



Montessori Magnet

Canadian Montessori Academy

APRIL 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 7 PHOTO DAY: FULL SCHOOL, CLASS, INDIVIDUAL
- 10 OPEN HOUSE 9:30-11:00 AM
- 15 SPRING MOM & TOTS CLASSES START
- 18 WINTER2 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ENDS
- 18 FOUNDERS DAY
- 21 SPRING AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM STARTS
- 25 SCIENCE FAIR AND PROJECT SHOWCASE 2:30-3:30 PM
- 30 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION STARTS

MAY

- 3 SECOND SATURDAY WORKSHOP 8:00 AM-1:00PM
- 8 INFORMATION EVENING 6:30 PM
- 16 P.D. DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 19 VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND - NO SCHOOL
- 20 SPRING MOM & TOTS CLASSES END
- 21 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION DUE
- 30 FAMILY DAY 9:00-11:00 AM
HOOPS FOR HEART AFTERNOON

Founders Day

CMA will be celebrating its **28th** year on April 18th. Stay tuned for fun activities and new initiatives.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Majid turns 5 on the 4th
- Aaya turns 5 on the 12th
- Luke turns 2 on the 18th
- Mackenzie turns 6 on the 24th
- Curtis turns 2 on the 24th
- Ariel turns 1 on the 28th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Principal's Message
- 1 Calendar of Events
- 1 Birthdays
- 2 Message from Administration
- 2-3 Messages from the Academic Departments
- 3 After School Programs
- 3 Frequently Asked Questions
- 4 Saturday Workshop, Science Fair, Summer Camp, Overview Program for Parents

Principal's Message

LIFE LEARNING

What is Life Learning? "Life Learning refers to the experiences that we have throughout our lives. There is yet another way of looking at this! In Montessori, "Life Learning" is the preparation for life and the tools that the child acquires through the Infant/Toddler, Primary, Elementary, Middle School and Higher school education years, preparing him for a career, adulthood and his entire life.

Children learn from their environment. If this environment is loud and disorganized, the child will pick up on this loud behaviour. However, if the environment is calm, silent, organized; and extend his attention span to be well prepared to absorb all the life-skills he will need.

CMA works on constantly changing the classroom environments, to challenge the children in a variety of ways by adding to their ever evolving curriculum. Such changes make life both at home and at school become more and more, interesting, exciting and challenging for the children. The changes and innovations help the children to teach themselves and become the life learners that we know they will be.

"Learning happens from the inside out."

Sherie de Mel, Principal



Teachers Light The Way Awards

Win \$5,000 for your teacher, \$5,000 for your school, \$250 for you.

Do you know a current K-12 school teacher who has made a difference in the life of a student, a school or a community? Tell us about him or her for a chance to win big!

For Details go www.landsend.com

Administration

Parent volunteer hour summaries were distributed to parents in the month of March. Another year to date summary will be distributed in Mid May. Please review your summaries and discuss any discrepancies with your child's classroom teacher.

Summer Camp is around the corner. We are in the final planning stages. Our prime objective is to deliver a program that is fun and stimulating. Unlike the majority of summer camp providers, whose programs are often led by students, our camps will continue to be led by Montessori teachers and interns ensuring that our campers are in the care of qualified and experienced professionals.

Renette Sasouni, Chief Administrative Officer

Infant / Toddler

This month the toddlers are very excited to welcome 3 new students from the Infant program. Anastasia, Joshua and Maya have enjoyed a slow transition to the toddler room and are now ready to join us full time. We also have 3 students joining the Primary level. Elizabeth, Joshua and Kylie are all very excited to be graduating from the Infant/Toddler programs. They are sure to enjoy the challenges of new routines and materials, as well as meeting up with former classmates. Best wishes to all of our new graduates.

Our March Break "Occupations" Camp was a huge success. The children enjoyed daily projects, stories and songs relating to the topic of the day. Our week ended with a visit from Little Ray's Reptile Zoo. The children were fascinated by the sight of the reptiles and one very large Tarantula named Rosie.

In April we will celebrate the coming of spring. The Infants and Toddlers will have many activities to help them understand the concept of a new season.

In Art our Infants will paint a flower pot; toddlers will be able to participate in creating a flower collage. For English Language we will introduce picture cards of spring animals, and in French we will present miniature replicas of spring animals. These activities will enrich vocabulary in association with spring. The children will also enjoy a new sensorial exercise as they explore a variety of textures. Our Math exercises will incorporate counting flower cards for Infants and ladybugs for Toddlers. For practical life we will practice folding floral printed fabric. We will introduce many new songs about spring and one song in particular will be fun to sing as the children pretend to be frogs jumping on lily pads in physical education. We also have some fun planting projects to introduce. It's going to be a very active month.

Jackie Lalumiere, Infant/Toddler Department Head

Primary

The month of March has gone by so quickly! Armaan's father, Mr. Bhulji, did a very informative presentation regarding the Prussian New Year for both of the Primary classes. Their new year is called Novrooz, which literally means new day. This day is also celebrated as the

beginning of spring and the start of sowing the new crop. The children also planted wheat after the presentation.

We have been focusing on writing both numerals and letters with all children aged 4 and 5. Our 3 year olds are working on tracing letters and numerals in preparation for writing.

The 3 and 4 year olds have started basic one digit addition and they are all very excited about it; they ask for lessons on a daily basis.

We have introduced the land forms and are learning more about lakes in Ontario. The BC class started sign language during the month of March. New signs will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the classroom.

Sabena de Mel, Primary Department Head

Elementary / Middle School

The Junior Elementary students have spent the month of March continuing their independent classroom project work. They have also begun preparing for next month's Science Fair. At the fair, students will either have a working model on display or they will be presenting data from an experiment that they have conducted.

The Junior Elementary students have teamed up with the Senior Elementary to produce their very own commercials. Students have written scripts, gathered costumes and have begun rehearsing. In the coming weeks, each group's commercial will be videotaped and presented to the school.

In addition to their science fair work and commercials, students have been learning about provincial capitals of Canada, oceans, vertebrates and invertebrates, and poetry.

The Senior Elementary students have been working hard on their math and language skills this month. They enjoyed completing their book reports and are continuing their independent research projects. Please take a look at our hallway display boards to see what we've been working on lately. With the science fair fast approaching, the students are focusing on building their models and formulating their hypothesis.

They have also been learning about Canada's rivers and lakes, plants and flowers, and they have been reviewing parts of speech in language.

Dylan McLaughlin, Elementary Department Head

French Department

During the month of March, the infants and toddlers have been learning vocabulary about night and day. The primary classes have added vocabulary for parts of the body. Along with the vocabulary, the students are learning poems and songs with their new words.

The elementary classes have started reading booklets that deal with vocabulary or grammar rules that the students are working on. Each booklet is about 12 pages and comes with a set of activities that help reinforce the concepts learned.

Julie Cooke, French Department Head

Spanish Curriculum

Elementary students continue to progress with their Spanish. Senior elementary is working diligently on Spanish grammar, learning sentence structure and conjugating verbs. Students are learning about the various styles of Latin music and are researching different Latin Artists. Junior elementary has started a new unit on animals. Students are able to name the animals and work on different activities using their new vocabulary. Speaking Spanish in the classroom is highly encouraged and the students are showing a great interest in the language.

Tania Mendez, Spanish Teacher

Physical Education Department

Our primary students practiced "Floor Hockey" in March and focused on their passing and shooting skills. Primary students continued practicing the "Sun Salutation" and they are improving their balancing exercises. Our elementary and middle school students enjoyed "Dodge Ball" and "Chinese Wall" and practiced a lot of movements last month. We will introduce more sports this spring.

Izumi Nyunoya, Phys. Ed. Department Head

After School Programs

The after school programs have been a huge success this session. We have welcomed three new students to our swimming lessons at Dovercourt and all three are having a great time! Each swimming session hosts a "parents' day", where parents are invited to join their children in the pool. Dovercourt also hosts a "Survival Day" each session where the students are asked to wear clothing over their swim suits and basic water survival skills are taught. The students enjoy all the after school programs; please let me know if you would like more information on any of our programs as the final session of the year begins on April 21st.

Libby Mason, After School Program Director

Mom & Tots News

Our next Mom & Tots session begins on Tuesday, April 15th. Parents if you have any family or friends, who are currently on maternity leave, please let them know about this unique program. They can register with Jackie @ 613 727 9427 ext 123.

HOT DOG FRIDAYS

Great News, no more packed lunches on Fridays!!!

Starting Friday April 4th and every Friday until the end of the term we will have a "CHICKEN HOT DOG DAY".

Only \$2.50 for a Hot Dog with a bun, a juice box and a cookie. Cost is \$1.00 for each additional hot dog. We will be distributing order forms this week.

Indoor Shoes

We change our shoes when we come inside the building to keep the floors clean for the children that sit on them. Research shows that our shoes (and boots) carry all sorts of toxins into the building. Mold, lead, and animal wastes naturally occur outdoors. When we bring them inside, on the bottom of our shoes it can take years for them to be removed from the indoor environments because of the confined nature of our buildings. These toxins inside buildings are particularly harmful to children. Changing our shoes and getting parents to change theirs is another way we serve the children.

Gym Attire

The elementary students will now be changing for Gym class. Each student has been given a special CMA t-shirt and shorts to be used for all sports/gym activities. This outfit will be kept at school in a bag that will be left in the coat room. Once a week, it will be washed at school. Formal school uniforms will no longer be in danger of grass stains, rips and tears that may occasionally occur in gym activities. The t-shirt and shorts outfit will also allow students a greater range of mobility in the fast paced games that we play.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is Montessori just for preschool children?

A: No, Montessori programs exist at age levels from birth to fifteen.

Q: Do Montessori classrooms push children too far too fast?

A: Central to the Montessori philosophy is the idea of allowing each child to develop at his or her own individual pace. The "miracle" stories of Montessori children far ahead of traditional expectations for their age level reflect not artificial acceleration but the possibilities that open when children are allowed to learn at their own pace in a scientifically prepared environment.

WISH LIST

We have some Montessori Materials that are in need of repair. If you are crafty or handy with wood please contact Sabena to find out how you can help.

The Nova Scotia Class would like a new fish tank. If you can help them out please contact Sabena.

Saturday Workshop

Are you a Parent of a child at CMA? Do you want your child to get the most of their CMA education? YOU NEED TO HELP!! The Last Saturday Workshop of the year will be held on May 3rd.

Every workshop is different and will give you new insight into your child's educational experience.

See you on the 3rd!!

Summer Camp

Summer Camp registration packages will be released in April. Stay tuned for exciting programs. Register early and reserve your spot.

Science Fair

The School Science Fair will take place on April 25th. The students of the Elementary and Primary classes will take part in this exciting event. By doing Science Fair projects, students get practice using the scientific method in getting questioned on their findings. This is a great opportunity to come and see the students' work and be part of this learning experience. This year the projects will be chosen to go on to the City wide Science Fair.

Overview Course for Parents

We are pleased to offer this new program for people who want to gain a better understanding of the Montessori Method of Education. This program is scheduled on evenings and weekends and targets Parents, Grandparents, Teachers and Administrators. By participating in this program parents will learn how to implement the Montessori methods in their homes; a great way to get the most of their child's education!