

Closing Remarks
Montessori Education Week
February 2010
by Hannah Massar

Greater Than One

Hi. My name is Hannah Massar and I am a fifth grade student at East Cooper Montessori Charter School in Mt. Pleasant. We are here to celebrate Montessori Education Week and service learning among Montessorians in the great state of South Carolina. I am proud and thankful to be here and share this day with you. I am a big fan of Dr. Maria Montessori and all she has done for students across the globe. Look around – this place is full of open hearts which are here to share this week of statewide focus on Montessori education. It takes a dedicated group of people to carry on her vision of providing a quality Montessori curriculum.

While I am very lucky to attend a Montessori school that goes all the way up to 8th grade, I do know that there are areas across the state that do not have Montessori programs available for their students. That is why I am proud to stand in front of this roomful of dedicated people who are here to share Dr. Montessori's vision. We are here today to look deep within ourselves to learn how we can share and grow her vision. I don't just mean sharing Montessori, but I also would like to share one of the great messages of Dr. Montessori – which is to be a part of something larger than ourselves.

I have been a Montessori student since the age of 2. Pink towers, pouring and sorting were my way of life. Those have been replaced with bead boards, charts and timelines that tie all of history together. More importantly, Dr. Montessori's principles are seen in the way students treat each other and how they interact with the community at large.

I live a Montessori life both at school and at home. I actively participate in my community helping others. In our school, every student has to do a Year-Long Peace Project. We pick a project and volunteer our time every month. This type of experience is something you can't learn from a book but something that you can learn from a Montessori education. We each work individually for our cause, but together – for the greater good of many. Let's take that one step further than my school in my community. Let's look at Montessori Education Week where the entire STATE is focusing on peace, on giving, on learning and how we can share this incredible Montessori experience with others. We are here to celebrate the gift of Montessori education. Working as one - I can help some. Working as a school

- we can help a community. Working as a state – we can do great things for people everywhere. To see the power of what we can do as a state – look at these incredible contributions to Pennies for Peace, Wells of Love and the Ronald McDonald House. This united effort is why I am so proud to be a Montessori student. Dr. Maria Montessori said, "Only when the child is able to identify its own center with the center of the universe does education really begin". Well, I think with Montessori Education Week, the education did REALLY begin! It is my wish and my hope that you all carry this message in your heart and your action every day throughout the year. Thank you very much for being here, for doing all you do to share and spread Montessori and for sharing your heart with others.