

## Meredith's "Old Doll" - A Mothers Plea for Multiage Structures continued

class of 8, 9 & 10 year olds. As a multiage teacher at the early elementary level at the school, I was delighted to see this non-graded option continue at the upper elementary level. As parents, we were optimistic that this classroom structure would help Meredith develop more self esteem and improve her responsibility and social skills.

It was like magic! We began to notice at home

that Meredith was more cooperative and open to talking with us. She argued less with her sister. Her teacher reported that she was more 'social' in class, always in the midst of a group of friends. In the spring, she sang a solo at Music Showcase in front of about 500 students and their families! Meredith went to Middle School the following year. She had a very positive attitude and joined everything that was going - bands, choir, drama, track and field. Her teachers said she had a great attitude and got along well with her peers. Her marks were at the top of the class and she has continued to excel this year. Now, of course, I am wishing that Multiage classes were offered through Middle School. I know that there is a lot of resistance to a non-graded philosophy - particularly at the higher grade level. But I am also convinced that if enough teachers, administrators and parents took the time to learn about it, they would be grateful for an alternative structure to 'grades', that is already outdated. When I talk to groups about "Multiage", I often ask them to jot down three words: academic, social/emotional, and employment. Then I ask them to arrange them in priority order according to what they feel is the most important reason for sending their children to school. When I talk about the research findings, no one can deny that their children would have a better education in multiage classes. When compared to children in single age classes, children in multiage classes are superior in independence, dependability, confidence, responsibility, co-operation, interaction skills, social skills, study habits and attitudes toward school. (Aren't these the traits that current employers are looking for?) Researchers also found that children in multiage classes do as well academically as, if not better, than children learning in single age classes.



The Manitoba Association of Multi-age Educators would like to thank our colleagues for taking the time to share their research, philosophies, reflections, professional reading recommendations, and classroom experiences! If you would like to contribute to the MAME newsletter please forward submissions to: Daena Killingbeck at [dkillingbeck@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:dkillingbeck@retsd.mb.ca)

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No matter what reason is placed in number one position, it would appear that multiage can provide a positive learning environment. As for Meredith, she is now 13. She has the choice of two choir camps this summer on the same site- Junior Choir Camp (ages 8 - 13) and Youth Choir Camp (13 - 18). Without any hesitation, she chose to return to Junior Choir Camp, and I'm sure "Old Doll" will be going too!

by Marion Leier Multiage  
Teacher Nova Scotia, Canada  
May, 1999



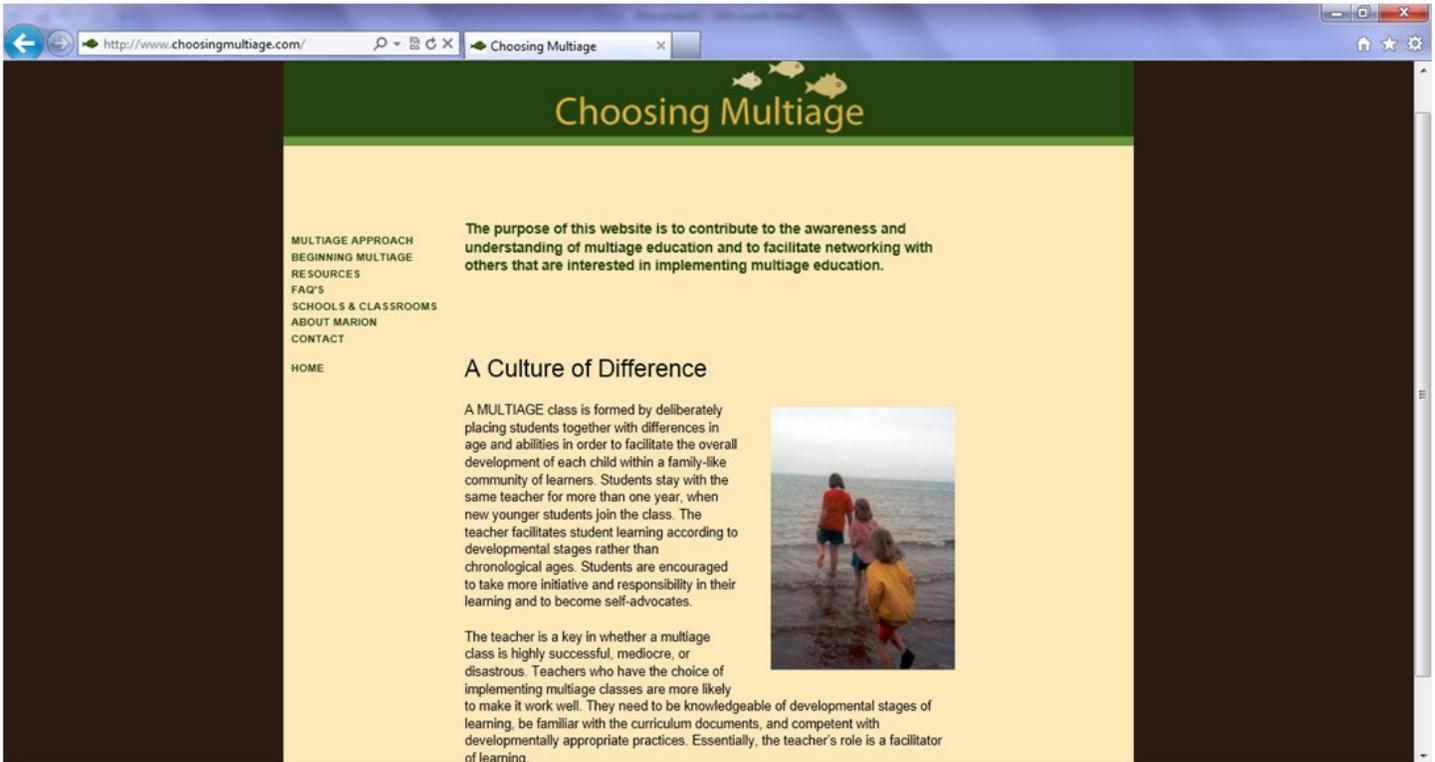
2004 Old Doll goes to University!

## Website Feature

Find out about Multi-age Education from an East Coast Teacher and Researcher at:

[www.choosingmultiage.com](http://www.choosingmultiage.com)

Author: Marion Leier



## Twitter Information

### Tweeting Teachers

By @lesliedent

I have recently started using my Twitter account a little more. Since I can't access it at school, it didn't seem to be on my radar but now that I have an iPhone access is not a problem. Now I constantly have new links, ideas and the latest news at my finger tips. I thought I would share some of the educators I am currently following. Once you are following a few people, the new connections are endless through other's connections. Check them out!

@karlfisch

@kathycassidy

@justwonderinY

@jillfisch

@2ndgradetchr

@KathyDShields

@joevans

@web20classroom

@hechternacht

@amckiel

@willrich45

@chrisminarik

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