

Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

October 2008

Calendar of Events

October 21-23		Scholastic Book Fair
November 3	7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors - Annual General Meeting
November 3-5		Bake Sale
November 5		Picture Day
November 6	2:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
November 10		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
November 10	7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
November 11		Remembrance Day - No School
November 12		Newsletter Submissions Due
November 17		Report Cards
November 21		3-Way Conferences - No School for Students

News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



I am so pleased to announce that our school raised \$1,908.10 for cancer research through the **Terry Fox Run**. What a wonderful feeling it is to know that the spirit of giving is very much alive and well in our families at Maria Montessori School. Thank you to all of our participating students. Although our run day was dreary, the sun shone in the hearts of our children and their families.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our **Annual Charity Fundraising Event** a great success. We had very positive reviews from our new families who were able to attend. If you weren't able to be there, chat with some of the new families who were and get the scoop. Next year's event will be held on October 30, 2009. Mark the date on your calendar, and start thinking about what you can do to help out!

A huge thank you goes out to Aden's family for providing our **September Quizno's Hot Lunch**. The kids (and staff) really enjoyed it. We greatly appreciate your generosity. Our next hot lunch will be held on Thursday, October 23, and we are planning to have Spaghetti. Forms will be out shortly.

Our **Fall Book Fair** is on track for October 21-23 and will be set up in our Music Room. If you can help at the fair, please sign up on the sheet located on the whiteboard. Our goal is sales of \$1,000. If we meet this goal, we will receive \$500 back in books and supplies for our classrooms. The teachers will also be putting up wish lists in the event that families would like to purchase books for their child's classroom. Come out and support your school and do some Christmas shopping at the same time!

Fall is a beautiful time of year. Enjoy!



Upper Elementary

by Miss Alice

It's been a busy month for the students in Upper Elementary. In social studies we've learned about Canadian symbols such as the moose and beaver, as well as Queen Elizabeth II, the loon and the maple leaf represented on our money. We also learned about symbols for the RCMP, the totem pole and the olympic flags and what the coloured rings represent (including the background). We completed our art project on Marine Flags, so please check out our display outside the classroom. We will be moving onto mapping skills next.

In science we have studied botany, including leaf shapes, veins, borders and blades. We investigated evidence of transpiration and why leaves change colour in the Fall. It would be a great review for your child if you ask him/her to explain what we learned. We will soon be starting a unit on the water cycle which will include working on water-related experiments.

The students are continuing to display great interest in math and are working on supplemental work booklets for addition, subtraction and multiplication, as well as learning their times tables and about money.

Reading is a regular part of our rest and relaxation, and we will soon begin a novel study on Rescue Pup.

Lower Elementary

by Miss Tina

Lower Elementary continues to work hard in establishing routines and staying on task during the work cycle. The gloomy skies, windy weather and swirling leaves has inspired us to work on Fall activities this week. Our classroom has a "season tree", where each season we change the tree to show its life cycle. Our spring leaves have blown away and the children have created new fall leaves to take its place. Replacing the leaves on the tree is always a fun process that involves fingerpainting and lots of mess to create textured paper, and then lots of tracing and cutting of leaf shapes once our fingerpaint prints are dry. It is always an activity that is thoroughly enjoyed.

The students were also greatly pleased to contribute to the recent school fundraiser by working together to create our "School of Fish" painting. The children are always excited to hear about the auction and about the interest shown in their work. We are already thinking about what we might like to do next year! It was also great to see so many parents and familiar faces there this year.

We will soon be learning about pioneer schools in readiness for our combined field trip with Upper Elementary to Diefenbaker Centre and the Little Stone Schoolhouse. Learning about our pioneer history is always a source of interest. Parents are welcome to attend this field trip and to assist with driving the students to and from the location. Your help would be appreciated!

Enjoy this blustery weather and the beautiful full colors that are emerging. Winter is on its way!

Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

We had a great start to the year. We are learning to remember the routines and procedures of our classroom and school. We have enjoyed walks outside, exploring the signs of Fall and walks throughout the Church to

practice walking in a line. We are looking forward to our next field trip on October 31 to the library to celebrate *Education Week*.

A couple of reminders:

- Please remember to send healthy snacks for your child, and let them know what you are sending. Knowing what they have to eat will help your child to decide what to choose for snack. Some examples of healthy snacks are fruit, vegetables, yogurt, cheese, crackers, etc.
- Please remember that pick up time for children registered in the morning program is 11:30 a.m. It is important that the children are picked up on time so that the staff can get the other children ready for lunch. Thank you for your cooperation.

Casa 1 has many families to thank this month. We would like to thank Sadie's family for the finger paints, small objects and dish cloths, Kiana's family for the small objects, Adam's family for the finger paints, Theo's family for the craft supplies, venus flytrap and dish cloths, Aden's family for the craft supplies and dish cloths, and Mary's family for all the gifts from the Teacher's Trunk. Thank you all so much for everything!

This month Casa 1 would like to wish happy birthday to Laila who celebrates her 5th birthday and Theo who celebrates his 4th birthday. We hope you both have a great day!

Casa 2
by Miss Janis

Casa 2 is happy to have Miss Kelly Ann join us! She has enjoyed meeting all of the students, and we are looking forward to a great year.

The cold weather has arrived! We will not be going out in the rain (or snow?!?!) but will definitely try to enjoy the last few weeks of fall. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather.

We enjoyed our first class trip to the Pumpkin Maze at Dutch Grower's. The children has a great time. Thanks to Emma's dad, Hilary's dad, Parker's dad and Cody's mom for volunteering to help. Our next trip is planned for Friday, October 31. We will be going to the library to celebrate Education week.

Thank you so much for all of the generous gifts. I hope I'm not forgetting anyone, but thanks to Jacob's family for the Swiffer Carpet Sweeper, Hilary's family for the orange legal folders, Cody's family for the duper glue, and Zeda's family for the blindfolds. The school would like to thank Zeda's family for recycling our juice boxes. We appreciate your help!

Items remaining on our wish list are brown legal-sized folders and items for our Nature Table as well as various fruits and vegetables. Thank you so much to Hilary's family and Rayna's family for quickly donating various fruits and vegetables. These foods are used for cutting activities in Practical Life, science experiments and art projects.

Our Nature Table looks amazing. The children are enjoying seeing new items that are placed there. Thanks to Jason's family for the bird's nest, eggshell and porcupine quills. They are so interesting.

We would like to wish Daxtin a happy 5th birthday on October 30. Enjoy your special day!

Core French
by Madame Linda

In Core French, Upper Elementary students are learning their numbers from one to fifty. We have begun the "hot seat" which will run every Monday.

Lower Elementary students have finished a unit on family (la famille) and have begun a unit on the weather (le temps). We will also be looking at materials about the Earth (la terre).

Casa students are still concentrating on learning the colours (les couleurs) and are starting to learn their numbers from one to ten (un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix). Soon the Casa students will be able to say their age in French. J'ai _____ ans.

All core French classes have learned some vocabulary and have done some activities associated with Thanksgiving (Action de Grace).

Music

by Miss Natalie

So far this fall, the music room has been alive with the cheerful sounds of students singing, dancing, playing, and learning about music! The goal up to now has been to explore various musical topics while assessing skill levels and musical knowledge—all the while making sure students have enjoyable and meaningful experiences in music class.

The Casa students have been developing a repertoire of songs, rhymes, games, and movements that have introduced them to the concepts of the “building blocks” that are the foundation of music. Up to now we have explored beat, rhythm, melody, dynamics, tempo, and form. This same repertoire has also helped them to begin developing skills of listening, singing, moving, concentrating, and being expressive through music.

The lower elementary students have also been working on expanding their repertoire and developing their musical skills, building on many of the same concepts they have learned in previous years. We have begun to explore the more subtle aspects of music such as timbre, meter, and expression and will soon be learning to transfer musical sound to musical notation.

The upper elementary students have been involved in a variety of musical activities, including learning about and listening to different musical styles, exploring the basics of the guitar, and developing their own musical skills. Students have been practicing their skills through improvising with rhythm instruments, singing progressively more advanced melodies, and analyzing meter, beat, and rhythm to songs we've learned. They have also helped to composed lyrics to a song that the younger students will soon enjoy! Students will soon be pulling out their recorders in preparation for expanding their knowledge of musical “building blocks” and developing the skill of reading music.

Stay “tuned” for the wish list of materials that would enhance the music room!



Bake Sale

When: November 3-5
8:30-9:00 / 11:30-12:00 / 3:15-4:00

Where: School Entrance Hall

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE
NEW PHS ED EQUIPMENT



“We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry”

Maria Montessori