

# From the Centre: Montessori Journeys

Issue No. 1 | June 30 - July 11, 2025



More than just colorful symbols, these flags tell a story of global connection within the AMI 12-18 Diploma Course (2024-2026). They represent the various nationalities of our participants, fostering an enriching environment where different cultures and perspectives contribute to a truly unique learning experience.

## Diving Deep into the Erdkinder: Week One Focuses on Adolescent Community Life

**Sweden** – The first week of the summer session for the AMI 12-18 Diploma Course was abuzz with foundational learning, centering on the Third Plane of Development and the Erdkinder Community. Participants had the invaluable opportunity to work alongside Jenny Höglund, our AMI Director of Training at the Montessori Centre for Work and Study in Sweden. This initial period offered a comprehensive orientation to the unique methodologies that define the Erdkinder program for adolescents. These practical and engaging approaches prepare future educators to guide young people in crucial aspects of their development. Participants delved into understanding and fostering harmonious Social Organization, exploring real-world economic principles through Production and Exchange, and cultivating self-reflection and written expression through Journaling. They also engaged with mathematical concepts in a collaborative and practical setting during Maths Seminar, deepened comprehension and critical analysis through Literature Seminar, and learned to empower adolescents to take ownership of their learning journey by creating a Plan of Study and Work. This immersive start set a strong tone for the residential experience, preparing participants to not only understand but also actively facilitate the holistic development of adolescents within an Erdkinder environment.

## Montessori Adolescent Course Returns to Sweden, Welcoming New Participants

**Sweden – June 30** marked an exciting return to the Montessori Centre for Study and Work as participants reassembled for the **AMI 12-18 Diploma Course**. This summer, we were thrilled to welcome two new individuals who have joined the original cohort, bringing fresh perspectives to the group.

The course originally kicked off in the Fall of 2024, with participants immersing themselves in a two-week residential stay at our beautiful farmhouse. During that time, they engaged in insightful lectures and practical work within the farm environment.

For **Part 2 of the Diploma Course**, the residential experience is taking center stage for the first three weeks. This crucial component is designed to mirror the authentic adolescent experience, fostering independence and community living. Beyond engaging lectures at the schoolhouse, participants are actively involved in:

- **Collaborative meal preparation:** Designing menus and cooking for the entire group.
- **Care of Environment:** Maintaining their surroundings through various job assignments.
- **Farm animal care:** Taking responsibility for feeding the animals on the farm.

This comprehensive approach ensures a deep and practical understanding of the Montessori adolescent philosophy.



Montessori Farm School, Rydet.

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## Specializations Take Root: Week Two Explores Bees, Water, and Community Life

**Sweden** – Week two of the AMI 12-18 Diploma Course brought a significant shift towards more practical, specialized work. The cohort divided into two distinct groups, each embarking on a unique plan of study and work. One group is now immersed in the fascinating world of bees, while the other is exploring the vital topic of water. The dedicated work accompanying these studies also began in earnest during this productive week. Beyond group studies, participants also had schedules for independent work with invited experts, offering rich opportunities for self-expression. These sessions covered a diverse range of creative pursuits, including sewing, creative writing, woodworking, yarn work, and paper folding. Physical expression was equally valued in week two. Options for hiking, jogging, or walking were offered on Monday, allowing participants to enjoy the serene Swedish landscape. Other activities provided more active outlets, such as spirited games of basketball and ultimate frisbee. Evenings continued to be a dedicated time for academic rigor and collaboration. Participants gathered for study hall, engaging in both Literature and Maths Seminars, and meeting with their groups to share updates on their progress in their specialized study and work. The week concluded with a vital community meeting, where updates about the school and farm were shared, and any community concerns were addressed, fostering a truly complete and deeply engaging experience for all.

### More Than Just H<sub>2</sub>O: Uncovering the Depths of Water



Meet the Water Group - Prabhat, Simon, Elvira, Elaine, Brian, and Tereza

Week two saw our dedicated Water Group tackle a significant project: restoring the well by the schoolhouse to once again be a source of fresh water. Their work also includes addressing the majestic oak tree growing near the well, whose roots pose a potential future concern. The Water Group's journey began with an inspiring trip to the tranquil creek at the edge of the farm, followed by engaging with prose about water, setting a contemplative tone for their upcoming endeavors. From there, the group meticulously planned their goals. Their ambitious agenda includes installing a hand pump on the well, carefully felling the oak tree, and transforming its timber into a functional bench and other wooden products. Beyond these hands-on tasks, the group is committed to a deeper exploration of water itself, researching its profound role as the lifeblood of the Earth.

*Water, a fluid muse, dances between worlds. It is the quiet sigh of mist, the thunderous roar of a cascade, and the gentle lapping of a summer shore. It is the lifeblood of the Earth, a mirror reflecting both sky and soul. Water's poetic essence lies in its duality: a force of both destruction and creation, constantly changing, yet eternally present.*

~ Elaine ~

### The Sweet Science of Bees: From Honey to Harmony

Beekeeping has a rich history at Montessori Farm School Rydet, and this year, a dedicated group has been hard at work ensuring our buzzing residents thrive! Their goal extends beyond just observation; they're actively involved in maintaining and repairing the beehives, learning valuable lessons in responsibility and ecological stewardship along the way. Recently, the bee study group undertook a thorough spring cleaning of the existing hives. This involved scrubbing the hives clean and meticulously removing propolis, the sticky resin bees use to seal their hives. They also tackled a more significant challenge: a hive suffering from both insect infestation and wood rot. The group engaged in a thoughtful discussion, brainstorming and planning potential repair solutions to restore the damaged hive. The excitement continued on Wednesday when the group made a remarkable discovery: a swarm of bees had gathered close to a tree near the schoolhouse! After a careful visual inspection, they quickly added this new project to the work they have planned out. They're now planning and investigating the best methods to safely capture the swarm with the goal of establishing a new hive right here on the farm.



The busy beekeepers.