

The Montessori Mystery Unveiled
Annual Report: Fiscal 2023

Dear Fellow Montessorians:

Fiscal 2023 has been an exciting year for The Montessori Mystery Unveiled. In February, we published *Evie-Marie Can't Draw*, a positive, reality-based picture book about accepting one's limitations with grace and cultivating natural talents with joy. This title was included at the 2023 Oregon Holiday Cheer local author celebration in December along with *Thomas the Squirrel* and *The Peace Table*. Mary Da Prato's inventory sold out, helping the Oregon Historical Society's fundraising efforts while simultaneously bringing modern-day Montessori publications to a mainstream audience. Illustrator Genevieve DeVaney Da Prato's printmaking illustrations in *Thomas the Squirrel* were especially popular.

From June 22nd through the 24th, Mary Da Prato participated in "U40: Montessori for the Future Summit," a gathering in Orlando, Florida co-hosted and financed by AMI/USA and AMS to address Montessorians' concerns and develop sustainable strategies for the future. It was a thrilling experience for me as I had the opportunity to meet organizational heads, brainstorm with thirty-nine other Montessorians under the age of forty, and offer suggestions to improve teacher training accessibility. Following the event, I was honored to be quoted in *Montessori Life*, the American Montessori Society's official blog:

<https://amshq.org/Blog/2023-08-23-The-Future-of-Montessori-Education>.

In late August, the long-awaited *A Year of Primary Literature* became available for purchase. More than two years in the making, this Primary Language title includes the rationale behind presenting reality-based rather than fanciful literature to young children, several related activities that reinforce story listening and storytelling skills, and an overview of the Primary classroom's official hands-on Reading Analysis exercises that foster reading comprehension. Summaries of 365 diverse picture books suitable for the Montessori Casa or home library are provided as a reference for lesson planning. As of this writing, *A Year of Primary Literature* is available for checkout in twelve public libraries throughout the United States and counting.

Goals for Fiscal 2024 include publishing a book about triangles suitable for both Montessori guides and traditional teachers, finishing a Primary Sensorial title, starting a series about Practical Life, and continued outreach to public libraries. Let's all do our part to promote easily accessible, accurate literature about the Montessori Method in public libraries and other popular venues to make our scientific, child-centered, time-honored principles available to all.

Kindest regards,

Mary Da Prato, CPhT, AMI Diploma

<http://themonessorimysteryunveiled.weebly.com>