

Operated by MIND

Volume 4, Issue 1

AUGUST 2007

Message from the Academic Director, Pam Ferguson

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! I hope your summer holiday provided time for relaxation and restoration, and that you are energized for the return to school on September 4th. For me, this has been a summer of transition, learning about my new role as Academic Director from Lize Hart and Barbara Hofmann, and working with the teaching team to ensure a smooth transition through our teaching team reconfiguration. This year, Jana Luchene and Christina Davey will be directing our morning preschool program, and Jana will also be teaching the EDK program in the afternoon with Lize Hart. Lize Hart and Cathy Goss will be the Primary Directresses, and Eileen Wilson and Cathy Von Ende will be our Intermediate Directresses. Returning as Specialty Teachers are Alii Wright for Art, Annie Lanteigne for French, and I will again be teaching Music. As I embark on this new direction on my career path, I feel tremendously supported by the teaching team, MIND board, and BBMH families, and I am excited to lead the BBMH community into the 2007-2008 academic year.

As part of my transition process, I have been reflecting about how I ended up in this role. The Montessori methodology possesses many attributes that appeal to me as a means of educating children. In particular, Montessori's philosophy of the role of the "teacher as guide" aligned strongly with my belief system as an educator. For parents who are new to Montessori, you may soon begin to ask yourself, "What is it about the directress' role that allows my children to feel confident, feel extremely safe to be themselves, and gives them the space to explore new concepts through their own initiatives, at their own pace?" As I pursue my own training as a Montessori educator, and further my commitment to becoming a better parent, and hopefully, a better member of my community, I have begun to understand, and adopt, the qualities that Montessori believed to be critical for children to develop intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually. I have attempted to summarize a number of these qualities:

Knowledge of the child refers to the directress' ability to observe the child and reflect on the child's development and progress in all areas. The directress is trained to carefully observe and assess when the child is ready for lessons in each area, when to allow the child to process and learn individually, and when to introduce the next step. **Humility** requires the directress to recognize that children possess the power to learn in powerful ways, in ways that most adults no longer can. The materials become the teacher, and the directress' role is to allow the child the time to experiment and to naturally discover the learning variables within the materials themselves. Both the adult and the child must retain faith in each other that learning and order will be achieved through practice and gentle guidance. **Patience** is critical, in that adults must understand that the pacing, work pattern, sense of time and rhythm of the child is distinctly different from the adult, and it must be respected and acknowledged. The directress must have confidence that the child works constructively and with purpose, and that mistakes and mishaps are an important part of the learning process. Finally and above all, the child must be respected. **Respect** is defined as "showing or feeling honour or esteem for someone or something, to consider or treat with deference". In *The Art of Living Consciously* (1997), Nathaniel Brandon says, "One of the ways we convey respect for another human being is through the consciousness we bring to the encounter — that is, through seeing, hearing, and responding in a way that allows the other individual to feel understood" (pg. 96). Respect for the child underlies everything that occurs in the Montessori classroom: the children's needs are always put first.

On behalf of the BBMH Teaching and Administrative Team, I welcome you all back to school, and know that we are all looking forward to an exciting and inspiring year with you and your children!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

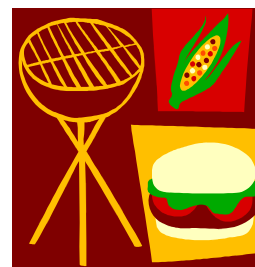
Family Barbeque

Friday,
September 7,
2007 Start at
5:30 pm

at the school

*

Speak to Meg
Olson if you can
help with set up.



Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge, but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities."

*Maria
Montessori*



TABLE 1 - 2007/2008 Teaching Profile

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Administration	Kathy 10-11:30; 1-3 Pam P.M.	Kathy 10-11:30; 1-3 Pam all day	Kathy 10-11:30; 1-3 Pam all day	Kathy 10-11:30; 1-3	Kathy 10-11:30; 1-3 Pam A.M.
Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Intermediate AM	Eileen/Pam	Eileen/Cathy VE	Eileen/Cathy VE	Eileen/Alii	Cathy VE/Annie
Intermediate PM	Eileen	Eileen/Cathy VE	Eileen/Cathy VE	Eileen/Alii	Cathy VE
Primary AM	Lize	Lize/Cathy G	Cathy G/Alii	Lize/Cathy G	Lize
Primary PM	Lize	Lize/Cathy G	Cathy G/Alii	Lize/Cathy G	Lize/Pam/Annie
Preschool/EDK AM	Jana/Christina	Jana/Christina	Jana/Christina	Jana/Christina/Pam	Jana/Christina
EDK PM	Jana/Lize	Jana/Lize	Jana/Alii	Jana/Pam	Jana/Annie

TABLE 2—2007/2008 Specialty Subject Schedule

	Monday	Monday	Tues.	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Friday
9:00		Music Intermediate							
9:30		Music Intermediate			Art Primary 2		Art Inter. 4		French Inter 4
10:00		Music Intermediate			Art Primary 2		Art Inter. 4		French Inter 5
10:30		Music Intermediate			Art Primary 1	Music Preschool	Art Inter. 5		French Inter 6
11:00		Music Intermediate			Art Primary 1	Music Preschool	Art Inter. 5		French Inter 7
11:30	Lunch	Music Intermediate	Lunch	SSR	Lunch	Lunch	SSR	Lunch	Lunch
12:00	Play Pri/ EDK	Lunch	Play Pri/EDK	Lunch	Play	Play Primary EDK	Lunch	Play Pri/EDK	SSR
12:30	SSR	Play Intermediate	SSR	Play Intermediate	SSR	SSR	Play Intermediate	SSR	Play Inter
1:00				French Inter.	Art EDK		Art Int 6	French EDK	
1:30	PE Primary EDK	PE Inter.		French Inter.	Art EDK		Art Int 6	Fre/Music Primary	
2:00	PE Pri/ EDK	PE Inter		French Inter.	Art Primary 3	Music EDK	Art Inter. 7	Fre/Music Primary	PE Inter
2:30	PE Primary EDK	PE Inter.		French Inter.	Art Primary 3	Music EDK	Art Intermediate 7	Fre/Music Primary	PE Inter



BBMH School Entrance and Exit Procedures

In order to provide a safe environment for the students, please review our procedures for school entrances and exits.

In the Elementary School building:

- ♥ Elementary school doors open at 8:30 A.M. and remain open for 20 minutes until 8:50 A.M.
- ♥ A member of the Teaching Team or Administration will formally greet children at the front door of the school.
- ♥ The parents' role is to observe the children and say good-bye on the front porch.
- ♥ Children will proceed to their classroom independently, where they will be greeted by the Classroom Directress.
- ♥ Children are expected to hang up their outer wear, backpacks, lunch bags, etc., put on their indoor footwear, and begin their classroom routine. Please defer to the Directresses to support your child if needed.
- ♥ At 3:00 PM, parents are to wait for their children on the front porch. Primary children will be dismissed individually when parents or the designated pick-up person has been identified by the classroom directress; intermediate children will be dismissed as a class and are expected to meet their parents or designated pick-up person on the porch.
- ♥ EDK parents will pick-up children at the back door, near the preschool playground. At 3:00 PM, parents are to wait on the back porch, and children will be dismissed individually to parents or designated pick-up person.

In the Preschool/Kindergarten building:

- ♥ Preschool/Kindergarten doors open at 8:50 A.M. and remain open for 10 minutes until 9:00 A.M.
- ♥ The Classroom Directress will formally greet children at the front door of the classroom.
- ♥ The parents' role is to observe their children and say good-bye.
- ♥ Children will independently remove their shoes and outdoor clothing, hang backpacks, and put on their indoor footwear. Please defer to the Directresses to support your child if needed.
- ♥ At 11:30 AM, parents are to wait on the porch of the Preschool building, and Preschool children will be dismissed individually to parents or designated pick-up person.
- ♥ Please refer to Elementary School building for EDK pick-up procedures.

Providing Information to the Teaching Team:

- ♥ In the case of EMERGENCY, please relate information immediately to the Directress or Administrative Team at the front door.
- ♥ If the information is URGENT, please leave a phone message at (604) 946-9814 as phone messages are monitored throughout the day.
- ♥ If your information is general or requires a lengthier conversation, please use the phone, email or make an appointment with the Classroom Directress.

Access to the School

Since its inception, BBMH has had a policy of strictly limiting access to the school between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM to ensure the safety of the children and to maintain the educational environment. This policy is in the best interest of the community for the following reasons:

- ▶ To meet the requirements of Child Care licensing when the children are in the preschool and extended elementary school in the afternoons for the EDK program,
- ▶ The teaching team is best able to focus on the needs of the students during school operating hours.
- ▶ Parents coming into the school have prescheduled appointments thereby allowing more personal communication between the teaching team and parents,
- ▶ In the event of an emergency, the door handles are equipped with a quick release if we need to leave suddenly, and
- ▶ Work space required for volunteers coming into the school can be prioritized and set aside for critical operations.



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

If at any time a parent needs to come to the school and cannot call in advance, there is a doorbell at the front door of the elementary school building that triggers a silent light signal in the classrooms. A member of the teaching team will answer the door as soon as possible.

Volunteers are a critical part of our program!

Parents who need to be in the school for volunteer work or to meet with members of the teaching team can do so by making prior arrangements by telephone or email.

Thank you for helping us to make the system workable

**Characteristics of
Montessori Education at BBMH**

- ♥ 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 9:1 in Pre-school/Kindergarten 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.

CALENDAR 2007 2008 * FALL TERM 1

SEPTEMBER	4	SCHOOL BEGINS TERM 1
	7	FAMILY BARBEQUE—ALL WELCOME
	12	NEW ELEMENTARY PARENT ORIENTATION (EDK, Yr. 1 and Yr. 4 parents only)
	14	TERRY FOX RUN
	20	PEACE DAY/Potluck Dinner AGM
	21	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
OCTOBER	5	GANDHI BIRTHDAY
	8	THANKSGIVING DAY
	10	PARENT EDUCATION SERIES 1
	22	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2
	24	UNITED NATIONS DAY
NOVEMBER	1	READ-A-THON
	12	REMEMBRANCE DAY
	13-16	OBSERVATION WEEK
	TBD	3 WAY CONFERENCES EDK/ELEMENTARY; PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE PRESCHOOL; SCHOOL CLOSED
DECEMBER	17	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	18	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	19	CONCERT REHEARSAL—SCHOOL CLOSED PM
	19	CONCERT
	20	SKATING PARTY
	21	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK
JANUARY	8	SCHOOL BEGINS TERM 2

SCHOOL CLOSURES TERM 1

September 21
October 8
October 22
November 12
November tbd for 3-way Conferences
December 19 P.M.
December 21-January 7

**NOTE: TERM TWO BEGINS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008**