

# Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

September 2008

## Calendar of Events

September 17	7:00 p.m.	Meet the Teacher Social
September 25		Terry Fox School Run Day
September 26		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
October 2	2:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
October 3	6:00 p.m.	Annual Charity Fundraising Event
October 6	7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
October 8		Newsletter Submissions Due
October 10		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
October 13		Thanksgiving - No School
October 21-23		Scholastic Book Fair

### **Maria Montessori School**

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## News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



Welcome back to what I know will be another great year!

Just a couple of quick notes/reminders:

- Tickets are on sale for the upcoming **Annual Charity Fundraising Event**. You can purchase your tickets from Kelly, and they will also be on sale at our Meet the Teacher Social on Wednesday, September 17. It's a fun-filled evening of dining and entertainment and a great place to do your Christmas shopping!
- Join us at our Meet the Teacher Social on Wednesday, September 17 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mingle and chat with our Directresses, Board of Directors and other parents.
- Field trip fees are due by September 19. Please remit these to your child's classroom Directress.
- The office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, September 22 and 23.
- Aftercare will now be held mainly in the music room. If the children are in the gym or the courtyard, a sign will be posted on the whiteboard.
- If you would like to receive your monthly newsletter by email, please provide me with your email address.

## Upper Elementary

by Miss Alice

Welcome to the Upper Elementary Classroom. We would like to introduce the Directress, Miss Alice, and the Educational Assistants, Miss Jewel, Miss Wanda and Miss Yuriko

Thank you to all staff, students and Board members who helped revamp our classroom. It looks great. For parents who would like to donate items to our classroom, don't forget to check out our wish list on the white board outside the classroom door.

We have completed a few "get to know me" activities, including Personal Shields which are displayed on the wall by the door. We have begun curriculum studies in Math, Language and Geometry. We have also begun Science with an introduction to the Water Cycle and Botany (leaf studies). In Social Studies we are learning about Canadian symbols which will lead us into a flags and symbols unit and then into locations and physical features mapping skills unit. We will begin a Health unit this week as well as learning basketball skills In Physical Education

We are planning a field trip to Persephone Theatre on Wednesday, October 8 to see the play *Kindness*, which begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp. We will need parent volunteers to assist in transporting the students to and from the Theatre. More information will be forthcoming.

Other prospective field trips include the Little Stone School House and the War Museum. We will keep you posted!

### **Lower Elementary**

by Miss Tina

Welcome to our new students Aleks, Alijah, Kalli and Zayd, and to their families. We hope that you enjoy your time at Maria Montessori School. Lower Elementary is right into the swing of things with academics and culture. We are slowly establishing a routine for our new students of managing their time during the work cycle and learning their responsibilities. In culture we have begun learning about the Earth, its layers, natural and human made places, and boundaries. This is tying into a unit on geography where we will eventually learn about mapping, and about natural geographic features of the earth such as islands and bays.

The students are working well together. It is pleasing to see them accepting each other's interests such as bugs, and including each other in these. The grade 3's have been an enormous help to me in providing peer support to the younger students. Our students from last year have also been a fantastic help in assisting the our new students in learning the daily routines, how to use equipment and understanding the rules. It is great to have such a good community in our classroom.

We continue to look forward to making progress and developing our skills and friendships further.

### **Casa 1**

By Miss Kristy

This year in Casa 1 we have many new faces. It is so nice to see all of our returning children welcoming their new classmates and making them feel comfortable in the classroom.

This month we are focusing on establishing the rules and routines of our classroom and of our school. The children are working on building their independence as well as their social skills and getting to know their classmates.

We would like to wish Chaes and Kiana a very happy birthday this month. Enjoy your special day girls.

We would like to thank Riley's family and Chaes' family for the great craft supplies.

I am really looking forward to another great year!

## Casa 2

by Miss Janis

We are very happy to have some new students in Casa 2 this year. We have fourteen familiar faces and have welcomed five new students this year. All of our students are quickly learning our classroom rules and routines. It is so wonderful to see them working so well this early in the year! Staying for a 'full day' is new for many of our students so we have been focusing on 'staying on task' all day. I am pleased to see so many of the older children choose to continue working with their Montessori materials that they were using in June. I also appreciate their patience for learning new activities while all of our new children learn the rules and routines.

We have really enjoyed becoming familiar with the school and all of the fabulous people who work here. We have enjoyed having our first few French classes with Madame Linda and our first music classes with Miss Natalie. We also enjoy our visits with Miss Kelly during the day!

This month we are celebrating Brett's fifth birthday, Jason's fourth birthday and Jager's third birthday. We hope you enjoy your special day!

A Casa 2 Wish List is being created at the moment. Items that we would love to have in our room will be posted on the whiteboard. Huge thank-you's go out to Hilary's family for our new mirror and craft supplies, Jager's family for paper products and craft supplies, Amolika's family for Play Doh and Brett's family for the glue! We really appreciate all the donations!!!

If you have an exciting job (or know someone who does) please let us know. We are planning our class trips and guest speakers and are always looking for new ideas.

The beginning of a new year is always such a busy time, but we are looking forward to getting to know each of you this year.

## Core French

by Madame Linda

A big welcome for all core French students.

French class for Upper Elementary students includes a strong emphasis on oral work. On Mondays French class will begin with one student in the "hot seat" with class mates asking five questions and the student replying. This will be done on a rotational basis. In addition, students are reviewing vocabulary concerning the calendar (le calendrier) and the return to school (la rentrée scolaire). Future plans include a unit on friends.

In Lower Elementary French class begins with circle time. Students introduce themselves and answer some questions in French. They are reviewing the calendar (le calendrier) which

includes the months (les mois), the seasons (les saisons) and the days of the week (les jours de la semaine). Future plans include units on the family (la famille) and community helpers (les metiers).

In Casa 1 and Casa 2, French class begins and ends with circle time. The children are getting comfortable with speaking French by singing and by introducing themselves to one another. (je m'appelle \_\_\_\_\_, et toi?) We have also reviewed the months of the year. The children are beginning to learn their colors in French - blue (bleu), yellow (jaune), green (vert), red (rouge) white (blanc) and pink (rose). Casa French classes have been going smoothly. Thank you to Miss Ada and Miss Regina for the assistance they provide.

### Music

by Miss Natalie



This year we are excited to have Music Directress, Ms. Natalie DeJong join our team. Miss Natalie is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

After completing a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Calgary and studies at the Vancouver Academy of Music, Natalie moved to the east coast where she completed a Master of Music degree from Rutgers University.

Natalie has taught for the Canadian Armed Forces Cadet Training program as a band conductor and trumpet teacher, at the Music Alberta workshops as a brass and ear training instructor, and has attended music workshops in Alberta, Quebec, Chicago, and New York. Natalie works as a freelance musician, as well as performing trumpet with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, coordinating an orchestral summer music program for youth, and participating in the 2008 International Trumpet Guild Conference. She is also the Artistic Director of "Helios Brass," a new professional chamber ensemble in Saskatoon.

Natalie has performed on the natural 'baroque' trumpet with early music groups Musica Raritana and Concert Royale in New Jersey and New York City. Having recently moved to Saskatoon, Natalie has taught music at the University of Saskatchewan and maintains a private teaching studio for students of all ages and abilities.

“Our aim is not only to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core”

