


# Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

April 2009

## Calendar of Events

April 10		Good Friday - No School
April 13-17		Spring Break - No School
April 22		Earth Day
April 22	7:00 pm	Open House
May 7	2:15 pm	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal
May 8	11.00 am	Spring Mother's Day Tea
May 11	7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
May 12-14		Scholastic Book Fair
May 13		Newsletter Submissions Due
May 15		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
May 18		Victoria Day - No School

## News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



Showcase 2009 was a great success and very well attended. The students worked hard to present their accomplishments and did a terrific job. Thank you to our families for the many, many positive comments we received. The musical segment of the evening was very entertaining, and we appreciate and thank Mr. BJ for all the hard work he put into preparing the students for it. A BIG thank you also goes out to Alis' mom, Dreen (D'reen's Catering), for providing the hors d'oeuvres and desserts for Showcase 2009. It is truly appreciated!

We are pleased to announce that Mr. BJ, Miss Janis, Miss Tina and Miss Lori have completed their First Aid and CPR B training course.

Together with Miss Kristy, Miss Regina and Miss Kelly Ann who are also certified, we are ready for any emergency!

Our next Open House is scheduled for 7:00 pm on April 22. If you know of families who are interested in exploring a Montessori education for their child, please invite them to attend this information session.

Thank you to the families who returned our after school enrichment programs survey. We will use this information as a starting point with respect to which programs to offer in the Fall.

Our next hot lunch will be on Wednesday, April 29. Forms will be in the mailboxes after the Easter break.

Have a happy and restful spring break!

## Upper Elementary

by Mr. BJ

The upper elementary classroom continues to be a busy place. We recently completed our unit on energy, having taken a detailed look at the electromagnetic spectrum, and an exploration of the properties of light and sound. We are ready to begin our unit on the five senses, and are very much looking forward to our CSI field trip to the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

## Lower Elementary

by Miss Tina

Lower Elementary is continuing to work through our oceans unit. We have been learning about the groups of animals that live in or near the ocean. We have also been learning about the special adaptations these animals have and classifying them into groups according to their physical features. We will soon be focusing more closely on fish, sharks and whales and their adaptations.

We recently enjoyed a visit from Sadie's dad Matt and his friend Sabrina who came to talk to us about hand washing. Matt and Sabrina talked to us about germs and how to wash our hands correctly. This led to an experiment in our own classroom where we rubbed oil and cinnamon onto our hands to test how to best remove them. The oil represented the natural oils on our skin and the cinnamon represented dirt and germs! We used various methods to try to remove the germs such as plain cold water, warm water/no soap, and warm water/soap. The children learnt that it was very difficult to remove the oil and "germs" unless the proper method of hand washing was used. This was a really effective experiment!

We have really been enjoying the warm weather and have been exploring puddles, sailing our own boats, and going for walks. This is a great time to remember rubber boots, splash pants, and spare pants and socks!

We are looking forward to our holidays. When we come back, we will be visiting Marian Gymnastics on May 1 for a fun afternoon of gymnastic activities! Parent help is welcome. Enjoy the holidays...lets hope we have lots of sun!

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### A gentler hand soap ...



Some of our parents like their children to use a gentler hand soap than what is provided in the bathrooms and have donated dispensers and soap refills in the past. We have now gotten to the end of our refill bottles and would ask for additional donations of a gentle hand soap such as "Soft Soap".

Thank you!

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## Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

Spring has finally arrived. Lets cross our fingers that it stays! Remember to send proper outside clothing (slush/ski pants, rubber boots, mitts, etc.) with your child so they can stay warm and dry while having fun outside. It is uncomfortable to wear wet clothes, so having extra clothing at school, including socks, is a good idea.

Dinosaurs have been a huge hit in our classroom. The children are enjoying learning about all kinds of dinosaurs, whether they were carnivores or herbivores, how big they were and how they became extinct. We had paleontologist Dr. Donna come to our school and talk to us about her job, and she shared some really interesting fossils with us. Dr. Donna was quite impressed with the children's knowledge of dinosaurs and paleontologists.

With Earth Day soon approaching, we will be talking more and more about our environment and what we can do at our school, in our classroom and at home to help protect our

environment. We have already discussed as a class some things we would like to try and change so we can help save some energy.

We have an upcoming field trip in May, so please stay tuned for more details. The consent form will go up after the break.

We would like to thank David's family for the shovel, Sadie's family for the shovels and pails for the courtyard and Amelia's family for the wonderful books on protecting our environment from the scholastic book order.

We would like to wish Tess and Aleks and very happy birthday this month. We hope you both have a wonderful, fun day!!

### Casa 2 by Miss Janis

The warmer weather is on its way ... slowly. It's a tricky time of year to send appropriate clothing, but it seems to be time to trade the ski pants and winter boots and for the splash pants and rubber boots. Please send a few extra pairs of socks for those really "wet" days.

This month we are celebrating "Earth Day" on April 22, and we are discussing ways we can be "environmentally friendly". Weather permitting we hope to do a special project outdoors on Earth Day.

The "cutting station" in our Practical Life area continues to be popular! Thank you to Hilary's and Amolika's families for sending fruits and vegetables for this activity. We would also ask parents to continue to send a variety of fruits and vegetables for us to practice our cutting skills with.

We would like to thank Alex's family for inviting Paleontologist Dr. Donna to our school. We had fun learning about fossils! We are planning four more class trips for the remainder of the year. Please watch the white board and your mailbox for more details.

Huge thanks to our generous families for donating items on our wish list. Thanks to Jacob's family for the sand toys and cleaning supplies. Thanks to Ryan's family for the computer fame for our laptop. Thanks to Brett's family for the puzzles. Thanks to Zak's family for the wicker baskets. Thanks to Amolika's family and Hilary's family for the new whiteboard markers. THANKS!

Our only April birthday is Zak's on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your special day!

Earth Day Canada's...

## TOP 10 ACTIONS

...to help the environment



1. Park it
2. Shut down
3. Where the beef
4. Eat it
5. Let it rot
6. Don't be idle
7. Keep your eye on the temp
8. Bright ideas
9. Don't dump it – blue box it
10. Tell someone

To find out more about these top 10 actions and how small actions have a big impact on our environment, go to [www.earthday.ca/pub/resources/top10.php](http://www.earthday.ca/pub/resources/top10.php)

### Core French by Madame Linda

All core French students have been learning vocabulary and doing activities related to the arrival of spring. (le printemps).

Casa students are currently learning about dinosaurs (les dinosaures). Here is some of the vocabulary: la tete (head), la queue (tail), la patte (foot), le dos (back), la corne (horn), and les ailes (wings).

Lower Elementary students are finishing a unit on zoo animals and will soon begin a unit on plants (*les plantes*).

Upper Elementary students are currently doing the unit on food. Immediately after spring break we will be doing a sub-unit on pizza (*la pizza*). Future plans include a unit on the five senses (*les cinq sens*): *gouter* (to taste), *sentir* (to smell), *ecouter* (to hear), *voir* (to see) and *toucher* (to touch).

I wish all the students and their families an enjoyable spring break!

## Music by Mr. BJ

In music, the Casa students are continuing to explore and develop their musical skills music through singing, clapping, and movement.

The lower elementary students are busy preparing their skit and dance routine to "Nobody's Perfect", a Hannah Montana song.

The upper elementary students are currently studying the song "Down to Earth", a Peter Gabriel tune that was featured during the closing credits of the Pixar movie, "Wall-E".



If you are interested in helping the children with this project, please talk with your child's Director/Directress.

We are looking for a parent or parents to spear head a committee to help us with *Project Salad Tables* – see picture to the left. We are looking to have one table for the elementary students and a lower table for the Casa students. The tables would need to be built and then filled with soil. The students would be responsible for planting the seeds or seedlings and helping them grow.



"The first duty of an education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop."

Maria Montessori

## Words of Wisdom for Montessori Parents

- Hug regularly but don't impose affection. Recognize the difference.
- Read together daily with children and don't hesitate to read books with realistic themes.
- Talk about the colours (don't forget the shades), textures and shapes you see around you.
- Learn to say "no" without anger, and with firmness and conviction. Not everything children want is appropriate.
- Teach the language of courtesy. Don't let your child interrupt, teach how to wait after saying "excuse me".
- Analyze any annoying behaviour of your child and teach from the positive. For example, door slamming - teach them how to close a door; running in the house - teach them how to walk; runny nose - teach them how to use a tissue.
- Tell them what you value in them. Let them hear you express what you value in others.
- Apologize to your child when you've made a mistake.
- Analyze your child's wardrobe and build a wardrobe aimed at freedom of movement, independence and freedom of distraction.
- If you travel without your child, leave notes behind for him/her to open each day you are gone.
- Sing! Voice quality does not matter. Sing together regularly. Build a repertoire of family favorites.
- When talking to your child, physically get down on his/her level, be still and make eye contact.

