participate in an array of interesting Montessori activities and were amazed to see how various concepts were presented with such ease.

■ Dewali Mela

Dewali Mela was open to all the parents, relatives and local residents who responded enthusiastically and participated in all the games and creative activities. The food stalls were also a big hit.





Children's Day

"Fruits and Vegetables" fancy dress show brought the young ones in innovative and creative outfits. They guessed each other's names, recited rhymes on the fruits or vegetables that they were posing as. Children enjoyed the story of St. Jawaharlal Nehru whose birthday is the origin of Children's Day.

Christmas

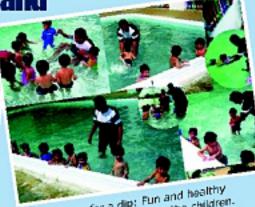
The school adorned with a Christmas tree beautifully decorated with stars and golden bells, a 'Nativity Scene' tableau, Santa arriving with loads of gifts for everyone...all these created the Christmas spirit for everyone.





The day starts with a flag raising ceremony.





Time for a dip: Fun and healthy swimming lessons for the children.





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for their children.



MMI Bags Two More Prestigious Accreditations One Local, One International

SQC for PEO

MMI finally achieves the Singapore Quality Class for Private Education Organizations (SQC-PEO), one of the highest honors conferred on forward-looking institutions with world-class quality standards. It is based on the Singapore Quality Award Business Excellence Framework and requirements in the private education sector.

Administered by SPRING Singapore, the SQC-PEO scheme serves as the industry standard for organization excellence in the private education sector.

The Group's two subsidiaries, namely MMI Business School and Modern Montessori Training Centre, can now admit international students under the 'green lane'. This is in line with the local government's initiative to transform Singapore into a regional education hub.





British Accreditation Council

MMI (London) has been accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) for its nonparell early childhood curriculum specialising in the Montessori Method.

BAC is a registered non-profit organisation established to act as the national accrediting body for independent further and higher education. It is independent both of government and of the colleges with which it accredits.

BAC's Council includes nominees of a number of the

standards in British education, including the Association of Colleges, the British Council, the Council of Validating Universities, Universities UK, the Chartered Institutes, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and UKCOSA.

With this prestigious accreditation, our Diploma in Montessori Method of Education program has now achieved an enhanced international status.







MMI Participates in Career Fair 2006 @ Suntec Convention Hall

In an unprecedented move, the Modern Montessori International Group has inched itself into the major league of exhibitors at the recent Career Fair 2006 held at Singapore's Suntec Convention Hall.

This year, MMI spared no cost to create the largest marketing buzz. spending a total of \$20,000 on a 260-square-foot space complete. with a classy concave backdrop in addition to sending a daily 6staff strong academic-cum-marketing team - and achieved a revenue turnover of 450%.

Great job, guys!







Presenting our programmes



























The Corporate Newsletter of the MMI Group

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