

Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

February 2009

Calendar of Events

February 16		Family Day - No School
February 17-18		Mid Term Break - No School
February 19-20		Professional Development Days - No School for Students
February 27	Noon	Hot Lunch
March 5	2:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting - Early dismissal for Students
March 9	7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
March 11		Newsletter Submissions Due
March 12	7:00 p.m.	Showcase 2009
March 13		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
March 16		Report Cards Distributed
March 20		3-Way Conferences - No School for Students

News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



CONGRATULATIONS go out to big brother Alijah on the birth of baby sister Alizea, who was born on December 17/08, and to Big sister Grace on the birth of baby sister Sophia, who was born on February 7/09.

I would like to thank our families for checking in when your children are going to be late or absent. It is very much appreciated.

A BIG thank you to Alis' mom, Dreen (D'reen's Catering), for providing our January hot lunch. It was very much enjoyed by all. Our next hot lunch (taco in a bag) is planned for Friday, February 27. Forms will be handed out on February 23 and are due back by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25.

On February 6, Paul Merriman from the Saskatoon Food Bank gave a presentation to the staff and students on the role of the Food Bank in our community. We discovered that half of the hundreds of people who come

to the Food Bank daily are children. We also discovered that the Food Bank not only accepts donations of healthy food, but also accepts clothing and toys and provides schooling to under privileged adults. We look forward to working with the Food Bank again in the future.

Registration forms for the 2009-2010 school year have been distributed. If you are planning to register your child for the upcoming year, please return the registration form, together with the registration fee, to the office by March 2, 2009. Registration will be opened up to the public on March 16, 2009.

Our first Open House of the year was held on February 11. It was a very successful evening. Thank you to Dreen (D'reen's Catering) for providing the snacks for the evening. As expected, they were delicioso!

Mark your calendar! We are in the midst of planning *Showcase 2009 - a Display of Fine Montessori Work* to be held on March 12 at 7:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more information to come after the break.

Upper Elementary

by Mr. BJ

Having completed their unit on astronomy and the solar system, the Upper Elementary students are now shifting their attention to energy. Currently, we are studying the various forms of energy, and the sources from which that energy is obtained. Some of the other topics will include energy transfer, conservation of energy, kinetic versus potential energy, and the comparison of renewable and non-renewable energy resources.

We are also continuing to sharpen our math skills, in part with the aid of an interactive video game called Timez Attack. The students find the game entertaining and mildly addictive, but most importantly, are noticing a huge improvement in their multiplication tables.

Our current art project, tied to our previous science unit, has been designing and building a to-scale model of the solar system using balloons and paper mache. Many thanks to Ms Yuriko for the many hours of prep work she has spent getting this project up and running, as well as making the day to day functioning of the classroom run very smoothly.

Lower Elementary

by Miss Tina

Lower Elementary finished off January by concluding its mapping unit. The students had an opportunity to read maps, locate landmarks using map grids, and design their own maps by making legends and drawing symbols. We really enjoyed learning about maps.

We have just recently begun learning about safety. At the moment we are focusing on safety rules in the community and in our school. We will soon be designing safety posters for our hallways. We will also be discussing ways to respond to emergencies. This would be a good time to help your child learn 9-1-1, and their phone number and address if they do not already know them.

We were very excited to receive a visit from the Food Bank last week. The students were very interested to learn more about where our food donations from December went! We are feeling very motivated about working with the Food Bank again in the near future.

We also recently visited the senior care home that is across from our school. The residents really enjoy our visits and look forward to seeing and working with the children. It is a great opportunity for the children to learn about helping others in their community.

We are enjoying our sunny days, and sledding on our brand new sleds donated by D'reen Metropolit have been a real treat! Thanks D'reen!

Enjoy the warmer weather!



Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

This month in Casa 1 we have been very busy in learning about fire safety as well as learning about the symbols for poison, flammable, corrosive and explosive. The children are really enjoying it. In fact, a few children have been bringing in products that they have at home where they have noticed one or more of the symbols on it and wanted to show the class. For example we have had "mom's hair mousse", "dad's shaving cream" as well as furniture polish and room spray come into our class for show and tell. It's been great! It's so wonderful to see the children making a connection between what we are learning in the classroom and their environment and home.

We have been doing activities related to what firemen wear and what to do if fire was to ever get on your clothes (stop, drop and roll). We will be learning more on fire safety after the break as well. We will also be having a special guest (a fireman) come to our school and classroom to talk to us about fire safety in the first week of March. We are looking very forward to it! We will be having another special guest come into our classroom in March and we are hoping to plan a field trip in March as well.

We would like to thank Aden's family for the dry erase markers and swiffer cloths as well as Tess' family for the wet jet swiffer cloths.

We would like to wish Aden and Maeve a very happy birthday this month. We hope you both have a very special day!!

Casa 2

by Miss Janis

Casa 2 would like to welcome two new students to our afternoon class. Owen and Serena are enjoying making new friends. We are looking forward to working hard for the remainder of the year.

We are learning about Canadian symbols this month. We will use these symbols to create posters to enter in the National Poster competition. Thanks to all the students who have brought in items for discussion to help us learn about the symbols of Canada.

All of the students still love the "cutting" activity in the Practical Life area. We thank the parents who continue to send fruits and vegetables for this activity. We have very interesting conversations surrounding "healthy foods" when doing this activity.

We would like to thank Ryan's family for donating the large Alphabet activity. Thank you to Sarah's family for finding our hanging shelves and for the Sea Creatures kit. We can't wait to grow more Triops! Thanks to Rayna's and Hilary's family for donating items for our fish tank. We hope to move Cody-Nemo and Whitey back into our classroom soon.

We want to wish Hilary a very happy 4th birthday this month. Enjoy your special day!

Core French

by Madame Linda

Mme. Linda is currently away. Stay tuned next month for an update on Core French.

Music

by Mr. BJ

In music, the Upper Elementary students are writing lyrics, focusing on rhyme, rhythm, form and meter. Some of the students have begun to record their own songs from scratch using the professional recording software on our digital audio workstation, which has been interfaced with our electronic keyboard.



The Lower Elementary and Casa students are working on words and movements to the songs we plan to perform for Showcase 2009.

Questions and Answers

Why do Montessori classes group different age levels together?

Sometimes parents worry that by having younger children in the same class as older ones, one group or the other will be shortchanged. They fear that the younger children will absorb the teachers' time and attention, or that the importance of covering the kindergarten curriculum for the five-year-olds will prevent them from giving the three- and four-year-olds the emotional support and stimulation that they need.

At each level, Montessori programs are designed to address the developmental characteristics normal to children in that stage.

→ Montessori classes are organized to encompass a two- or three-year age span which allows younger students the stimulation of older children, who in turn benefit from serving as role models. Each child learns at her own pace and will be ready for any given lesson in her own time, not on the teacher's scheduled lessons. In a mixed-age class, children can always find peers who are working at their current level.

→ Children normally stay in the same class for three years. With two-thirds of class normally returning each year, the classroom culture tends to remain quite stable.

→ Working in one class for two or three years allows students to develop a strong sense of community with their classmates and teachers. The age range also allows especially gifted children the stimulation of intellectual peers, without requiring that they skip a grade or feel emotionally out of place.

Lessons from Geese . . .

As each bird flaps its wings,
it creates an "uplift" for the bird following.

By flying in a "V" formation,
the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range
than if the bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.



"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed"

Maria Montessori

We are still in need
of the following items
for our before and
after care programs

- *Barbies
- *Barbie Clothes
- *Barbie Toys
- *Wood Blocks
- *Match Box Cars
- *Markers
- *Wax Crayons
- *Puzzles - up to 100 pieces



Get your kids cooking with

Cooking Classes for Kids



FEBRUARY BREAK

Feb 16-20
Monday to Friday

Cooking fun for kids

Cost \$100.00

Ages 5-8 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Ages 9-11 12:00-2:15 p.m.

Ages 12-14 3:00-5:30 p.m.

International Cooking Discoveries For Kids

Cost \$120

Ages 8-12

3:45-6:15 pm.

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Cooking Basics For Kids

Cost \$100.00

Ages 8-12

3:45-6:00 p.m.

January 20th, 27th

February 3rd, 10th

For more information visit www.dreens.com