



# Montessori Magnet

Canadian Montessori Academy

May 2008

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY

- 3 SATURDAY PARENT WORKSHOP 8:30 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
- 30 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION DUE

### JUNE

- 4 OPEN HOUSE 9:30-11:00 AM
- 6 FAMILY DAY 9:00-11:00 AM  
HOOPS FOR HEART AFTERNOON 1:30-3:30
- 9-20 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
- 19 LAST DAY OF CLASSES
- 20 CONCERT – NO SCHOOL
- 20 SPRING AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM  
ENDS
- 23 INFANT/TODDLER CAMP STARTS
- 26 FAMILY SWIM DAY AT DOVERCOURT 4:00 PM
- 30 PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY SUMMER  
CAMP STARTS

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

**Leia turns 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hilary turns 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Nyomi turns 4 on the 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Naeem turns 2 on the 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ariel turns 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup>**

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## Principal's Message

As we approach the end of our school year and we get closer to summer-like weather our minds take a turn to nature. Children learn so much from nature, and we start connecting the classroom to nature so that the learning can be experienced physically. Planning for our summer programs has already begun. Stay tuned for more information!

Sherie de Mel, Principal

**Family Day is in the CMA Parent Calendar as May 30<sup>th</sup>. This event has been Rescheduled and will be held on Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## Administration

General communications about school events, policies, procedures and special notices about each student's growth and progress are an important part of the relationship between the school and parents. Here are some of the ways we keep in touch:

- Annual School Calendar
- Parent Handbook
- Monthly Newsletter
- Bi-Annual Parent Workshops
- Parent Teacher Interviews – 3 times per year
- Weekly Student Agendas

Renette Sasouni, Chief Administrative Officer

## Infant / Toddler

This month we extend a warm welcome to our new students in the Infant/Toddler program. Hilary will join our infants and Cristiano will join the toddlers.

In April the students were introduced to new songs, stories and materials relating to springtime. The song "Planting Flowers" certainly caught on and most of the children will be able to sing it for you.

For our May theme we will take a look at Farm Life.

**Infants:** In practical life the students will learn how to use a mop. With realistic tools this is 'work' that the children really enjoy. We will also introduce some basic shapes for a sensorial exercise. For language enrichment the infants will be introduced to farm animals and their young. In math we will count picture cards of sheep, and our art project will involve making a farm collage for the classroom. In music the students will have fun with egg shakers as they learn new songs to compliment our theme.

**Toddlers:** In practical life the students will work on strengthening the pincer grasp by transferring water from jug to jug using a pipette. For our sensorial exercise the students will be introduced to farm animal matching cards. In language we will learn names of animals and their young. Our art and songs will all relate to Farm life.

Our young musicians are sure to enjoy playing the hand bells in our music circle.

Jackie Lalumiere, Infant/Toddler Department Head

## Primary

Word Building and Reading are the big focuses for the 4 and 5 year olds. It is exciting to see the emergent readers as they learn their sounds and start putting them together into words. The five year olds are excited about writing stories and illustrating them. It's every rewarding to see such young children writing in cursive.

When you are on car trips, a great game to play is 'eye spy' but instead of spying something by color, try spying by letter sounds. Please remember that we teach the sounds of the letters rather than the letter names. If you have any questions please ask us. This game can be played with all of the children since they start learning letter sounds from age 3.

The children have been practicing cleaning tables, chairs and washing dishes. These activities build concentration and motor dexterity that is needed for more academic lessons. The children love to help and they would enjoy helping out with spring cleaning.

In the sensorial area, many of the children are working with shapes. The older children are seeing how many shapes are built from triangles using our constructive triangle boxes.

The one hundred board is becoming a popular activity in Mathematics. Our four and five year olds are enjoying the snake game and bankers addition games which focus on static and dynamic addition of numbers from 1 to 9999.

This month the Nova Scotia class is learning about Egypt. We talked about the longest river Nile and how the olden civilizations flourished along its banks. We learned about mummification and the pyramids. Currently, we are learning Arabic numbers and some of the names of Arabic foods.

In the culture area of the classroom, the children in the BC class have been looking at different traditional costumes from European countries. The costumes featured are on our presentation board outside of the classroom. We have been discussing the similarities and differences in clothing from different places. Next we will start looking at languages and writing.

With the arrival of spring we are bringing Flower Arranging into the classroom as a Practical Life activity.

Each week a different child is responsible for bringing the flowers in. The entire class gets an opportunity to arrange small containers of flowers and the child who brought them in gets to put his or her flowers in the hallway. Please speak to us to sign up for a week before the end of the school year.

Sabena de Mel, Primary Department Head

## Elementary / Middle School

The junior elementary class has been doing a lot of work with wetlands in general and Canadian wetlands in particular. The children were all very surprised to learn about the diverse creatures that call our wetlands home, not to mention their sheer abundance. The children learned about the food chain, producers, consumers and decomposers, and were very interested to see where humans fit in. We will be ending our wetlands unit with a trip to Fletcher's Wildlife Garden, where the children will get to see first hand the amazing creatures that call a pond habitat home.

The senior elementary class is working diligently on Julianne's Integrated Unit on Guinea Worm Disease in Ghana. The students have been introduced to the African continent and its beauty along with its need of purified water. The senior class had Dr. Mike McGarry as a guest speaker. He is a Civil Engineer who works on Sanitation Projects in Asia and in parts of Africa. The students were able to relate their knowledge of water purification and ask further questions to Dr. Mc Garry. We are grateful for having him as a speaker and the students have worked together in making him a thank you card! In the coming weeks Stacy-Ann Morris will be coming to speak to the senior class about Ghanaian culture and their traditional music. The Senior Elementary class has also been working on their Science Fair experiments and is looking forward to April 25, 2008 when they can present to family and friends.

Dylan McLaughlin, Elementary Department Head

## French Department

To tie into the Infant/Toddler theme of Spring, Cindy has been presenting the names of animals and their young that are born in the spring such as deer and fawn, bear and cub.

The primary and elementary levels have been learning about transportation. This theme was chosen because the coming of spring often leads to walks, bicycle rides, car rides and trips and we see more vehicles on the road now than in the winter. The primary classes have been working with classroom vocabulary cards and objects. One of the sentences that students were taught is "Je vais en \_\_\_\_\_".

The elementary classes have read a booklet entitled "Des Transports" and have done the activities that go with the booklet. The activities give the students a means to work with their vocabulary in a fun way. They are enjoying these new sheets. We look forward to doing more of this type of activity with them.

Julie Cooke, French Department Head

## Physical Education Department

Our primary students were practicing Yoga as their warm-up. They were practicing forward bending, back bending and breathing exercises in April. Students have been developing their ball handling skills with a strong focus on throwing, passing and dribbling. Our older students will be introduced to basketball next month.

Elementary and Middle school students enjoyed the last skating trip to the Nepean Sportsplex. They have started practicing indoor and outdoor soccer.

Izumi Nyunoya, Phys. Ed. Department Head

## Spanish Curriculum

The new spring season has brought several new transitioning students to junior elementary. We are currently doing a review of our food, greeting, colour, and animal vocabulary. The junior class has been very welcoming to our new students and are eager to help them with their Spanish. Senior elementary students are focusing on grammar and are using their knowledge on several vocabulary topics to create compositions. They are currently focusing on their music research projects and are eager to present them to their classmates.

Tania Mendez, Spanish Teacher

## After School Programs

We have just begun our last session of the after school program, and things are going very well. In our Tuesday Science class students have been working on planting and the care of plants; they love to get their hands into their work, and we love to see it! Another exciting science activity was the volcano that the students helped to construct. By mixing the proper solution the children were able to watch their volcano erupt, and see the lava flow.

Libby Mason, After School Program Director

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### Q: What is the Daily Schedule in the Toddler Classroom?

A: 9:00 – 9:45	Work period with Montessori materials – individual presentations and art projects
9:45 – 10:00	Circle time
10:00 – 10:45	Snack and toilet routine
10:45 – 11:45	Outside play
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch and toilet routine
1:00 – 3:00	Rest time / nap
3:00 – 3:45	Snack and toilet routine

#### Q: How do you discipline Students?

A. We do not use the term "time out". The teacher will discuss the situation with the student and explain what behavior is acceptable in the classroom.

If necessary, the student will be asked to sit quietly in a designated area to think about his/her actions. The student is encouraged to rejoin the group when he/she feels ready.

### WISH LIST

- Knitting needles all sizes
- Wool
- Large darning needles
- Plants for outdoors and indoors

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>!!

## Plane Raffle

This Founder's Day, April 18<sup>th</sup>, we launched the **CMA Flight Over Ottawa Plane Ride** fundraiser to expand our Art program and raise money towards developing a pottery program.

The student who sells the most tickets by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 will win their very own Flight Over Ottawa Plane Ride for up to 5 people.

Good Luck to everyone!

## Summer Camp

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

## Founders Day

Founders Day events were very successful. We all gained knowledge about Maria Montessori - the founder of the Montessori method of education and Anya Cader - the founder of our school!

The Primary and Elementary students took part in walking the oversized Pink Tower to its new home at the Nepean Museum. Students sang O'Canada, our school song, and enjoyed a tour of the museum.

As the first Montessori school in Nepean and the first Montessori Teacher training program in Ottawa we share a rich history with Nepean and we are pleased to be able to display that history in the Nepean Museum.

**Happy 28<sup>th</sup> Birthday CMA**