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## **HUMBERSIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL IMPLEMENTING UNIQUE GRADE 7 & 8 MONTESSORI PROGRAM**

### **Developing a Lifelong Love of Learning**

**TORONTO** (April 9, 2010) – **Humberside Montessori School** recently announced the implementation of a unique Montessori program for students in grades 7 and 8 starting in September 2010. Known as an **Adolescent Program**, the school will offer a program that follows closely the guidelines set out by Dr. Maria Montessori with regard to the specific needs of the adolescent child. Similar programs exist in other areas but are often rural based. **Humberside's Adolescent Program** will offer an urban model that reflects the unique offerings of the city.

The **Adolescent Program** will adhere to the Ministry of Education guidelines for curriculum but will also offer students opportunities to continue their Montessori education. A Montessori Adolescent Program is centered on the needs and characteristics unique to the adolescent. One of these needs is independence, which is fostered by real economic participation in society, often through a small business model which gives the adolescent the opportunity to explore how society really works.

**Dr. Maria Montessori** noted that once a child reaches adolescence it is important for their sense of self, and sense of place in the world, to contribute to their community. Adolescents undergo profound physical and emotional changes and need to be nurtured at this vulnerable time. Yet so often these needs are not nurtured and society has come to view apathy and a negative world view as the natural state of the modern teenager. Within the Montessori program, adolescents are given the time and space to understand the changes they are experiencing and to do real, adult-like work that will instill in them a sense of pride and accomplishment as well as a love of discovering new things about themselves and the world.

The **Adolescent Program** will be headed by **Matt Smith**. Matt grew up in Toronto, attending Upper Canada College and Lawrence Park Collegiate. He received a BA in History from University of Western Ontario. Matt's Montessori training includes the North American Montessori Teacher's Association (NAMTA) Orientation to Adolescent Studies in 2007 and an AMI Elementary Diploma from Bergamo, Italy, to be completed in June 2010. Matt spent 5 years as an Adolescent Program Teacher at the Montessori House of Children in London, Ontario.

**Humberside Montessori School** was established in 1987 and holds a Certificate of Recognition from the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), the only organization established by Dr. Maria Montessori to ensure the integrity of her work is maintained internationally. Humberside Montessori is nestled in the heart of the High Park community in Toronto.

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