

Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

September 2009

Calendar of Events

September 25		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
October 1	2:15	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
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		Thanksgiving - No School

Welcome Back

News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



Welcome back! I've missed everyone over the summer and am glad to see all your smiling faces again.

We would like to say a big thank you to Cory Hjelsing of Prestige Painting for painting our new Lower Elementary class. Cory and his team came in on short notice and did an excellent job. We really appreciate it! (Prestige Painting #291-5508)

If you have not yet provided post-dated cheques or lump sum payments for the year, please do as soon as possible.

We will be having our first hot lunch on September 23. Those children who are registered in our lunch supervision program will find forms in their mailboxes next week.

A big congratulations goes out to big sister Payton (Casa 1) on the birth of baby brother Liam. Liam was born the morning of September 10. Mom (Alanis) and baby are doing great!

A Note from our Board of Directors

Welcome to Maria Montessori School. Our School is a very special, warm and inviting place in which each child is cherished and nurtured. With the

addition of a third Casa classroom, and the move for Lower Elementary to a spacious new room, we have set a record enrollment!

Of course, it is not without a great deal of effort that such a wonderful place exists. The staff here at Maria Montessori School has been carefully selected to mentor our children. They are committed to the children, to the philosophy and to the school itself. We, as the Board of Directors, also work to provide a continuous flow of stimulus and support to the school. The Annual General Meeting of MMS will take place in November.

Each family is encouraged to become an active member of our community. This year the school will be initiating a Parent Volunteer Committee. Each classroom will be asked to provide two volunteers who will form a committee to assist with events such as monthly hot lunches, open houses, special events, and in the preparation of materials.

We love to have guests share in our classrooms. Please make your child's Directress aware of your occupation and/or hobbies. It is through this sharing of information that we are able to seek out resources that may be of value to one of our classes.

Finally, you may want to consider making a donation to the school for something special (eg, purified water bottles, IT service), or sponsoring a special event (a staff luncheon, professional development, etc.).

Maria Montessori School is honored to educate each and every child who is part of our school!

Helping your Child to Become a Leader

One of the goals at Maria Montessori School is to provide a progressive education to our students. We strive to stay on top of the latest educational and childhood research development and theories. While maintaining a Montessori approach, we integrate new information and findings when they are deemed valuable and appropriate.

One of our recent interests has been surrounding the book, *The Leader in Me*, written by Stephen R. Covey. It is our desire that we slowly implement some of the strategies outlined in this book as they fit very nicely with a Montessori school. Below is a brief excerpt from the website www.theleaderinme.org.

We only get one chance to prepare our students for a future that none of us can possibly predict. What are we going to do with that one chance?

The world has entered an era of the most profound and challenging change in human history. In addition, studies have identified what is referred to as a "skills gap" - a difference in how students are prepared for the workforce and the skills and character employers are seeking to match the demands of today's global economy. What if our children could be better prepared to meet the future challenges of our ever-changing world?

The Leader in Me process helps develop the essential life skills and characteristics students need in order to thrive in the 21st century.

The Leader in Me is designed to be integrated into a school's core curriculum and everyday language, benefiting schools and students in the following ways:

- *Develops students who have the skills and self-confidence to succeed as leaders in the 21st century.*
- *Decreases discipline referrals.*
- *Teaches and develops character and leadership through existing core curriculum.*
- *Improves academic achievement,*
- *Raises levels of accountability and engagement among both parents and staff.*

Terry Fox Run

Each year the students of Maria Montessori support the Annual Terry Fox Run. Our students will walk, run and wheel around the school on Thursday, September 24th. Pledge forms will be placed in your child's mailbox at the end of this week.

We are asking for a few parents to volunteer to provide fruit and juice boxes for a snack after the 'run'. If you are able to help out with the fruit and juice boxes for this event, please talk to your child's Directress.

Thank you.



Call me at
306-291-5508

PRESTIGE PAINTING

CORY HJELSING

SASKATOON, SK. PrestigePainting@sasktel.net

Upper Elementary

by Miss Jane and Miss Marie

In Upper Elementary everyone has returned to school with enthusiasm and excitement to learn. We are planning a very exciting year! Out of school excursions are top of the list as our community offers us so many interesting ways to learn about ourselves and the world around us. Outdoor education will be an important part of this approach as well.

Last week after playing tennis in beautiful weather on the outdoor courts at Rotary Park, Silken told Miss Jewel that "she had such a good time!" It is a pleasure to see Silken engaged in every aspect of Upper Elementary life.

Bronson also enjoyed the tennis and predicted that "this year will be the best" and Samson also expects the upcoming school year will be "the best ever". He loved the tennis outdoors and the hot chocolate afterwards.

Miss Marie has prepared an amazing cultural unit entitled *Oceans - Discovery and Exploration*. The students will explore ocean currents and waves, the formation of tides, and different forms of marine life. They will also be investigating the ways in which human beings have impacted life in the ocean and discovering ways in which we can protect and sustain them. Of course the unit will be completed by creating and marketing a sea tour to present to parents.

These are just some of the many events and activities we have planned. Please feel free to drop in and observe our busy, but tranquil classroom.

Lower Elementary

by Miss Janis

Lower Elementary is off to a great start! We have spent the first week of school learning the rules and routines in the classroom. The children have been establishing new friendships as well as becoming reacquainted with old friends.

Our first focus for the year is an "All About Me" theme which will help all the students get to know each other as well as learn more about themselves. Watch for memos in your mailbox as students may be asked to bring items from home.

In our efforts to keep all of the students healthy this year I am asking all parents to send either a water bottle or a labeled cup for their child. This

will eliminate the use of 'shared' cups and spread of germs.

Please do your best to ensure that all food items sent to school are nut-free. Our staff will be reading labels on products and will send home anything made in a facility that is not nut-free. We have students with life-threatening allergies and appreciate your attention to this.

This year we are looking for a parent to assume the role of "Room Parent". We are looking for one or two parents who would be willing to take on this role. If you are interested please let me know.

This month we are celebrating four birthdays. Aleks celebrated his birthday on the 6th. Chaes and Alijah share a birthday on the 11th and Brett celebrates his birthday on the 13th. We hope you all enjoy your special day. Children are invited to prepare a timeline when celebrating their birthday. Please see me if you have questions regarding this.

I have started compiling a "Wish List" for the classroom. From time to time I will ask for certain items that are needed. If you are able to purchase any items on the list that would be great. We would love to have plants and flowers for our room. We also would like to have some artwork to hang on our walls.

Thank you to Tess's family who donated a plant stand for our room and an outside game for recess. Thank you to Aleks for donated our first class pet/plant. We are enjoying our Venus Fly Trap.

We are looking forward to a fabulous year.

Share Your Ride Program

New to MMS is our "Share Your Ride" program. Look for a sign posted beside the mailboxes. Here you will be able to indicate if you are looking for a ride for your child(ren), if you are wanting to carpool, or if you are able to provide a ride for someone else.

Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

This year in Casa 1 we have a lot of familiar faces, and we are so happy to welcome the new faces to

our classroom. It is so wonderful to see all of our returning children welcoming their new classmates and helping to make them feel comfortable in the classroom.

Our returning students are also doing a great job in helping the new students learn our classroom rules and routines. Everyone is working on building their independence as well as their social skills. Many of the returning children are already into working on and practicing Montessori materials that they recall from last year, and the new students have already started receiving presentations on Montessori work.

This month the children will continue becoming familiar with the rules and routines of our classroom and school. We will also be focusing on grace and courtesy.

Our class wish list is in the making and will soon be posted on our whiteboard.

We would like to wish Kai and Kiana a very happy birthday this month. We hope you both have a wonderful day!

We are looking forward to a great year and getting to know all of our families.

Casa 2

by Miss Regina

This year in Casa 2 we have a new Directress (me), new Educational Assistant (Miss Marsha) and of course many familiar faces as well as some new students. It is so wonderful to observe how our returning students are welcoming their new classmates and making them feel comfortable in our "Casa" (means "Home" in Italian and Spanish).

This month we are focusing on "Grace and Courtesy" as well as establishing the rules and routines of our classroom and of our school. Our Casa students are working on building their independence as well as social skills and getting to know their classmates. I would like to complement our returning students on their patience during these first days of school. These students are eager to continue from where they left off in June. I am getting to know at what skill level my students are performing, and I am positive we will be working on our full Montessori materials in no time.

The new students are currently receiving presentations in the Practical life area at this

stage. We have enjoyed having our first few French classes with Mme. Linda as well as going out to the courtyard during recess

We would like to wish Owen a happy 4th Birthday and Jason a happy 5th birthday this month! Enjoy your special day.

Casa 2 is so happy to have received many items generously donated by our students and their families. Thank you so much for your contributions. We will make very good use of these much-needed items.

I am so excited to have the opportunity this year to learn, explore and discover with our Casa 2 children. I am very much looking forward to getting to know your children and yourselves.

Casa 3

by Miss Maria

I'd like to give a very big welcome to all the students and families of Casa 3! We have a wonderful group of students this fall and I am excited to have the opportunity to better know each of them as the year progresses.

The students are doing a great job of getting to know each other and learning to work in partners as well as individually. It is wonderful to see how helpful they have been to one another in getting used to classroom routines. The returning students have been especially helpful in showing the new students the expectations of the classroom and the school. We will be continuing to explore ideas surrounding grace and courtesy throughout the month of September.

This month we are celebrating Elizabeth's birthday in Casa 3. Enjoy your special day Elizabeth!

We would like to give a big thank you to the parents who have already brought in materials from our wish list. Your generosity is greatly appreciated in helping us to set up our brand new Casa classroom! Thank you!

I am looking forward to a terrific year together!

Core French

by Madame Linda

Welcome all core French Students! French classes are held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

In Lower Elementary, French class begins with

circle time. Students introduce themselves (je m'appelle _____) and answer some basic questions in French. This month, we are doing review starting with the calendar (le calendrier), specifically the months (les mois), the days of the week (les jours de la semaine) and the seasons (les saisons). We will also do a unit on the classroom (la salle de classe). There will be a games day the last class of every month.

In the Casa classes, French class begins and ends with circle time. The students are getting to know each other through songs such as "Bonjour mes amis" and "Au revoir mes amis". They are learning to introduce themselves to one another : Je m'appelle _____ (my name is _____) et toi? (and you?). This month they will be learning their colours in French: rouge (red), bleu (blue), jaune (yellow), vert (green), orange (orange), blanc (white), rose (pink), brun (brown), violet (purple) and noir (black).

In the event that a significant event occurs in your child's life, please consider informing your child's Directress, the Board of Directors and/or the Office Administrator. Such conversations are strictly confidential. Examples may include:

- Moving
- A death in the family
- Separation of parents
- Sleeping/eating/bedwetting problems
- A new baby
- A new caregiver
- The death of a pet
- Parental absences

Your child's Directress will also keep you informed of any significant changes in the school environment which may affect your child.

MOVE N'GROOVE

An After School Enrichment Program

Do you like to Dance?

Do you like to Entertain?

Move N'Groove is for you!

Casa and Elementary students welcome

Basic jazz and hip hop dance steps

Watch for registration forms in your mailbox!



Goals of a Montessori Education

To stimulate the growth of the total child

To provide a warm and accepting environment in which each child feels secure, respected and loved

To provide an enriched, stimulating environment with safe limits within which the child is an active explorer and learner

To encourage the child to become self-directed

To provide a framework of discipline through which a child can develop self-discipline and personal strength

To develop creativity and a positive self-image

To provide a cross-cultural environment in which the foundations of global peace may be laid

