



PRESS RELEASE

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Montessori Radmoor Kicks-off its 50th Anniversary Year with Founders' Day

Okemos, MI – Montessori Radmoor School celebrates the beginning of its golden anniversary year with Founders' Day on Friday, September 7, 2018. In a special program, the school will honor and recognize the contributions of the seven founding families with students, teachers, parents, alumni, and guests in attendance. Following the program, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in the Radmoor Children's Peace Garden to dedicate the installation of the Founders' Pergola. Founders' Day will conclude with a Cider Social hosted by Radmoor's Parent Guardian Association.

Schedule

2:30 p.m. - Founders' Day Program (Radmoor Gymnasium)
3:00 p.m. - Dedication of the Founders' Pergola (Children's Peace Garden)
3:15 p.m. - Cider Social (Elementary Playground)

Founding Families of Montessori Radmoor

Thomas and Barbara Astley
Leroy and Elizabeth Augenstein
John and Maxine Ferris
Samuel and Amelia Moore
Kenneth and Sarah Olsen
Louis and Karen Smith
George and Elizabeth Stranahan

BRIEF HISTORY

In May of 1968, seven founding families organized and led the effort to introduce Montessori education to the greater Lansing community. Originally coined the "Children's House," the school first opened its doors on September 4, 1968 in rented quarters at Okemos Community Church. This first class was led by directress (or teacher) Alice Hummel and comprised of 18 preschool-aged children. The following year, the school relocated to St. John's East in East Lansing until the school found its current home on Mount Hope Road.

With the Board's vision for expansion, land was purchased on Mount Hope Road in 1974. Construction commenced, and the school officially began classes in the new building on January 5, 1976. Since the initial construction, additions to the original structure have included elementary and toddler classrooms, a gymnasium, greenhouse, playgrounds, trails, and parking lot. In Spring of 2017 work on the Children's Peace Garden, a new outdoor space, was constructed in recognition and honor of the 25 years of service given by Susie Hyatt, Head of School.

Originally incorporated as Michigan Montessori Internationale, the school adopted the name Okemos Montessori Radmoor in 1982 to honor the contributions of Board members Lila Radway and Pat Moore. In 2005 the school became known as Montessori Radmoor.

OTHER 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Montessori Radmoor will host several events throughout the academic year.

- **50th Anniversary Golden Gala** - Saturday, September 29, 5:30-10:00 p.m. (University Club of MSU)
- **6th Annual Race for Radmoor** - Sunday, September 30, 3:00 p.m. (Radmoor)
- **Montessori Education Week** - February 24-March 2, 2019
- **Year-End-Picnic & Alumni Open House** - Friday, June 7, 2019 (Radmoor)

Alumni are encouraged to check the website or contact the school regarding upcoming events and activities. For more information about Montessori Radmoor School or the Montessori curriculum, please contact Susie Hyatt, Head of School at (517) 351-3655 or visit www.montessoriradmoor.org.

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About Montessori Radmoor

Montessori Radmoor School is located at 2745 Mt. Hope Road in Okemos, Michigan. The school was founded in 1968 to provide an authentic Montessori program based on the educational philosophy and methodology of Dr. Maria Montessori. Montessori Radmoor serves over 150 children ranging from ages 18 months to 12 years through its two Toddler, three Primary, and two Elementary classrooms. The school is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization and is affiliated with Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) and the Michigan Montessori Society.

Montessori Radmoor School respects the inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each individual and does not discriminate in the administration of any of its programs or policies on any basis including but not limited to ethnicity, family structure, gender identity, geographic origins, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

It is the school's mission that children will discover their unique potential by living the Montessori lifestyle hand in hand with parents and staff.

What is Montessori education?

Based on the life work and scientific study of Dr. Maria Montessori, Montessori education is characterized by an emphasis on independence, freedom within limits, and respect for a child's natural psychological development, as well as technological advancements in society. Essential elements of a Montessori classroom include:

- Mixed-age classrooms with a full three-year age span; 18 months to 3 years for toddlers, 3 to 6 years of age in primary and in elementary 6-9 years and 9-12 years.
- Student choice of activity from within a prescribed range of options
- Uninterrupted blocks of work time
- A Constructivist or "discovery" model, where students learn concepts from working with materials, rather than by direct instruction
- Specialized teacher training and educational materials developed by Dr. Maria Montessori and her collaborators

It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared classroom environment. It is an approach that values the unique contributions of each individual and focuses on the development of the whole child—physical, social, emotional, and cognitive.

For more information about Montessori education, contact Head of School Susie Hyatt or Director of Admissions Irina Jamison.