

# Maria Montessori School Mirror

## A Reflection of our School

November 2009

### Calendar of Events

November 16		Report Cards
November 20		3-Way Conferences - No School for Students
December 3	2:15	Staff meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
December 18		Last day of School Before Winter Vacation
January 4		School Resumes
January 7	2:15	Staff meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
January 29		Professional Development Day - No School for Students



### News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



**Thank you** to all of our families who participated in last month's Scholastic Book Fair. We surpassed our goal of \$1,500 which is incredible for our little school. This means over \$750 in books and supplies will come back into our classrooms. Thanks so much. Your support is invaluable.

During this year's Annual Giving Campaign we raised \$25,000. Thank you to all families who donated. All money raised goes toward supporting our school programs. As a registered charity, we accept donations at any time, and all donations are tax deductible.

Our next hot lunch will be held on November 26. Children registered in our lunch supervision program will find forms in their mailbox this week.

We would like to remind all parents to pack healthy and nutritious snacks and lunches for the students.

Please refrain from sending "junk" food (such as chips and chocolate), and keep prepackaged food use to a minimum. Whenever possible, pack foods in reusable containers to reduce waste. Fresh fruits and vegetables, dry cereal, pretzels, bagel rounds, cheese and crackers make great snacks. Use pita bread or tortilla wraps to make sandwiches more interesting, and pack milk or water as an alternative to juice. For more tips on healthy lunches and snacks, check out the Canada Food Guide at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca).

### Upper Elementary

by Miss Jane and Miss Marie

Time flies when you're having fun! We're already preparing for our Ocean's Unit presentation, scheduled for Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The students are excited to present what they have learned and created. Meanwhile, we have begun our new culture unit on resources. This unit will start with a local focus, and then move to a national and global look at resources.

We will also be working on poetry in November. We have already created some beautiful Remembrance Day poems which you can see on display on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Have a read when you're walking by sometime. We hope you'll enjoy them!

Another area we really enjoy in Upper Elementary is math. We have so many wonderful materials to work with, and really enjoy using the fraction insets to explore fraction problems. You'll also see us playing a lot of fun math games to supplement our learning. Have you ever practiced division and multiplication by playing "who wants to be a millionaire," or jeopardy?" Come try it out with us sometime - you're guaranteed to love it too!

We had our first enrichment art class last Friday. Miss Marsha has some extraordinary ideas about ways for us to tap into our creative spirits.



Speaking French has been the focus of our French classes, and we are discovering that we actually understand more French than we thought we did!

This fall has been very busy and we have all learned so much. We are now preparing interesting and nourishing activities to sustain us through the coming winter months.

### **Lower Elementary**

by Miss Janis

We have been enjoying learning about Healthy Foods. Our trip to D'reen's Catering was absolutely fabulous! We enjoyed discussing the Four Food Groups while we made pizza, spring rolls, and sugar cookies (we know we can eat foods from the 'Other' category in moderation!)

We have taken a break from our Food Unit and have been discussing the importance of Remembrance Day. In October we had a special presentation from one of Miss Janis' former teachers about the Pilgrimage she went on with the Royal Canadian Legion. We had learned about what a soldier was, and why we wear a poppy. This year all students have the opportunity to enter the Annual Poster contest which is sponsored by the Legion.

For the remainder of the month we will focus on "Healthy Bodies". Students will learn how to make

good choices and will participate in activities to promote a positive self image.

We will continue to do all we can to keep our students healthy during the flu season. Hand sanitizer is available at all work spaces and students will be reminded to wash their hands often. Please make sure that if your child has any flu symptoms they stay home until they are feeling better. Also make sure that you have an emergency contact in place to pick your child up if you are unable to leave work.

This month we have two birthdays on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Happy birthday to Sammy and Emma! We hope you enjoy your special day.

## **Announcing...**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual

### **MARIA MONTESSORI SCHOOL CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Bring your family to a night of  
celebration!

Feast on ethnic delights by D'reen's  
Catering, and enjoy cultural dance  
performances!

### **Casa 1**

By Miss Kristy

This month in Casa 1 we will be continuing to learn about different places and various cultures around the world. We all really enjoyed participating in a Native American drum circle with Eric and Ryan's grandpa. In class we created a recipe from Ireland, "Irish Soda Bread". The children loved taking part in making the bread and then tasting their creation afterwards. They loved the bread!! A recipe will be sent home so each child can make the bread at home with their family if they would like. We are looking forward to a special event that will be taking place at our school later in the month. Please stay tuned for more details.

Half way through the month we will begin to focus our learning on different celebrations around the world. We will be learning about Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Hanukah, Chinese New Year and Christmas. If you celebrate one of these celebrations and would like to share something about it with the class, please let us know. We love having guests taking part in our learning with us! We will be continuing our learning on different celebrations throughout December as well.



I would like to remind families to please remember to send appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear with your child to school according to the weather. The children go outside for recess everyday, unless it is raining or colder than -25 degrees.

As well we are really trying to encourage healthy eating and having nutritious snacks and lunches. The foods that go into our bodies really have an effect on our energy levels and performance in class. Thank you so much for all your support and cooperation!!

We would like to thank Payton's family and Nyla's family for the books for our class from the book fair, Calista's family for the headphones for our listening center, and Daria's family for the cleaning supplies. We appreciate so much all the donations we receive for our classroom!!

### Casa 2

by Miss Regina

October blew out in a hurry it seems and now we are preparing for the arrival of Winter. Thank you to all the students for dressing so readily for the colder weather. We have managed to get jackets on and zipped or buttoned up. What a great accomplishment, especially for our younger students. The older students are always willing to lend a helping hand to someone who needs a little extra help getting properly dressed for outside recess.

In Casa 2 we have enjoyed the last few pleasant warm days of October by going outdoors for walks. We will continue to venture outside as it is important to get fresh air and daily exercise. This past month we have started to implement the Jolly Phonics program into our Language Arts Curriculum. The children are enjoying and learning the sounds very quickly and retaining them well.

Interview your child and ask what action and sound the letter a, s, t, p or i make.

In Math some of our students have begun to work with the beads system and the decimal system using the small change bank as well as the large change bank.

Our sensorial materials and practical life activities continue to be very popular with our younger students.

In culture we have explored the continent of North America more in depth. We discovered that there are different countries and that the people speak other languages in these countries. We concluded there are many unique cultures on the continent we live on.

We would like to inquire with you if you have a unique cultural or heritage background and would like to share with us an aspect of your culture such as language, customs or traditions. Please talk to us if you are interested.

Rhythmic education has been a part of our program as well. The children have learned to make music with rhythm sticks and really enjoyed their recent experience with Native American drumming with Erik's Papa (Grandpa).

We would like to thank the students and their families who donated wonderful books to our classroom from the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you also for providing flowers on Mondays, for doing laundry on Fridays, and providing much needed help with our field trips.



### Casa 3

by Miss Maria

With fall in full swing and winter fast approaching, we have had a lot going on in Casa 3. As a wonderful wrap-up to our fall theme, we went on our first field trip to the Meewasin Valley center in October. Thank you so much to the many parent volunteers who came along for that trip!

After finishing our focus on fall we have moved on to learning about the Asian cultures of Japan and China. As part of our study we made Sushi, tasted Jasmine tea and also tried to use chopsticks to pick up marshmallows. In the coming weeks we will be discussing South Korea and the unique cultural customs there. After that, we will be learning

about the cultural celebrations of Ramadan and Kwanzaa.

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to David on the November 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will be turning five!

Once again, I am touched by the number of generous donations we received this month. As a parting gift from the Linde family our classroom now has a beautiful fish tank. Thank you to Ryan and his family for bringing in the decorative accessories that now adorn the bottom of our lovely new tank as well as our new sham-wow and sponges. Thank you very much to Dale's family for bringing in the clear storage containers and cleaning sponges. Thank you to Zak's family for the storage containers and clear creamers, to Adam's family for the pom-poms and foam shapes, to Elias's family for the chalkboard wall stickers, to Nathan for his birthday present to the class of a new plant, clothespins, and storage containers, to David's family for the swiffer wet cloths, and to Elizabeth's family for the Putumayo Music CD.

**Core French**  
by Madame Linda

French classes have been busy!

During the first class of every month, we do "calendrier" and review the months of the year (janvier, fevrier, mars, avril, mai, juin, juillet, aout, septembre, octobre, novembre, decembre) with emphasis on the current month and the holidays which fall during that month. In "novembre" all French students have learned vocabulary and have done activities associated with "Jour du Souvenir" (Remembrance Day). Please note that the months in French are never capitalized.

Casa students are learning some French vocabulary words for fruits and vegetables. Here are some of the words they are learning: une banane (a banana), une pomme (an apple), une orange (an orange), des raisins (some grapes), des fraises (some strawberries), une carotte (a carrot), du celeri (some celery), une pomme de terre (a potato), une tomate (a tomato), and du maïs (some corn).

Lower Elementary students are learning vocabulary and doing activities around food. They are learning some new French words from all five food groups. On the last class on the month Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary combine to participate in French games.

***What is Peace Education?***

*Dr. Montessori proposed that we could ensure world peace by producing children who are independent, secure and at peace with themselves. She was a powerful peace advocate in Europe who focused on children as the future world leaders*

*In the Montessori classroom community, cooperation rather than competition is encouraged. There is an attitude of respect for self, others and the environment that is modeled by the teacher. Children are actively taught the skills of peacemaking. Conflict resolutions skills are learned and practiced. Classrooms have "peace corners" where children can go alone to quiet themselves or with a friend to work out a problem.*

**Tomorrow's Child Magazine**

Many of our parents have expressed a desire to learn more about Montessori education. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to *Tomorrow's Child Magazine*, which is a magazine for Montessori families around the world. Each issue is filled with articles that address the questions parents most often ask about Montessori schools and Montessori in the home. If you are interested in subscribing to this publication, please go

[http://montessori.org/sitefiles/TC\\_flyer\\_indiv\\_sub.pdf](http://montessori.org/sitefiles/TC_flyer_indiv_sub.pdf)

# Community Notices

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