

# Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

May 2009

## Calendar of Events

June 4	2:15 pm	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal
June 4	7:00 pm	Open House
June 8	7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
June 10		Newsletter Submissions Due
June 19		Fathers' Day <i>Coffee on the Go</i>
June 24		Last Day of School for Students
June 26		Last Day of School for Staff

## News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



I would like to start off with sharing some very exciting news. **MARIA MONTESSORI SCHOOL IS EXPANDING!**

We will be adding a Casa 3 classroom to our school, as well as a resource room.

We are having an Open House at 7:00 pm on June 4. If you know of families who are interested in exploring a Montessori education for their child, please invite them to attend this information session. Limited spaces are available.

The School noon hour picnic scheduled for May 20 is cancelled due to the unseasonably cold weather.

Thank you to Darrell (Bronson and Samson's Dad) for providing a staff pizza lunch on April 23. It was very much enjoyed by all!

Our next hot lunch will be on Wednesday, May 27 (chicken fingers and fries from D'reen's

Catering - yum). Check your mailboxes next week for the Hot Lunch forms.

I would like to thank Catherine Boot (Sam, Zach and Sarah's mom) for volunteering to help at the book fair. The help was greatly appreciated!

Our Scholastic book fair was a huge success! We surpassed our goal of \$1,000, with sales totaling \$1,342! This means that our school will be receiving 50% of that total back in resources for our classrooms. Many, many thanks to all of our MMS families for your very generous support. Happy reading!

Parents please note that with respect to the H1N1 influenza virus that has made its way to Saskatoon, your child may not attend school if he or she is showing flu symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, fatigue and lack of appetite. Parents will be called to immediately pick up children showing these symptoms while at school. Please ensure you have an alternate day care plan.

## Upper Elementary

by Mr. BJ

After a busy few weeks, things are finally getting back to normal in the Upper Elementary classroom. This past Friday, we had our Mother's Day tea, which included drinks, snacks, stories, gifts, and massages (those lucky mothers!). Special thanks to Miss Yuriko and Miss Jewel for organizing and overseeing everything. The previous week, we enjoyed an afternoon at Marian Gym, where the students were able to try out some of the gymnastic equipment. The foam pit was a big hit - even Mr. BJ tried it (more foam probably would have been good).

In the week prior, we attended a CSI workshop at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine. Thank you to Terra Arnason and Troy Harkness for an exciting and informative afternoon. As part of an investigative team looking into the (fictitious) dognapping of a poor pooch, we learned how to analyze the suspect's DNA, as well as soil samples, hair, and protein residue left at the crime scene. We also took our own fingerprints, and had an opportunity to compare cat and dog skeletons, as well as bear and human skulls. It was a remarkable afternoon. As we crossed campus on the way home, we stopped in at the Geology Building to observe live plants and animals, as well as look at the T-rex and triceratops skeletons (they are huge!)

To celebrate Earth Day, Upper Elementary students did a presentation for the whole school on the four R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Repair). We encourage all students (and parents) to celebrate Earth Day every day. Some tips include making a habit of packing a "waste-free lunch" (using reusable containers instead of packaging that ends up in the garbage), and parents turning off their vehicles when dropping off and picking up students.

As well, uppers have continued with their unit on the five senses, and have done a few hands-on experiments to help them better

understand how some of their sensory organs work (we can make full-colour pictures with just a magnifying glass and a piece of white paper). We have also kept busy researching and designing our family trees, using a cool computer program to help us keep our information organized.

## Lower Elementary

by Miss Tina

Lower Elementary students have now completed their oceans unit and have just begun our unit on plants. We have recently learned about types of plants, seeds and plant parts. We hope to do some experiments on plant growth, including growing plants from different types of seeds, growing plants under varying light conditions, and watering plants with various types of polluted liquids. We are looking forward to seeing how these experiments work out.

We have also successfully grown our own "triopts". Triopts are 3-eyed ancient sea creatures which can be grown from their eggs. Their eggs are "in limbo" until they are added to water, at which time they will hatch if the conditions are just right! Two of our trips have hatched, and we are having fun watching their progress and growth.



We greatly enjoyed our Spring Tea. It was so wonderful to have so many special ladies visiting our room. We always enjoy this special time!

Enjoy the warmer weather that is on its way!



"The teacher's task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activities in a special environment made for the child."

## Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

This month in Casa 1 we will be continuing our theme on Spring. We will be learning about plants and flowers as well as insects and bugs. We will be learning about the different parts of a plant and what plants need in order to grow. We planted Marigold, oregano and purple basil seeds in the classroom, and the children are really enjoying waiting and watching for the seeds to sprout and were quite excited when they saw the first little shoots starting to grow! We will be going on a field trip at the end of the month to Day Grow to learn more on plants and flowers.

Next week we will be heading to D'reen's Catering to practice our cooking skills and food preparation.

Our last class trip will be to the Forestry Farm in the middle of June before school is out for the summer.

We would like to thank all the moms and special ladies that joined us for the Mothers' Day Tea. The children worked hard to prepare the day for you and were very happy to have you all there.

We would like to thank Tess's family for donating money to purchase the World Villages African Dreamland CD, for the wonderful books and games from the Scholastic book order, and for the old cards that we use for practicing sewing. We would also like to thank David's family for the lovely pictures from our field trip to Marian Gymnastics. Thank you so much for the generous gifts!

We would like to wish Sadie and Grace a very happy birthday this month. Enjoy your day!!

## Casa 2

by Miss Janis

It's hard to believe that we only have six weeks of school left! We are very happy to

see that the weather is starting to cooperate. Please feel free to send hats and sunscreen for your child on those really hot days!

It was so nice to see so many moms (or special ladies!) make it to our Mother's Day Tea. We hope you enjoyed our time with us!! Dads... please mark your calendars as we expect to see you at our "Coffee on the go" on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

We enjoyed our class trip to D'reen's earlier this month and are looking forward to three more trips this year. We are going to be the first class to tour the Children's Discovery Museum next week. We will be going to a greenhouse at the end of the month to learn about plants, and then off to the Forestry Farm in June. We are always looking for parent helpers!!

We were very sad to say good-bye to Serena from our afternoon class. Her family moved to Swift Current, and we wish them luck!! We are also going to be saying good-bye to Janaya at the end of the month as her family moves to Regina.

We would like to thank Amolika's family for the Soft Soap refills and Sarah's family for the Swiffer cleaning supplies. Thanks to Rayna's family for the electric kettle and Zak's family for the Digital Photo Frame. Thanks so much!!!

## Lessons from Geese . . .

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: *It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and share the leadership – with people, as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.*

**Core French**  
by Madame Linda

Core French classes have been busy as usual.

Both Lower and Upper Elementary Students were able to make cards to celebrate "la fete des meres". LE is beginning a unit on plants (les plantes). Here is some of the vocabulary the students are learning: la graine (seed), les racines (roots), la tige (stem), les feuilles (leaves), la fleur (flower), l'arbre (tree), le soleil (sun), l'air (air), la pluie (rain), les abeilles (bees) and la pollinisation (fertilization).

Upper Elementary students have finished a unit on pizza and are beginning a unit on visiting a restaurant (aller au restaurant). Future plans include designing a menu.

Casa students have begun a unit on transportation (les transports). Some new vocabulary words are: une auto (car), un autobus (bus), un avion (an airplane), un bateau (a boat), une bicyclette (a bicycle), un camion (a truck) and un train (a train).

**Music**  
by Mr. BJ

In music, we have been making good use of the "boomwhacker" sticks (as well as the warm, sunny weather) by playing outside.

The Casa students, we have added rhythmic exploration to our singing through games of echo and speed races.

Upper Elementary students have used the sticks to try more complex multi-rhythms, incorporating both arms (and sometimes feet) in an attempt to mimic beats that a drummer might use in his/her music. We also continue to do our "critical listening analysis" of songs of the students' choice, listening for form (in both the music and lyrics), instrumentation, and meter, as well as developing a vocabulary to help us better describe the likes and dislikes of the music, as well as our overall aesthetic experiences.

At the end of last week, the Lower Elementary students presented their skit and performance of Hannah Montana's "Nobody's Perfect". The MMS students enjoyed the presentation thoroughly.

**Materials simple, yet providing a concrete base for learning concepts and developing skills**  
**Older students helping younger students, similar to family teaching/learning**  
**New concepts expanded upon in series, building upon what has been mastered**  
**Teachers guiding instruction but encouraging self-exploration**  
**Environment, environment, environment**  
**Self-paced achievement**  
**Sensorial approach providing full bodied education - sight, taste, sound, touch, smell**  
**Originality and individuality supported as part of the health of the overall community**  
**Respect for oneself, respect for others, respect for the Earth**  
**Involvement of family to encourage a total Montessori experience at school and at home**