

Operated by MIND

Volume 2, Issue 9

April 2006

**Message from the Business Director**

**Inside this Issue:**

Blueprint Update	1
Calendar	3
Classroom Updates	3
Board Information	4

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

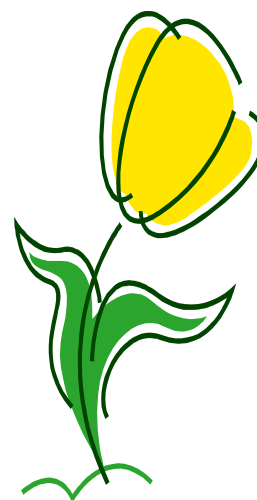
**Strathcona Park  
Lodge April 18-21**

**Earth Day April 20  
Primary Class Only**

*“A metaphor for “vocabulary” would be to liken one’s vocabulary with a sock drawer. Each person has a collection of socks to which he/she occasionally, adds a new pair of socks. When a pair of socks is needed, you open the drawer and carefully select just the right pair to match the outfit that you are wearing.”*

This metaphor was the spontaneous offering from a Year 5 student in response to my query as to the meaning of the word “vocabulary” during a group discussion. It was upon hearing this student’s response that I was pleasantly reminded of the intellect and creativity that typically develops with the integrated curriculum offered by a Montessori education. It is not unusual for a student to draw upon their knowledge from culture, language or music during a lesson in mathematics. Thus it was not surprising that this particular student was able to draw so quickly upon his studies in Language during a lesson on Greek Mythology. With integrated curriculum, concepts are presented in a way that different subject matter begin to interrelate rather than subjects being presented in isolation and compartmentalized. For example, this means that mathematics when first presented cosmically, in terms of its historical development, it is then followed by an examination of each concept in terms of not only its practical value today, but also of its relation to cultural developments in the past and the advancement of science, architecture and/or society today. As a directress, it is truly a blessing to witness the unfolding of young minds that gives evidence of the effects of this type of education. To witness this building of their full potential as we journey together in the classroom is wonderful!

— Barbara Hofmann



**I.8 The World of Nature**

**I.8.1.** Strengthening our connection with nature and the environment is an integral part of BBMH

**I.8 The World of Nature**

**I.8.1. Strengthening our connection with nature and the environment is an integral part of BBMH**

**I.8.2.** We seek to instill in our students, parents, and staff not only a reverence for the earth and all living things, but also a sense of personal and communal stewardship for the environment.

**I.8.3.** We consciously work to foster in each person a strong sense of belonging to the web of life. We accomplish this goal through:

**I.8.3.1.** Programs in outdoor education, and field biology at every age level in the school, using the natural setting of our campus and the wide variety of natural resources.



## FROM THE PRIMARY CLASSROOM

A big highlight for the Primary Class was our all-day field trip to the Vancouver Planetarium on March 28<sup>th</sup>. We began in the morning with an explanation given by astronomer, David, about the observatory. He told us a lot of technical information in language suited for our age group. We enjoyed watching how the shutters opened the domed roof of the observatory with a touch of a switch. Emma had the opportunity of working the controls and she carefully followed instructions. The children enjoyed David's sense of humour. He had only two rules for us to live up to. Rule #1 was several rules rolled into one: no running, jumping, hitting, scratching, pinching, shoving, poking and so on and Rule #2 was to ask to handle the equipment because it is very expensive. We learned a little about the massive telescope and how it enables one to see far into the Milky Way. The sky was overcast with clouds which prevented us from activating the telescope. Indoors we toured the displays that showed the work of astronauts on the surface of the moon. In a workshop we saw how the earth rotates on its axis of 23 ½ degrees and how night and day, the solstices and equinoxes as well as lunar and solar eclipses occur. We made zany hats that helped us learn the order of the planets' orbits. Most of the children already know the order of the planets in the Milky Way based on this phrase which utilizes the first letter of each planet: **My Very Elegant Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas**. We enjoyed the program in the planetarium with many views of stars and their constellations. Once back at school we wrote letters of thanks to David who is retiring from his many years as the Planetarium's astronomer for school programs. On Thursday, April 20, 2006 we will be planting a tree for Earth Day. We will need some adult sized shovels to be loaned for the day AND if any strong shouldered helpers are available please call Lize with your availability!

**We have been honoured to present some work written by our former student, Erik Meausette, which touched us as we believe it indicative of what we teach in terms of learning about self-awareness...enjoy!**

### Popularity

Popularity is not the most important part of High-School. It is time-consuming, expensive, and can actually change certain people. It is by no means something to devote your young lives to.

Popularity is overly time-consuming. Popularity requires a great amount of social time to socialize. Someone without plenty of free time will have difficulty balancing school on one hand and popularity on the other. Do you really need to spend all of your time being popular?

Popularity is expensive. A popular person has to spend ridiculous amounts of money to stay popular. A popular person requires the right clothes, the right hair style/color, and the right gear. Once someone cannot stay with the constantly changing trends, do you think that they will stay popular much longer? Also, do you really need to waste your money in order to become popular?

Certain people can be changed by popularity. All of the attention and imagined 'royal status' could go to their heads, resulting in them being aloof and in-your-face. Girls often become selfish and extremely mean, while boys often become territorial and standoffish. Do you really want to change for the worse just to become popular?

There is no such thing as popularity. It is all in the mind. The dream world of popularity soon gives way to the cruel, hard, real world. All talk of popularity being good is simply propaganda. The point is, do you really want to give way to a false reality?

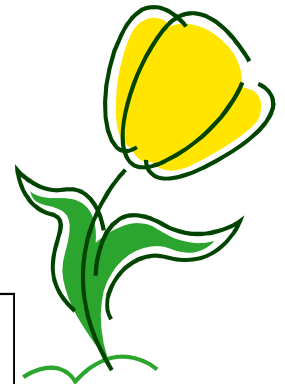


### Preschool/Kindergarten Newsletter

*Spring has sprung!* The children have adjusted very well to the "springing ahead" this year. This term we will be continuing our study of art. The children have now completed their still-life drawing of the barn that can be seen through the classroom window. We will be having two fieldtrips to wrap up the year. Dates, times and locations will be announced at a later time. In addition, we will be having a special visitor come into our classroom to play their musical instrument. That date, as well, will be announced at a later time. Observations have once again been a success. Thank you all for your time, if you have not had the opportunity to observe your child and the classroom please speak to us about rescheduling. As the weather becomes warmer and more inviting you may feel compelled to take on different activities or switch your schedules around, please keep in mind the importance of being prompt for arrival and dismissal. It can be difficult for children to ease into their morning when arriving late to class and it is very difficult for children to be kept waiting at dismissal. **PROMPTNESS** is imperative for every child. If you find yourself running behind and unable to pick your child up on time please contact someone from your pick-up list to come in your absence.

### BBMH CALENDAR SPRING TERM

April	13	Observations
	13	Newsletter
	14-17	Easter
May	18-21	Intermediate Camp
	22	Earth Day
	12	Newsletter
	19	Parent Education
	20	Professional Development
June	22	Victoria Day
	25	Student Led Conferences
	8	Sports Day
	15	Newsletter
	16	Professional Development
	20-22	Rehearsals 9-11 am
	22	Early Dismissal 11:30 am Concert 7 pm
23	School Closed—Picnic Time TBD	



### *FROM THE INTERMEDIATE CLASSROOM*

Students are counting the days down until we leave for outdoor camp! There is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm in our classroom, at the moment, as we explore simple machines, the study of humans from our origins to the Renaissance, and geometry. We have taken advantage of the good weather and added energy to have extra outdoor work and play.

We continue to expand and develop emotional intelligence with activities from *Choice Theory* and *Self Science*. A recent activity was having each student deposit two of their Seven Deadly Habits (Criticism, Blaming, Complaining, Nagging, Threatening, Punishing, and Bribing) with an eye dropper of coloured water into a large jar of clear water. The students watched as the water, representing our personal classroom environment, became more murky and opaque with each drop. We then reflected on how it feels to live all day long in a situation filled with the deadly habits. The next step was to add our Seven Caring Habits (Supporting, Encouraging, Listening, Accepting, Trusting, Respecting, and Negotiating differences) using our "magic" solution and watch as the solution changed colour. It took us two tries with the "magic" solution of caring habits before we had a clear liquid again, which generated a variety of theories and speculation as to why it took a second attempt.



**Operated by MIND**

Boundary Bay Montessori House  
3800 72nd Street, Ladner, B.C.V4K 2B2

Phone: 604-946-9814  
Email: teachers@bbmh.com  
www.bbmh.com

## **BBMH Education Series**

7: 00 pm Thursday, May 18, 2006

### **GEOMETRY**

Material based demonstrations given by our teachers that allow for interactive practice and experimentation by the participants!

We welcome new and experienced parents and all educators from the private or public system who are interested in learning more about Montessori education and methodology to join us for these evenings!

#### **Interested in joining the MIND Board?**

The MIND Board is recruiting new members to join for the 2006/7 school year. Since we only have a couple of months before this school year winds down, now is the perfect time to join us at a board meeting to see how we operate and how you can add value. Being a board member provides you with an excellent opportunity to learn more about Montessori, become more active in our community, share your expertise and knowledge, and experience how a small organization operates. We'd like one of our new members to have a financial/accounting background. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Jeff von Ende, President MIND, at 604-943-5634

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OF A MONTESSORI EDUCATION**

The child's inherent desire to learn and perfect his/her skills is nurtured by the stimulating and dynamic Montessori environment.

- ♥ The child develops a lifetime love of learning
- ♥ Each child works at his or her own pace and receives a high degree of individual attention.
- ♥ Student teacher ratios at BBMH are 10:1 in Preschool and 18:1 in Elementary.
- ♥ A well structured, prepared environment, with learning materials that are self-correcting.
- ♥ Respect for each other, the self and the environment are taught within a peace curriculum that is multi-cultural and non-denominational.
- ♥ With these opportunities, the child is empowered to fulfill his/her own potential thereby fostering:
  - Independence
  - Self-discipline
  - Self-esteem
  - Self-motivation
- ♥ The child is honoured in this caring, community-minded educational environment where parents are invited to participate.

#### **PARENT PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**

- ♥ Material Makers
- ♥ Book coverers

- ♥ Fundraising committee members—see Diana Nesbitt
- ♥ Board Members

#### **Fundraising**

**Pistol & Burnes Coffee** Order forms are in your mail box. There are many different blends of coffee to choose from as well as teas, syrups, chocolate and cocoa.

**Thrifty's Gift Cards** Order form is included with the newsletter.

**Bottle Depots** Both the Ladner and Tsawwassen bottle depots have BBMH accounts. You can direct the proceeds from your empties to our accounts just by mentioning the school name.