

Maria Montessori School Mirror

A Reflection of our School

January 2010

Calendar of Events

January 27	Noon	Hot Lunch
January 29		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
February 4	2:15	Staff meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
February 15		Family Day - No School
February 16-17		Midterm Break - No School
February 18-19		Professional Development Days - No School for Students
March 4	2:15	Staff meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
March 15		Report Cards
March 19		3-Way Conferences - No School for Students

Winter
Winter

News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



A wonderful new year has begun. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday and are ready to jump back into things here at school.

Thank you to our wonderful families at MMS for the holiday wishes and lovely gifts I received this holiday season. They were all very much appreciated.

I would like to let you know about a couple of staff changes here at MMS. Miss Tracy has taken on the role of Casa 1 Directress. Miss Kristy (and all of us here at MMS) are greatly anticipating the birth of

Miss Kristy's baby. Miss Lina has joined our team as an educational assistant. She is currently working at large in the mornings and in Casa 1 in the afternoons. Miss Kelly Ann will be leaving us in mid February to await the birth of her baby, after which Miss Lina will take on the role of EA in Casa 3. Miss Robin will then be joining us full time, continuing to work as an EA in Casa 3 in the mornings and in Casa 1 in the afternoons. Miss Robin will also be replacing Miss Kelly Ann as one of our After Care Supervisors. Miss Emily has begun with us as the afternoon EA for our Casa 2 class, which will leave Miss Marsha to concentrate her afternoons on our Art program.

Just a note regarding Valentines Day on February 14 - as you are aware, although holidays are not

celebrated at MMS, we do learn about the origin of certain celebrations. With Valentine's Day approaching, please do not feel that you must distribute Valentines Day cards or treats. However, if you feel that you want to give Valentines Day cards or treats to the children, please distribute these through the mailboxes at the end of the day.

Thank you to Aden's (Casa 1) mom, Roxane (Quiznos), for helping us out with our December hot lunch. Our next hot lunch will be held on January 27. Children registered in our lunch supervision program will find forms in their mailbox next week. Please ensure your form is returned to your child's Directress by Monday, January 25. **This lunch will be pre-ordered, so late orders will not be accepted.**

Upper Elementary

by Miss Jane and Miss Marie

We hope you had a relaxing, enjoyable holiday break. The New Year brings energy, ideas and new material to our classroom. Towards the end of the first term some of the students indicated that they were interested in studying human anatomy. This seemed like a very good fit for the new unit in culture that we planned to introduce; ***Human Circulation and Breathing***. The focus will be on the heart and lungs as body systems - we are discovering the human body is endlessly fascinating to study.



We are also studying the ***Olympics*** concurrently and looking forward to a presentation by a former paralympic medal winner athlete. The arrival of the torch in Saskatoon is also something we are anticipating eagerly.

In the mornings we continue to work on math and language and will be doing a unit on geometry in math and story writing and poetry in language over the next couple of months.

In French we are going to be taking the vocabulary we have learned and using it in conversations for the next month. It is amazing how much we know in French already (thanks Madame Linda), and we look forward to chatting with each other and you in French more and more.

À la prochaine!

Lower Elementary

by Miss Janis

Lower Elementary is happy to welcome another new face this month! Sarah Boot has joined us from Casa 2, and we are so glad to have her in our class!

We hope that everyone had a great holiday and are ready to get back to work! Our next two months will be very exciting. We plan to study 'Communities Around the World' this month, as well as understanding the importance of our own communities for meeting our needs and wants. We will learn what resources other countries have and discuss the importance of these resources to us. At the end of the month we will turn our focus to the 2010 Olympics. We will learn about the sports in the Winter Olympics and will take part in our own 'Olympics' in the classroom. We are very excited to have a visit from a past Olympic Metal winner... stay tuned for details!



Please watch your mailbox for information on upcoming field trips.

Many thanks once again to the parents who are so quick to donate items on our Wish List! Please ensure that you check our whiteboard daily for updates!

We are also wishing Miss Lisa our best as she is still celebrating her recent wedding on December 31. We look forward to having her back on the 18th!

Casa 1

By Miss Tracy



Happy New Year! I have a very exciting January planned for Casa 1. Our theme is Winter. We are going to be talking about snowflakes and how each one is unique. We will be examining them with magnifying glasses and creating our own snowflakes using a variety of different materials. We will also be learning about Antarctica.

During circle time, we will be discussing problem solving skills through story telling and role playing. At Maria Montessori School we believe in peace and finding peaceful solutions to conflicts and concerns that come up in the classroom.

Project Cozy Corner is still underway! We would like to create a beautiful and comfortable space for the children to relax and read stories. We are still looking for the following items: 2 child-sized rocking chairs or vinyl chairs, two small bookshelves and an area rug that would fit in our book corner. Donations of these items would be very much appreciated. Someone has already volunteered to build us a fireplace mantel. Thanks for your support!

Just a reminder for all NEW students! Please bring a washable placemat to school for your child to use during lunch and snack. You are responsible for washing the placemat when needed.

We would also appreciate it if each Casa 1 student could bring a box of kleenex to school. A huge thank you from Miss Kristy, Miss Lori and myself for all the thoughtful gifts and cards we received this holiday season!

Casa 2

by Miss Regina

Welcome back to Casa 2!! Many new things will be discovered this term. I believe we in Casa 2 have inquisitive minds. We are eager to broaden our "horizons" and learn interesting facts about the world around us and contribute to improve our community.

Miss Marsha and I would also like to express our sincerest thanks to you all for the wonderful holiday wishes and tokens of appreciation.

I would like to reflect briefly on some of December's highlights... We made sankofa - sweet potato pie - at the end of our Kwanza studies. We had guests from Lower Elementary help us celebrate Kwanza and eat sankofa for the first time. We crafted a Hanukah hand print wreath during Hanukah studies and listened to many Hanukah related stories.

In preparation for our Christmas celebration studies, we learned "Oh Tannenbaum"- a traditional German winter song, learned to use Orff instruments and illustrated a Christmas story with these instruments. We performed for the other students during a casual sing along get-together, baked delicious cookies and made gifts for our parents.

In January, we will be working diligently on improving our Math and Language Arts skills. As well, we have some new activities waiting for our

eager learners to master on our Practical Life shelf. In the upcoming weeks, we will be exploring the continent of Antarctica. I find our Casa children absorb new information like sponges, so be prepared to have your children share many new and interesting Antarctica facts with you. As part of that exploration, we are asking our parents to bring newspaper to school as we will be making something interesting out of paper Mache. We will also be studying snowflakes and facts associated with liquids and solids.



We would like to extend a big thank you to all of our wonderful parent volunteers who helped us out on our last day of school. I think we all had fun at the different activity stations.

A special thank you to Xander's mom, Wally, for supplying us with ginger cookie and sugar cookie dough; thank you to the laundry crew for doing the Casa 2 laundry; and thank you very much for the beautiful poinsettias. We enjoyed them tremendously!

Casa 3

by Miss Maria

Happy new year to all of the Casa 3 families! I am certain that 2010 will be a great year in our classroom. We had a wonderful close to 2009 with all of our cultural celebration activities. We were very busy learning about a new celebration each week in December!

This month we are starting the new year off with a focus on the season of winter. We will be exploring all the characteristics of our current season and will have the opportunity to make a few creative art projects celebrating this season of snow and ice.



We will finish off January by beginning our focus on the Winter Olympics. Students will be exploring the origins of the Olympics, the torch relay and the various events of this year's Olympics. This is sure to be a fun theme!

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Brahm and Shreeya this month! Brahm will celebrate his fifth birthday on the 10th and Shreeya will be turning four on the 25th. Happy Birthday to you both!

Lastly, a big thank you to all of our parent volunteers who gave their time to help with the festivities on the last day of school before the winter break. We appreciate all that you do!

Core French

by Madame Linda

Happy New Year to all core French students and their families.

All core French students will learning vocabulary and doing activities related to the 56th "Carnaval du Quebec" which opens in Quebec City on January 29th. This is the largest winter carnival in the world. Over the years Maria Montessori School students have grown fond of Bonhomme Carnaval, the mascot of the carnival. Check out the website at <http://www.carnaval.qc.ca/2010>.

In Lower Elementary, we have begun a comprehensive unit on winter and related activities. Students will be learning vocabulary about winter clothing, activities and sports, including the sports at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. On January 27, Upper Elementary students will be joining us to play games.

In the Casa classes, students are beginning a unit on shapes. Here is some of the vocabulary that they are learning: un carre (square), un cercle (circle), un rectangle (rectangle), un losange (diamond), un ovale (oval), un coeur (heart), un triangle (triangle) and une etoile(star). Since the Casa classes are learning about Antartica in culture, I have been reading many French stories related to winter and to the wildlife native to Antartica (l' Antartique).

Learn Today ...
... Lead Tomorrow

Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the following changes to our Board of Directors:

Chairperson

Candace Remai
975-0105

Past Chair

James Yausie
373-7786

Vice Chair

Tanya Cunanan
374-0899

Treasurer

Vincent Cunanan
374-0899

Secretary

Bev Cooper
668-6187

The Leader in Me ...

"The world is very complicated and changing. The challenges we face today are not the same challenges young people will face tomorrow. So ... the best way to anchor our students (is) through teaching timeless principles".

*- Mr. Francis Foo,
Principal, Chau Chu Kang Primary School, Singapore*

Community Notices

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