



PRESS RELEASE

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MONTESSORI RADMOOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Okemos, MI – During the 2018-19 academic year, Montessori Radmoor School will celebrate 50 years of providing Montessori education to children and families in Okemos and the greater Lansing area.

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. Over the years school enrollment grew garnering the need for additional space and facilities. Additions to the original building include 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, began 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 simply known as Montessori Radmoor.

Beginning in September, Montessori Radmoor will host several events to celebrate its milestone.

- **Founders’ Day** - Friday, September 7, 2018, 2:30 p.m. (Radmoor)
The school will honor and recognize the founding members of the school and reflect upon the many contributions of special individuals throughout the school’s history in a special ceremony.
- **50th Anniversary Golden Gala** - Saturday, September 29, 5:30-10:00 p.m. (University Club of MSU)
To kick-off the year, Radmoor presents a Golden Gala dinner and awards event at the University Club that will highlight Radmoor throughout the decades. Tickets are offered at \$60 per person. For reservations, visit our website or contact the school.
- **6th Annual Race for Radmoor** - Sunday, September 30, 3:00 p.m. (Radmoor)
Events include a chip-timed 5K and 1-mile run, as well as a fun Toddler Trot around the school parking lot. Food trucks and special activities for families will be available during the event. Proceeds from the race will help to support the Lila Radway Scholarship Fund and applied towards the school improvement fund. More information and race registration will be available online.
- **Montessori Education Week** - February 24-March 2, 2019
In collaboration with the greater Montessori community in the U.S. and across the world, we will celebrate and share the qualities of Montessori education within our own community.
- **Year-End-Picnic & Alumni Open House** - Friday, June 7, 2019 (Radmoor)
Montessori Radmoor will conclude its school year with a celebratory picnic for current students and families, staff, volunteers, board members and alumni.

According to Head of School Susie Hyatt, "As a school community we are thrilled to celebrate our 50th anniversary next year. It is a wonderful opportunity to honor our history and the people who contribute to maintaining an authentic Montessori program which prepares children for the future. We look forward to celebrating our future as we continue to strengthen our impact within the community for years to come."

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 ages 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 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.