

## From the Desk of AMI/USA Executive Director, Ayize Sabater, Ed.D.

As I rise this morning, on the day when the USA celebrates the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (although his actual birthday was last week), I ponder Dr. King's profound significance during his lifetime and for us today. AMI/USA posted the following message from my desk to social media on January 15<sup>th</sup>, in honor of Dr. King's birthday:

*"Today would have been the 92nd birthday of the only Black man on the National Mall! Well, to be clear I'm referring to Dr. MLK, Jr who was known as a #DrumMajorForJustice and he is the only Black person to have a statue on the National Mall. As Montessorians we are known for a cutting-edge peace education, and I challenge us to strive to ground our peace in justice, as Dr. MLK, Jr suggests below. Here are a few resources that I'd like to ask you to consider."*

Additionally, before I share a few resources below, I would like to congratulate Dr. Cindy Acker, Social Justice Task Force Leader for the [International Montessori Council](#) (IMC) for her recently performed play, which she wrote and directed, "Words that made a difference: Brown vs. Board of Education." This performance was presented as a "Sunday Zoom Theatre" offering for the MLK national holiday and I would encourage you to consider contacting the IMC about it. Finally, I'd also like to challenge each of you to read (or watch/listen to) something by Dr. MLK, Jr. other than "I have a dream." Consider [Where do we go from here](#) or [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#) or listen to his Beyond Vietnam speech. Nevertheless, we at AMI/USA hope that you will realize a reflective MLK day and below are a few resources that we'd like to ask you to explore:

1. MLK Day: 5 Ways to Help Your Kids Explore its Significance (Ed.gov blog): [click here](#).
2. A quick video: [click here](#).
3. A free virtual event: The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Tribute and Celebration will begin at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 18th streamed live. This is a free family-friendly event and all are encouraged to "share the show" on their social media pages. Please RSVP to receive a day of reminder email with the direct link to the event and instructions on how to participate in the live interactive part of the show. Although not necessary, we encourage you to RSVP for the total number of intended viewers in your household. [Click here](#).

Peace,



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