



Boundary Bay Montessori House

Operated by MIND

Volume 1, Issue 5

December 2004



Message from the Academic Director

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

December! The season of giving - where many of us look around to see who needs acts of kindness and generosity. John Joe McFadden, author of *Quantum Evolution*, writes "Kindness and Cooperation underpin much of human society." It is certainly so of the families - parents, children and grandparents - at Boundary Bay Montessori House. Once again, this community of families set the bar in their display of the true spirit of generosity. It is becoming a mark of our school - we call it parent participation. It has been the tie that binds over time and the source of inspiration for directresses and the source of strong friendships for BBMH families. This year we were the recipient of additional generosity...3m Touch Systems provided a day of labour and cheerfully donated their time and expertise to help begin our 'playground'. They did this under the umbrella of the United Way Program. They, too, felt the warmth of the reciprocal nature of giving. This past year all of you have demonstrated acts of kindness made with the spirit of

generosity. I would like to thank each one of you for your selflessness in giving to our school! I think that we are all aware of the dollar savings the benefit of volunteering gives us. We sincerely hope that we have held up our end by providing your children with caring and inspirational education. But for all of us who teach at BBMH the finest gift you have given us is the presence of your children, because in helping them we help ourselves...for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us and so we thank...

The Bennings for Aydan
The Hobbs for Alexander
The Gillespies for Savannah
The Daveys for Madeleine & Ella
The James for Sophie
The Kanervas for Andrew & Emma
The Sthankiyas for Luca
The Mas for Kieran
The Larsens for Christina & Curtis
The Mangaljis for Tareeq
The Grahams for Lily
The Loughlins for Levi & Rhiannon
The Morrison/Cummings for Sam & Eva
The Soods for Kama
The Cusworths for Caitlin
The Meausettes for Erik,, Linnea & Hanna
The Malenstyns for Beck

The Searles for Andrea
The Iversen/Shutters for Owen
The Von Endes for Alyssa, Cara & Ryan
The Malhis for Milan
The St. Gelais/Hoffmans for Jennifer
The Chans for Janice & Jacqueline
The de Lotbiniere-Bassetts for Francine
The Forsyth-Schiewes for Michaela
The Boyd/Dycks for Simon
The Changs for Ryan
The Purcells for Matthew & Joseph
The Vereschagins for Sarah
The Masarskys for Alex & Anna
The Harris' for Jackson
The Pincombes for Ainsley & Heather

The Flores for Alicia
The Stemo/Milroys for Sutherland
The Pamintuans for Gyo
The Williams for Danielle, Rachel & Talia
The Schwabes for Michael
The Dodds for Parker & Mitchell
The Martins for Merrie
The Wooldridges for Brendan
The Harts for Thomas






Lize Hart—Academic Director

It is well to give when asked but it is better to give unasked, through understanding. Khalil Gibran

Inside this issue:

<i>Blueprint Update</i>	1
<i>Reminders</i>	1
<i>Message from the Academic director</i>	1
<i>Classroom Updates</i>	2/3
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>Message from Heather</i>	4
<i>Message from MIND</i>	4

REMINDERS

-  Concert rehearsals December 13, 14 & 15 Drivers needed
-  Winter Concert , 7:00 December 15 at the Delta Arts Council
-  Winter Skating Party December 17 at Ladner Rink
-  Winter Break starts December 17 after the ice skating party
-  Return to school Tuesday, January 4, 2005!

BLUEPRINT UPDATE

The staff will be continuing with the blueprint cycle by reviewing the sections of the blueprint listed below. (Please past newsletters for additional information regarding the blueprint cycle.)

- ♥ Recognizing that we must satisfy the learning outcomes specified by the Ministry of Education, we approach learning as seeking to understand each student's uniqueness, guide him/her individually and at his/her own pace through the range of learning outcomes so that he/she fully realizes his/her potential.
- ♥ We celebrate the natural diversity of human beings, be it in learning style, interests, or definition of what makes a happy and successful life.
- ♥ We affirm the ideal of the renaissance person. Our ultimate goal is to produce renaissance men and women who have not only learned how to learn, but also have an innate love of learning, a wide range of interests, and an openness to new ideas and possibilities.
- ♥ We nurture self-esteem. We affirm that self-esteem is a crucial ingredient for the full expression of a person's potential. We strive to base every interaction between community members on this principle, from how we foster self-discipline to respecting personal learning styles and stages of development. This is the very fabric of our community and our educational methods.
- ♥ 1.2.7. We strive to provide a safe learning environment in which students take the necessary risks to progress and grow. Through feedback and self-evaluation, students learn from all experiences, both positive and negative.



What's Happening in the Classroom

INTERMEDIATE CLASS UPDATE

We started this month with reflecting on the causes of war, as well as our continued efforts towards maintaining peace for Remembrance Day. Also during November, students worked on setting goals for the next term. They then shared these goals and their strengths with their parents during the three-way conferences.

Students have written amazing, funny and amusing creative writing stories with titles such as "Invasion du Quebec" and "Kidnapped". The students love to write and share their stories with their peers. Be sure to read your child's story.

In Culture, students finished their reports on the digestive system just in time for a trip to Science World (Telus Sphere). There, we explored the many hands-on activities in the Body Works gallery. The students took part in a scavenger hunt and used the many exhibits to find the answers to queries about the wonders of the human body. Bruce Gamage gave a very interesting presentation on the immune system on November 30th, followed by a great activity on how germs are spread. Glow in the dark powder was used as substitute germs and the students learned that washing them off is not an easy task. This week, the intermediate class has been carrying out experiments, based on the scientific method.

Students have been expanding their listening skills in French by watching a movie (without English subtitles) and extracting information from French radio weather forecasts.

Skating has been a great way to start the week! Skating skills have improved, for both our budding figure skaters and hockey players, and everyone had fun, especially when the lights went out and the disco ball shimmered.

We were fortunate to have a presentation by Amanda Harris and her colleague on Choice Theory. It served to reinforce the work we do in the classroom and to refocus discussion in around Fun, Freedom, Power, Love and Belonging, as well as, what our Quality World looks like to us.

Eileen Wilson and Barbara Hoffman

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

Maya Angelou



PRIMARY CLASS UPDATE

The last few weeks of this year have been filled with interesting highlights that offer opportunity for learning! The children have returned full of enthusiasm from their trip to The Orpheum Theatre to hear to Vancouver Symphony Orchestra! It is our custom to write letters of appreciation to the musicians. We have directed our letters to the maestro, conductor Bramwell Tovey, who has an infectious way of captivating the audience with his love of music. The repertoire included music of the swan and the pirates' song and these pieces have inspired the children. And it isn't just the children who were greatly entertained. The adults who accompanied us enjoyed the event too and we thank those who provided transportation for us. On November 19th, we had the privilege of having a visitor from UNICEF speak to our class. Ron Baines came with slides and stories of how education is lacking in some parts of the world and it is girls in particular who are denied this necessity. The children have shown dismay and a compassionate response to this presentation. They have expressed their concerns in letters they've written to Ron.

We are busy every Friday writing Journals which tell about our daily scheduled tasks, the learning materials we use and the enthusiasm the children have for their tasks. The children have an agenda list of all their subjects and keep an account of what they do each week. The children are developing good work habits to use their time well and complete tasks. Some of the work – in fact nearly *all* of it – excites the children and you will notice this is expressed in their Journals. Parents have the pleasure of reading about the week's work and how their children approach it. It's the parents job to write a response to affirm and encourage their child. If you have forgotten to respond, please make a point on the weekends to ask for your child's Friday Journal, enjoy it together and read your response to your child with the warmth and approval that we believe you will feel.

Our virtues have been 'reverence' and 'generosity' – words most fitting to December. We feel so much gratitude to all the families who support our school in dozens of different ways. Your goodwill is felt everyday and we thank you for your resilience, understanding and spirit of generosity. Resilience? Yes, thank you for coping with the lice we have had leap onto some heads and for being diligent about treatment. We have viewed a video twice to learn more about how lice finds a head and what to do about it.

We wish to say a special Thank You to Linda and Anna Masarsky for sharing the custom of Hanukkah with us. Cooking together and making our school fragrant with delicious potato latkes was fun. Hearing stories, both modern and centuries old, has broadened understanding for children who have no experience with this tradition.

On a practical note, hurray for those who have replaced old worn slippers with new ones. Some may still want to shop for new slippers. This may seem like a trivial topic to you but for us it is part of our school's good habit and "lifestyle."

Lize and Cathy

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

What's new? We allowed the children a chance to guess: Chocolate bars, furniture, children, Jana's cats...what was *really* under the blanket as the children arrived at school this week? Two grey rabbits named Willow and Ash in a hutch! We welcome the two new furry BBMH preschool/Kindergarten pets and look forward to the lessons they will teach us. We have been discussing the needs of living things and how to care for animals. The Kindergarten students are learning about nomenclature for the parts of a rabbit and we are enjoying stories about rabbits as well as washing after touching animals. The rabbits were introduced to a calm and gleaming audience around our ellipse carpet where the children were encouraged to generate their thoughts about the responsibility of caring for pets. We will be acclimatizing the rabbits over the next few weeks in order for them to move into their bunny condo, which will remain outdoors in a secure space. Thank you very much to Jeremy Meausette for constructing the housing facilities for our litter-box trained pets.

The colder weather brings a need for warm clothing and weather-appropriate gear. You are welcome to keep a pair of splash pants and change of clothing for your child on their cloakroom hook, in case of unexpected inclement weather. We also accept donations of clothing for schoolmates who may happen to be in need on any given day. We keep some extras at school but are in need of socks, mittens, boots and pants. Our practices of walking together as a group around the community have us visiting local farm animals (a goat, llama, sheep and chickens)!

What's been happening? This past month has been colourful and creative. We had an extremely successful celebration for Universal Children's Day on November 19th. Ron Baines, a retired Richmond school principal, presented information and slides to the school on behalf of UNICEF, then joined us for the luncheon and socialized with our guests. The children sang beautifully and delighted in the day of continents and culture, learning about the diversity of children around the world. Thank you to the volunteers for helping make it tasty and beautiful, then neat and tidy once more...the gourmet chefs, donators of beautiful artifacts, Christina Davey, Cara Jean Morrison, Alison Martin and Nancy Chong made the event memorable.

As a class, we have endured the bugs which accompany this season. Thank you for keeping your infected children home to help keep the germs at bay. We have been reinforcing constant hand washing after a cough or sneeze or hands in mouth or nose rubbing. We also encourage the children to cough into their elbow rather than hands, which could possibly transfer germs to shared surfaces in the classroom. Lice have been confirmed only in the Elementary school, but please continue to check scalps and hair for nits and lice. REMINDER: ANY contagious illness, infection or infestation should be reported to Jana or Andrea immediately in order to follow Public Health Regulations of informing the community. If in doubt, see your pediatrician upon suspected onset and keep your child home to prevent spreading and repeated cycles.

Most Fridays we take the opportunity to cook during the shuffle that occurs with groups going to music class with Judy. Our cranberry/blackberry sauce was a hit (not just because it was served with ice cream) and our mini pizzas were most exciting. Cooking includes preparation, production, creating and clean-up!

What's coming up? We are preparing for our Winter concert and remind preschool/kindergarten families that on Wednesday, December 15th, there will be no school, and a rehearsal at Delta Arts Council in Tsawwassen from 9-10:30 am. The children are required to return at 6:15pm to rehearse before the 7pm performance. All relatives and loved ones are invited to attend! We will celebrate a terrific first term at the annual skating party at Ladner Leisure Centre on Friday December 17th at 9am followed by a potluck...bring your helmets and holiday cheer! Please continue to look for volunteer opportunities in order to complete your hours in good time. There are work parties, material making evenings and special events that require assistance. Look in the Parent Participation binder in the main library hall, or contact the coordinator of a desired task directly. Thank you for your support and ongoing enthusiasm. You all help make it happen!

Jana and Andrea

BBMH CALENDAR


Fall Term 2004

September	2	Primary Orientation
	7	School Begins/Open House
	10	BBQ
	13	Sign up For Conferences
	15	Peace Day
	17	Newsletter
	20	Potluck Sign Up
	23	Parent Conferences
	24	Potluck/AGM
October	5	Mohandas Gandhi
	11	Thanksgiving Day
	15	Newsletter
	21	UN Day
	25	ProD Day 1
	27	Sign up for Obs/3way
November	1	Read-a-thon
	8	Observation Week
	11	Remembrance Day
	12	Newsletter
	15	3 Way Conferences
	16	3 Way Conferences
	26	ProD Day 2
December	10	Newsletter
	13	Rehearsal
	14	Rehearsal
	15	Rehearsal/Concert
	17	Skating Party
	17	Winter Holiday 11:30 am



*To receive everything, one must open
one's hands and give.*

Taisen Deshimaru



Operated by MIND

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

Phone: 604-946-9814
Fax: 604-946-9816
Email: bbmhteachers@dccnet.com

Boundary Bay Montessori House is an independent Montessori school registered and classified as a Group I school (Preschool to Grade 7) under the British Columbia Ministry of Education. BBMH opened its Elementary program in 1990. BBMH is administered by the Montessori in Delta Society (MIND), a registered non-profit society since 1986. MIND is comprised of educators and parents who strive to promote excellence in Montessori education in Delta, B.C. All staff are qualified by the Ministry of Independent Schools or the B.C. College of Teachers in accordance with the Independent School Act of British Columbia.

A MESSAGE FROM HEATHER



Please convey to the MIND Board and Society members my grateful thanks for the opportunity to both give and receive concluding remarks summarizing my 14 year tenure at Boundary Bay Montessori House on Friday, September 24, 2004. The memory book is a treasured and perfect gift. I am appreciative of the many submissions made by present and former students, parents and staff members. It is and reflects my core belief about teaching; that it is a "work of heart!" Wherever I travel in life, a very deep part of my heart will always remain at Boundary Bay Montessori House. It has been my "cosmic task"; my life's work. I have been blessed. **Heather Main**

You are forgiven for your happiness and your successes only if you generously consent to share them. Albert Camus



MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

- Parking** Please park in the lot to the east of the school in a "herringbone" fashion to maximize the use of the space.
- Playground** Thank you to Bruce Gillespie for coordinating the work on the elementary playground. It's been wet, cold work.
- Wine Raffle** Please get your donations in ASAP if you haven't already done so. We will raffle the wine at the Winter Concert.
- Deltassist Family** Boxes for donations are at the elementary and preschool doors, and there will also be a box at the concert.

Skating Party December 17th, 9-11:30am at the LADNER LEISURE CENTRE
Please note different format from previous years. Everyone is welcome to skate and celebrate the beginning of the holidays at the Ladner Leisure Centre (NOT the rink in Tsawwassen where the elementary children have had skating over the last month). Admission and skate rental are covered for all. Skating will take place from 9-10am and will be followed by potluck snacks in the "yellow room" and adjoining foyer. **Please remember no nuts!** Dismissal will be from the rink.

Fun Fair Rescheduled to January 22nd at the Ladner Community Centre, 3-8pm. We will be having activities for all the children, from fish pond to hemp bracelet making. Look for more information in the New Year. Contact Diana Nesbitt if you have ideas or would like to organize one of the activities.

Recognition—There are so many people working diligently on behalf of the school. We are very much a grassroots organization and rely on parent participation to get so much done. On behalf of the MIND board, thank you for all the work done by parents at the school and Happy Holidays.

A.I.R. Update—The BBMH choir, as Tasha's Elves, did a wonderful job of singing with the Richmond Singers and Charlotte Diamond in their Christmas concert on December 5th. Thanks to all the students and Natasha Neufeld for a wonderful concert!

BBMH MISSION STATEMENT

Boundary Bay Montessori House will offer a quality educational program for children that remains true to the spirit of Dr. Montessori's philosophy of education to help equip them with the tools necessary to become independent adults while allowing their unique personalities to unfold.



