

# Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

March 2009

## Calendar of Events

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
April 2	2:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
April 6	7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
April 8		Newsletter Submissions Due
April 10		Good Friday - No School
April 13-17		Spring Break - No School

## News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



CONGRATULATIONS go out to Madame Linda on the birth of grandson Desmond, who was born on February 18, and to big brother Aden on the birth of baby sister Jessica, born on February 24.

Just a reminder that we will be opening up registrations to the public on March 16. If you plan to have your child attend MMS for the 2009-2010 school year but haven't yet submitted the registration form and fee, please do so immediately.

A BIG thank you to Alis' mom, Dreen (D'reen's Catering), for providing the hors d'oeuvres and desserts for Showcase 2009.

Our next hot lunch is scheduled for March 25. Forms will be in the mailboxes next week.

We hope to see you all at *Showcase 2009* on Thursday evening.

## Upper Elementary

by Mr. BJ



Upper Elementary continues to be a busy place, both in the morning and the afternoon.

We are continuing with our unit on energy. We have now finished our look at renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, and have begun an exploration of the properties of light, as well as light as a form of energy. We will later take a detailed look at the electromagnetic spectrum, including both visible and invisible forms of light energy. Eventually, we plan to observe and record various objects' abilities to interact with light, incorporating terms such as transparent, translucent, and opaque.

### Lower Elementary

by Miss Tina



Lower Elementary is slowly settling back into its work cycle routines after the February break. We are now working on Oceans and have completed some fun art experiences related to this topic. One of the activities the students are enjoying most is our "ocean" that we have set up in a large tray with water and a variety of sea creatures, shells, and sponges. The children really enjoy putting the creatures into the ocean and working with a friend to think of creative and interesting storylines for the ocean characters. We also put "magic" sea creatures into our ocean and watched them expand to twice their size as they absorbed water! That was a lot of fun. At the moment we are learning facts about commonly known sea animals, and are in the process of writing about some of our favourites. We have also been learning how sea animals are categorized e.g. mollusc, crustacean, fish, mammal, reptile, and interesting information about how animals work together in the ocean. For example, clownfish are the only fish able to live among anemones. The clownfish has a special mucus on its body that protects it from the anemone's stinging tentacles. Other fish can't swim in the anemones, so this helps to protect the clownfish. The clownfish helps the anemone by cleaning off food scraps and algae and circulating the water around it. Its amazing the way animals can work together!

We have also begun a unit on health and safety. So far we have talked about rules that keep us healthy and safe at home and school. You might have seen some of our health and safety posters in the hallways. We have also learnt about fire safety. You might want to talk about a fire safety plan for your home with your child, as we were all very interested in this topic. We know that we should regularly check our smoke detectors and extinguishers, have 2 exits in any room, plan a safe meeting place in case of a fire, and know how to "crawl low" and "stop-drop-roll". It was great to receive a visit from Kurt Delorme from the fire department who talked to us about the role of fire fighters in our community. It was a great visit.

We have all enjoyed the fairly mild winter weather but now we are really looking forward to some fun in the sun...c'mon Spring!

### Casa 1

By Miss Kristy



This month in Casa 1 we are very lucky to have two visitors come to our classroom. We have already very much enjoyed a visit by a fire fighter who showed us parts of his uniform and talked to us about his job and role as a fire fighter. The children thought it was really neat to see a real fire fighter at our school!! They were quite excited to see the fire fighter's "bunker pants"! We will also be having another special guest come to our classroom to talk to us about the importance of proper hand washing and to show us how to properly wash our hands to help us learn how to not spread germs. We are looking very forward to the visit!!

3 way conferences are coming up on March 20th. If you would like to book a time (meetings are 15 minutes long) please let me know so we can schedule a time in for you. The interviews are totally optional. However they are a time for you to ask any questions or concerns you may have or maybe you just want to come in the classroom and see what

your child has been learning and shows interest in.

As spring is approaching (sooner than later we hope), and as the weather gets warmer, we will be planning more field trips for the remaining months of the school year. We are looking very forward for spring!!

We would like to thank Calista's family for the Atlas of Saskatchewan.

We wish Hailey and Nooha a very happy birthday this month. We hope you girls have a wonderful day!!

### Casa 2

by Miss Janis



We are anxiously awaiting Spring in Casa 2, but please remember that winter weather is still here, and the students need warm clothes for playing outside at recess, including snow pants.

We have finished talking about "Canadian Symbols" but are still enjoying the various coins that students continue to bring in for "Show and Tell". The students are very interested in learning about the world around us!

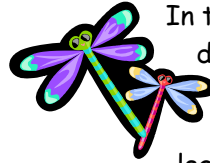
We were excited to have a fire fighter come to our school to teach us about fire safety. We are planning to have a "dinosaur dig" in April, so stay tuned for more details.

Bella celebrated her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday this month. We hope you enjoyed your special day!

We would like to thank Hilary's family for the constant supply of craft materials and fruits and vegetables, and for the gift of a compost kit. Thank you! Thank you also to Ryan's family for the hole punch set. Please check our whiteboard as we update our "wish list" on a regular basis.

### Core French

by Madame Linda



In the Casa classrooms we are doing a unit on farm animals. Here is some of the vocabulary the students are learning: un cheval (a horse), une vache (a cow), un cochon (a pig), un canard (a duck), un mouton (a sheep) and un lapin (a rabbit). Next we will be learning about dinosaurs (les dinosaures).

Lower elementary has completed a unit on oceans, marine mammals and fish. Students have begun a unit on zoo animals. Plans for the future include a unit on plants.

Upper elementary have completed a unit on grammar including verb conjugation, sentence construction and the use of the negative in sentences. Now the students are learning vocabulary about food (la nourriture) and will be designing a menu for a special event.

The last French class of the month continues to be a games period for Upper and Lower elementary. The first class of the month for Casa classes is always "calendrier" where the months and seasons of the year are reviewed.

### Music

by Mr. BJ



In music, we are putting the finishing touches on our songs in preparation for our showcase night.

The Casa and Lower Elementary classrooms had a great dress rehearsal for showcase last week in the chapel. We are very much looking forward to presenting our songs for friends and family.

## Questions and Answers

### Why do most Montessori schools ask young children to attend five days a week?

Two- and three-day programs are often attractive to parents who do not need full-time care; however, five-day programs create the consistency that is so important for young children and which is essential in developing strong Montessori programs. As the primary goal of Montessori involves creating a culture of consistency, order and empowerment, most Montessori schools will expect children to attend five days a week.



“The objects that are used for practical life have no scientific purpose. They are the objects used where a child lives and which he sees employed in his home, but they are especially made to a size that he can use.”

Maria Montessori

## Lessons from Geese . . .

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the “lifting power” of the bird immediately in front.

***Lesson:** If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go (and be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to others).*