


Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

October 2009

Calendar of Events

October 9		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
October 12		Thanksgiving - No School
October 27		Picture Day
November 5	2:15	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
November 6		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
November 11		Remembrance Day - No School
November 16		Report Cards
November 20		3-Way Conferences - No School for Students

News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



We would like to send out a big thank you to Miss Yuriko and her husband Erik for organizing and manning our second hand book sale to raise funds for our new Resource Room. We appreciate the many hours of work put into this project, from which we raised over \$800. We would like to wish Miss Yuriko and Erik many good wishes for their future as they make their way to Japan where they will be spending the next few months. Miss Yuriko, your gentle spirit and connection with all of us here will not be forgotten. We will miss you very much. We would also like to thank all of our families who donated and supported our book sale. We couldn't have done it without you!

A big thumbs up to all of our students who trained for and/or participated in the Cross Country meet on October 3. What a great



job you all did! Thanks to our cheering section as well. Much appreciation to Miss Marie for all her hard work training with the kids and organizing us for the meet.

This year's Terry Fox Run was extremely successful. Our families raised over \$2000 for this very worthy cause. Cheers to all of the participants and donors.

Our next hot lunch will be held on October 28.

Those children who are registered in our lunch supervision program will find forms in their mailboxes the week of the 19th.

If you haven't already done so, please submit your Casa child's mat fee (\$20) as soon as possible. The children are already making use of their mats for relaxation time in the afternoons. The use of these mats are part of our strategy to reduced the spread of illness within our school. The mats are

- individual - therefore less chance of spreading germs
- easier to keep clean and germ free than carpet

- allergy friendly (no allergens, dirt, dust mites, etc.

We have not yet received field trip fees (\$50) for all of our students. Please submit these fees immediately as field trips have commenced.

All of our families have now received a *Parent Manual*. This Manual includes a school calendar and should answer most questions that may arise during the year. Please keep this manual handy for reference.

Our monthly newsletter will now host a *Community Notices* section. If you have something that you would like posted in our newsletter, please see Kelly.

Upper Elementary

by Miss Jane and Miss Marie

September slipped by and the wonderful weather made everything so enjoyable, but with the colder weather imminent the lamps in the classroom will be turned on, the heat turned up, and we will settle in for the cosy months ahead in our lovely classroom.



The students are very busy in the mornings doing academics. We have established a productive work cycle that begins with some group reading, stretching and relaxation. We have focussed on problem solving, long division and graph reading in math and are challenging ourselves to write more and more thoughtfully in our language arts.

The end of the oceans unit is approaching and the children have learned so much. They are beginning to work on their final projects this week and are looking forward to the presentations later this month. We were very pleased to discover just how much we had learned when we prepared a class quiz and the students realized how much knowledge they have acquired. The resources unit planned for next month promises to be just as interesting.

In French Miss Jane challenges us to think in French and speak as much as we can. We are playing games and have learned some vocabulary related to our oceans unit. Upper Elementary joins Lower Elementary for music twice a week, and we hear the singing and rhythm making in the halls of the school.

Physical education is a very important part of each week and we try to do some physical activity every

day. Lower and Upper Elementary have a games class twice a week and the skill levels and sportsmanship are more evident each week. The success of the students in the recent Husky cross country meet demonstrated the talent and commitment of our students to fitness.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and very happy Thanksgiving. We are certainly thankful for our families, friends and our wonderful school.

Lower Elementary

by Miss Janis

Lower Elementary has grown this month! After attending our first class trip to Petland we had a class vote and decided to purchase 2 frogs and 3 fish. We are in the process of naming them. We are also attempting to care for crayfish. Wish us luck!

We have enjoyed getting to know each other over the first few weeks and have discovered how we are all special in our own way. For the next few weeks we are going to be studying "Food". We are going to learn how to plan healthy meals and learn how to prepare a few meals and snacks. We will also learn about reading labels. Parents are encouraged to practice label reading at home.

I have asked for all parents to send earphones and placemats for their child. The earphones are to be used at the computer. Personal placemats are required for eating snacks and lunch.

This is just a reminder that all students need to be dressed to go outside daily. Winter weather is on its way! Also, please make sure that your child takes off their outdoor footwear before entering the classroom. Each child must have indoor running shoes for gym class.

I'd like to thank all the parents for their continuing generosity this year. It has been so helpful to receive the items that we need in the classroom.

This month we celebrate three birthdays in Lower Elementary. Happy birthday to Andy, Kalli, and Alis! Enjoy your special day!!



Annual Giving Campaign

We are almost half way to our goal of \$40,000. Thank you to those families who have donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Our giving meter in the front hallway will continue to track donations.

Our Annual Giving Campaign will continue until the end of October. If you are thinking of a donation and have questions, please speak with our Board of Directors.

Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

Where are we going? HIGHER!

Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

October is going to be a fun and busy month for Casa 1. We have already started learning about the season of Fall and the changes that take place in nature during this wonderful season. We are looking forward to our field trip that is coming up later in the month when we will be exploring nature and the season of Fall by enjoying a nature walk outside, as well as a fun activity inside the Meewassin Valley Center. Stay tuned for more details!!

This month we will also be continuing our learning on multiculturalism and the importance of respecting the diversity and differences among cultures. The children have enjoyed sharing their "homelands" with the class and displaying their picture and "homeland" on the bulletin board for others to see. Make sure to take a look! We are also looking forward to exploring other aspects of various cultures through some special activities that will be coming up later in the month.

We would like to remind everyone to please make sure that your child brings weather appropriate outdoor clothing to school. If it is raining or is wet outside, rubber boots would be the best outdoor footwear for your child. We do go outside most days so it is so important that the children are warm and comfortable. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

We would like to thank Calista's family for the craft supplies and ordering new children magazines for the Casas. We would also like to thank Jessica's family for the glue sticks and Daria's family for the wet wipes.

We wish Theo a very happy birthday this month. We hope you have a wonderful day Theo!

Casa 2

by Miss Regina

Fall is here in full force it seems. I cannot believe we've already been in school for one whole month. September was a very busy month for the Casa students as well as for the Teachers. Becoming familiar with the Montessori class room routines and expectations is quite something to adjust to. We are very proud of all our students for accomplishing this very important fundamental task.

The children have discovered the huge influx of ladybugs in the courtyard and right inside our class room. Some of the ladybugs arrived in Casa 2 as "blind passengers" in bouquets of sunflowers, and this caused lots of excitement among the students. This was a perfect opportunity for an in-depth exploration into the subject of ladybugs



Apples were another popular subject during the month of September. As a conclusion to our studies we made "Rosie's Apple Sauce" last Friday. I am certain all the students have a little story to tell you about our "Rosie's Applesauce Meal".

We discovered that our plant earth is made of land, water and air and that the land is divided into continents. We are in the process of learning the names of the continents and oceans.

Upcoming themes for October include exploring the season of Autumn and Multiculturalism. Our first field trip of the year is planned for Tuesday, October 20th. The Casa students will be participating in a program at the Meewassin Valley Center where they will discover nature by using all your senses. As always we need your help. We would like to provide 1 parent volunteer per every 3 children. Please sign the field trip permission form posted by our classroom door and indicate if you are able to help out. Please note that your permission is required in order for your child to participate in this field trip.

We would like to highlight a couple of important information items:

- **Lunch provision:** please pack a manageable lunch amount which should include only one snack for the am and one for the pm session. Lunch should consist of one main food item, a beverage, a

vegetable and/or fruit serving and, if desired, one dessert item.

- **Outdoor clothing:** please provide weather appropriate clothing for your child each day. As the cold sets in, your child will be more comfortable outside when dressed warmly.

Thank you to all Casa 2 families who contributed so generously the items on our wish list. We would also like to thank Matt, Sadie's Dad (Casa 1), for taking the time to visit the Casa classrooms to provide us with valuable information on proper hand washing. The children enjoyed this learning presentation very much.

A big thank you to all the parents who helped out with our Terry Fox Run. Huge thank you also to the families who supported and helped out with the book sale fundraiser. We could not have done it without your help and your support.

We would like to wish Sarah Boot a very happy birthday this month. Enjoy your special day! Sarah and her family will be in Shanghai, China, to celebrate her birthday this year. We are already looking forward to the wonderful stories she will have to tell us about her trip.

Casa 3

by Miss Maria

We have had a wonderful beginning together in Casa 3. September was a month of practicing grace & courtesy and forming friendships. The children are doing an excellent job of learning to work with new materials and adjusting to the structure of the classroom.

This month, we have begun learning about Fall and the changes that Fall brings to the world around us. We have been focusing especially on the harvesting of apples and pumpkins during the fall. We are looking forward to our upcoming field trip to the Meewasin Valley Centre to continue our exploration of the Fall season. Later in the month we will begin to concentrate on learning about people around the world and the diversity of the world's cultures.



We have three Casa 3 birthdays in October. We would like to wish a happy 4th birthday to Annika whose birthday was on the 5th of this month. As well, happy 4th birthdays to Josh on the 18th of October and Nathan on the 27th of October. I would like to send out a great big THANK YOU to all of the parents who have brought in so many

great supplies for our class. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and am very appreciative of your contributions towards supplying materials for our brand new classroom. Thank you to Ryan's family for bringing in a multitude of items including disinfecting wipes, craft materials, baskets, cloth napkins, Kleenex, toys and puzzles for aftercare as well as an art easel for aftercare. Thank you to Nathan's family for supplying us with crayons and foam shapes and to Shiv & Shreeya's family for bringing us craft materials. Thanks to Angelina's family for bringing us band-aids and to Charlie's family for bringing in crayons, Swiffer cloths and a mini gourd for our nature table. Thank you very much to Dale's family for bringing in a ton of Styrofoam plates and also for supplying all of our class's juice boxes for the Terry Fox run. Lastly, thank you to Adam's family for bringing in Swiffer wet cloths and a big thank you to Elizabeth's family for her gift to our class of craft materials in honour of her 4th birthday in September. There were so many generous donations made to our class in September that I am sure that I have most likely missed two or three of you! I apologize to any families that may have missed and send out a big thank you to you as well. Thank you very much for everything!

Core French

by Madame Linda



It's been a wonderful first month in the core French classes.

The Casa students are learning numbers from one to ten: un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix, as well as the to answer the question "Quel age as-tu? (how old are you?) The reply: J'ai _____ ans. They are also able to reply to the question "Comment ca va aujourd'hui? " (how are things today?) with one of three possible answers : ca va bien, ca va mal or comme ci, comme ca (I am having a good day, I am having a bad day, or I am having a so-so day).

Lower Elementary students are learning/reviewing the numbers from one to twenty. Plans for later in the month include a unit on Fall (l'automne) and harvest (la recolte). Some new vocabulary will include la ble (wheat), la citrouille (pumpkin), le football (football), la courge (squash), la tarte (pie) and la migration (migration).

I wish all the core French students and their families an enjoyable long week-end!

REMINDER . . .

Absences and Safe Arrival

For safety reasons, we remind you to advise your child's Directress or phone the school at 955-3852 if your child will be late or absent. The answering machine is available at all times. Attendance will be taken each day and staff will call regarding unexplained absences.

We ask that everyone make being on time for school a priority since it is disruptive to both the late student and to the students who have arrived on time. If your child arrives late to class or has been absent and you have not notified the school, please check in at the office before going to the classroom. At the classroom please make eye contact with the Directress who will then greet your child at the next available moment.

Words of Wisdom for Montessori Parents

- Hug regularly but don't impose affection. Recognize the difference.
- Read together daily with children and don't hesitate to read books with realistic themes.
- Talk about the colours (don't forget the shades), textures and shapes you see around you.
- Learn to say "no" without anger, and with firmness and conviction. Not everything children want is appropriate.
- Teach the language of courtesy. Don't let your child interrupt, teach how to wait after saying "excuse me".
- Analyze any annoying behaviour of your child and teach from the positive. For example, door slamming - teach them how to close a door; running in the house - teach them how to walk; runny nose - teach them how to use a tissue.
- Tell them what you value in them. Let them hear you express what you value in others.
- Apologize to your child when you've made a mistake.
- Analyze your child's wardrobe and build a wardrobe aimed at freedom of movement, independence and freedom of distraction.
- If you travel without your child, leave notes behind for him/her to open each day you are gone.
- Sing! Voice quality does not matter. Sing together regularly. Build a repertoire of family favorites.
- When talking to your child, physically get down on his/her level, be still and make eye contact.

Community Notices

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Help Needed

MMS is currently seeking an additional supervisor for our noon hour supervision program.

This is a paid position and applicants should be available from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm each day that school is in session.

If you are able to help us out, please see Kelly.

Spare Mitts Anyone?



With the cooler weather upon us, we could use a few spare pairs of mitts to have on hand.

If anyone can provide spare mitts, we would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks!

You are invited to a

Mary Kay Holiday Open House

*Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 * 12:00 noon – 9:00 pm
Travelodge Hotel * Galaxy A Ballroom*

*For more information contact
Bonnie Newton (Casa 2 parent)
#220-5797 * www.marykay.ca/bnewton*