



Montessori Magnet

Canadian Montessori Academy

February 2008

**Canadian Montessori Academy Presents..
INTERNATIONAL DAY
Friday, February 22nd, 4:00-7:00 pm**

Come and take part in an annual international adventure to celebrate the tastes and colours of the world.

From country to country, you'll experience the food, music and culture of the 7 continents of the world! All this while watching your child's classroom performance!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 6 OPEN HOUSE 9:30-11:00 AM
- 8 WINTER1 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ENDS
- 8 MARCH BREAK REGISTRATION DUE
- 11 WINTER2 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS
- 18 FAMILY DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 22 P.D. DAY - NO SCHOOL
- INTERNATIONAL DAY 4:00 - 7:00 PM
- 26 WINTER MOM & TOTS CLASSES END

MARCH

- 5 OPEN HOUSE 9:30-11:00 AM
- 10-14 MARCH BREAK
- 17-28 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
- 21 EASTER HOLIDAY- NO SCHOOL
- 24 EASTER HOLIDAY- NO SCHOOL

**MARCH BREAK is just around the corner!
Parents.. Don't forget that the deadline to register is February 8th, 2008.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Principal's Message
- 1 Calendar of Events
- 1 Message from Administration
- 2-3 Messages from the Academic Departments
- 3 After School Programs
- 3 Frequently Asked Questions
- 3 Birthdays

Principal's Message

February is the month of Caring and Respect. We can never get enough of Caring and Respect and every opportunity to promote these values is utilized at CMA. "Grace and Courtesy" are the words used in Montessori. Right from our littlest babies to the Middle school students there is always more to learn and what better month than valentines?

We encourage parents to support this trend at home not only for the month of February but for everyday. How amazing life would be if we have more Caring and Respectful people in it!!

Sherie de Mel
Principal

Letter from a CMA Parent...

Just before Christmas, I happened to be at the Home Depot when I noticed a display of brightly coloured, square shaped paint samples. I thought about some of the clever handmade Montessori materials in the Toddler room, and so I decided to take two of each colour (of the rainbow) home to play a matching game with Sasha. Surprisingly, Sasha ended up wanting to play with this game more than with any of the other toys she received at Christmas. This will certainly make us think twice the next time we're at the toy store!

Best regards,
...Carolyn

Administration

The Administration team is in the final stages of processing all received re registrations for the 2008-2009 school year. Confirmation letters including camp vouchers will be sent to parents in the first week of February. Registration to the general public commences week of January 28, 2008.

Parent involvement and participation helps enrich the student experience. We would like to thank parents for their continued support in this regard. A personalized summary of your parent volunteer hours to date is scheduled to go out in the first week of February. Please review the summary and speak to your child's classroom teacher who will have many ideas on how you can be involved – International Day is around the corner!

Renette Sasouni
Chief Administrative Officer

Infant / Toddler

In January the infants and toddlers enjoyed creating many art projects. We made prints on doilies and spool prints with glitter which resembled snow flakes. The toddler's had fun with our science experiment; changing snow into a rainbow of colour with sprayed tempera paint. The infants enjoyed a sensorial art project while making crystal prints with salt and water.

Every day we counted in English and in French and introduced language cards in connection with winter clothing.

In February we will concentrate on grace & courtesy and help our young students to understand about friendship, caring and sharing.

Primary

This Month the children focused on the two continents we are studying, as they get ready for International day. The Nova Scotia Class will do a performance depicting Sea animals of Europe and the British Columbia class will do a performance depicting Jungle animals on a Safari in Africa. Please speak to your child's teacher to get a head start on costumes.

At the end of the month we had a special visit from Bibek's father who showed us how a turban is worn and explained to the primary and elementary classes many details of the Sikh faith.

Earlier this month we joined Jr. Elementary for extended care. We have our own shelf of extended care materials and use the carpet area for our activities. It seems to be working very well. As part of this change we now put all the children's belongings in a basket in the hallway. Your child can leave their indoor shoes on the shelf in the hallway. This way your pickup can be faster and easier without having to go into the classrooms to collect things. Please get involved in International Day it makes the day more enjoyable for your children!! See you there!

Sabena de Mel – Primary Department Head

Elementary / Middle School

The Junior Elementary began the New Year by choosing topics for independent project work. After visiting the library, students began pursuing their topics by reading and writing, doing beautiful illustrations and constructing models. Students will be encouraged to present their finished work to other classrooms. They'll also mount their work on our class display board in the hallway next month so please stop by and take a look.

In addition to their project work, students have been learning about the differences between plants and animals, types of angles, suffixes and prefixes and North America. There is lots of great work going on!

Preparations have also begun for International Day. This year's theme is **Animals of the World** and students have each chosen an animal to research and represent at the festival on February 22nd.

Both the Junior and Senior Elementary classes closed out the month of January by spending a morning at the Museum of Nature where they completed a scavenger hunt. Students were given ten questions dealing with the biological history of the earth and they had to explore the museums many exhibits to find the answers. A great time was had by all.

Over the past month the Senior Elementary and Middle School students have spent time working on projects for their Spanish class. They've each studied a country in South America, focusing on the people and culture. They've also made food from their respective countries and shared it with the class.

The students have also been learning about the environment, its current state and methods of conservation. They are learning about what can be done to make a difference for the future. They have also been putting together a song with an ecological message and they will be performing it for the primary and toddler classes next month.

This unit will extend through to International Day where their related art work will be on display.

French Department

We have been filling the hallways with a lot of our new French vocabulary. This will help you review the new words with your children at home. If you have any questions, please ask your child's French teacher.

The toddler class has been learning vocabulary about winter. This includes winter clothing, activities and general words associated with the winter months.

The primary classrooms have added clothing vocabulary to the French shelf in the classroom. We are also working on "Attache mon s'il vous plait" and "Ou est mon..." The words used most often here are: manteau (coat), chaussures (shoes), chandail (sweater).

The Junior Elementary class has also been focusing on winter activities and vocabulary. In grammar, they are learning about singular and plural nouns and adjectives.

Vocabulary in the Senior Elementary class has focused on parts of the body. The class is learning about internal parts as well as basic body parts. For grammar, they are studying the types of sentences such as interrogative, exclamative and imperative. They will be identifying types of sentences as well as writing their own.

Middle school students are learning about the parts of the house - interior and exterior. Their project will be to construct their favorite room in the house and label each part of the room.

The Elementary program includes weekly spelling tests and reading on a daily basis. New materials are added monthly to coincide with the month's topic and is continually available for the children to work on throughout the year.

Julie Cooke, French Department Head

Spanish Curriculum

The Spanish program has started off great this year. The junior elementary students are learning Spanish greetings and phrases as "please and thank you." The junior elementary students will continue to work on learning the vocabulary for food and dinner etiquette. The senior elementary class has been working hard on Latin American Country posters and presentations. On the day of each presentation students have been in the kitchen preparing Latin meals of their country. Senior Elementary students are so proud of their projects that they will be presenting them to primary students.

Physical Education Department

We started introducing floor hockey to our primary children. They were taught the proper placement of the hands on a hockey stick and how to handle the puck (soft ball) this month. Our students now know the important rule, "KEEP HOCKEY STICKS ON THE GROUND AT ALL THE TIMES"

Elementary and Middle school students focused on Basketball. They practiced ball handling, especially the dribbling techniques.

Izumi Nyunoya – Phys. Ed. Department Head

Upcoming Art & Music Workshops

Presented by Sherie de Mel

Art Workshop: Consists of 2 Sessions

February 26th & 27th, 2008, 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Music Workshop: Consists of 2 Sessions

March 3rd & 4th, 2008 5:00 – 9:00 pm

This workshop is relevant to parents, grandparents, educators and teaching assistants. Cost: \$75. Register by calling the CMA Office 613-727-9427 Ext. 100

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Do you screen employees?

A: Yes, since 1997, CMA has required all employees to undergo criminal reference checks which are updated annually. Our policy of annual criminal reference checks exceeds Ministry of Education guidelines.

Q: What is your practice on First Aid and CPR?

A: We require all employees to be certified in First Aid and CPR for infants, children, and adults. Employees are required to update this certification annually.

After School Programs

The second session of after school programs is coming to a close. The next session will begin on the 11th of February, 2008.

Just a reminder that space is limited in some of our programs, so please sign up early. I would like to welcome Maisie Wormser as CMA's new Fine Arts teacher. Since the winter vacation Maisie has been teaching art throughout CMA and we are so pleased to be able to use her talents in our after school program as well.

Libby Mason, After School Program Director

March of Dimes Bake Sale

We would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods and everyone who purchased the delicious treats. We are proud to report that we raised a total of \$241.25 for the March of Dimes. A representative will be coming to CMA to receive the donation and to give the students more information on how their donation will help the March of Dimes.

Mom & Tots News

The winter session for Mom & Tots has generated a lot of interest in our community. The session filled up very quickly and we are now taking registrations for the spring classes which begin on April 15th. Parents, if you have family or friends who are currently enjoying maternity leave please let them know about our Mom & Tots programs. This is an excellent introduction to the Montessori Method of education for young children.

For more information please contact Jackie:
613-727 -9427 ext 123.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Shane turns 5 on the 9th

Carter turns 5 on the 12th

Jack turns 2 on the 25th

Shannon turns 6 on the 27th

Wish List:

Primary NS needs a fish tank theirs has a leak!

Pet sitters to take and care for our animals over march break.

International Day Volunteers are needed in all areas.