



Boundary Bay Montessori House

Message from the Academic Director

Maria Montessori believed that children were the potential for creating unity between humankind and a peaceful society. She declared that how we respond and educate children from birth to adulthood determines how society can hope to plan for a better international understanding.

“Childhood has shown me that all humanity is one. All children talk, no matter what their race or their circumstances or their family, more or less at the same age; they walk, change their teeth, etc. at certain fixed periods of their life. In other aspects also, especially in the psychical field, they are just as similar.... Children are the constructors of [humankind] whom they build, taking from the environment language, religion, customs and the peculiarities not only of the race, not only of the nation, but even of a special district in which they develop. My life has been spent in the research of truth. Through the study of children I have scrutinized human nature at its origin, both in the East and the West, and although it is forty years now since I began my work, childhood still seems to me an inexhaustible source of revelations and—let me say—hope.”

Maria Montessori insisted that if humanity wished to succeed in establishing solid foundations for world peace, it had to focus on the prevention of war. She believed that helping the young child develop into a healthy adult was crucial to this endeavor.

“When children are accustomed, from earliest childhood onwards, to considering those who surround them as a source of help to explore the world, they are not tempted to adopt a wary or hostile attitude towards men who belong to different races or religions. At a later date, children raised according to these principles will be of great help in the construction of a peaceful society... and the encouragement of this understanding among nations that UNESCO has set as its ideal.”

Excerpted from the AMI website founded by Dr. Montessori in 1929. www.montessori-ami.org

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Operated by
MIND

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Concert

Tonight

Dec.15

at

Delta Arts

Council

1172-56 St,

Tsawwassen

Children

Arrive

6:00 pm

Concert

Begins

7:00 pm

Blueprint Update

1.6 Community Service

1.6.1 Both parents and staff seek to show and teach our students that the freedom and education they receive here come with the responsibility to help others. We value the practice of thinking globally and acting locally, and believe that service needs to be a part of everyone's life. Opportunities to provide service to the community at large include the adoption of needy families by the classes at holiday time, sharing of clothes and toys with and opportunities to volunteer at nursing homes, as well as other local non-profit organizations. Such endeavors take place during school hours and as extracurricular activities organized by the Family Advisory Committee.

1.7 Practical Life Skills

To facilitate and encourage a sense of independence, we deliberately teach a wide range of practical life skills appropriate to each child's level of curriculum. These practical life skills include the following:

- 1.7.1 Both fine and gross hand-eye coordination** by activities such as the use of sensorial materials, dressing frames, penmanship, painting, music and sports.
- 1.7.2 Grace and courtesy:** respectful ways to resolve conflict. We teach the universal human virtues which enable us to genuinely honour the uniqueness of each individual.
- 1.7.3 Money skills:** the value and use of money and at the Intermediate level, activities such as planning school lunches, banking, and bake sales contribute to learning practical economies.
- 1.7.4 Technology:** the safe use of technology, telephones, microscopes, computers, classroom audio-visual equipment, and household appliances.
- 1.7.4.1 Computers:** We use the computer at the Intermediate level as a fundamental tool for learning, and as an element of contemporary practical life.
- 1.7.5 Communication:** We teach skills of letter writing, public speaking, holding telephone conversations, and designing presentations.
- 1.7.6 Care of One's Environment:** how to clean and set tables, do dishes, cook, sew, iron, do laundry and garden. As stewards of the earth, we encourage the wise use of natural resources and practice recycling.
- 1.7.7 Health and Safety:** the development of sound habits of safety, nutrition and hygiene.

1.8 The World of Nature

1.8.1 Strengthening our connection with nature and the environment is an integral part of BBMH.



UNESCO, the UN agency whose mandate includes education, culture and science, has published a report presenting the universal aspects of education to be included in all countries' educational systems. It is titled *Education: A Treasure Within*, and includes the following universal aspects as four "pillars" of learning. They are:

1. *Learning to know*
2. *Learning to do*
3. *Learning to be*
4. *Learning to live with others*

These four points are considered essential to improve educational quality worldwide. Sigrid Niedermayer, programme co-chair of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, told the Paris Montessori Congress audience (2001) that these pillars closely resemble the goals of Montessori education.

These past weeks the teaching team was involved in observing the unique aspects of these four pillars within our individual classrooms. Our recent three-way conferences, conducting self-evaluation sessions with individual students and the preparation for the coming concert reinforces how our children are learning and measuring up to the universal goals of education as determined by UNESCO, especially the points of 'learning to be' and 'learning to live with others'. The sense of community and the peaceful interchange amongst the differently graded levels highlight this on a daily basis. Tim Seldin, a leader of the American Montessori Society, stated that a core group of Montessori children can influence and set the tone for other children and, by example, instill the core values of our learning environment. The students of the Intermediate class have successfully welcomed new students with little Montessori background into their program and, kindly and gently included them in their daily activities, helped them adjust to the new environment and taught them the communication skills required to manage independently. The Primary class has adapted to the addition of the EDK students and welcomed these younger children as part of their group in the afternoon, showing them expected protocol as you would a younger sibling. In the Preschool/Kindergarten program, Intermediate students visit every week and exhibit patience and leadership that also demonstrates the points of *learning to be* and *learning to live with others*. Of course a huge measure of credit for all of this goes to their role models – our directresses. I would like to extend a huge nod of appreciation to our wonderful teachers, Barbara, Cathy Goss, Catherine von Ende, Eileen, Jana, Judy, Annie and Alii for the intense commitment they have shown towards making this a wonderful term for all of the students. In addition I would like to thank our lunch hour supervisors, Tammy Olson, Christina Davey and Elizabeth Schwabe.

On behalf of all of the teaching team...happy holiday greetings to the board of MIND and families of our BBMH students. We look forward to our second term which begins on Tuesday, January 3, 2006! - Lize Hart



From the Family Advisory Committee

At the concert, there will be a basket available for donations to the Food Bank. Please remember those whose holiday season is without the abundance enjoyed by most of us.

Fundraising

Thrifty Gift Certificates and Pistol Burnes Coffee will be available again in January.

From the MIND Board

Carol Ywan has resigned from the board and we are looking for another individual to join us. Diana Nesbitt is taking over the position of Secretary from Carol. Please contact Jeff von Ende if you are interested in participating. Meetings usually take place on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting is January 16, 2006 at 7:30 pm.



The favourite thing I enjoyed was the bead frame because I liked to touch it. Oh, I forgot I like skating because of the disco lights and I am starting to learn to skate—Kieran

This Term my favourite thing to do was skating with the twins. I practiced tying my shoes when it was time to go outside—Cody

This term my favourite thing to do was write letters to the special person and to go to HAP DO SOOL—Eva

This term my favourite thing to do was to play in the sandpit with Kama and Kieran—Owen

This term my favourite thing to do was reading—Ella
It like to do my Friday Journal because I like to write to my Mom and Dad I tell them about the fun I have in school—Lily

I enjoyed Music because it is fun! I like to learn new music and memorize them. I like to use the instruments—Sam

I enjoyed the Firefighters visit because the ABC's were humourous and Sparky was weird.-Ryan

This year something I found very fun was Peace Day. Peace Day is a day when we play games and celebrate peace. Some of the games we play like the Egg Game are really fun. What you do in the Egg Game is you get a 'circle-shaped' piece of wood and a marble egg. Someone spins the egg and you tilt the piece of wood from side to side to try and keep the egg on the piece of wood.-Savannah

The favourite thing I did was I got to make my own story and I had fun. It was called "If You Give a Cat a Cupcake".-Jack

I enjoyed Hap Do Sool because we learned self-defense. Our instructor told us that our voice is the best tool to use when you're in trouble-Emma

My favourite event was the symphony! I like it because of the really beautiful music! It was beautiful because it was relaxing!-Hanna

The day I liked the best was the Special Person day. The reason I like the day is because they get to pick out the virtue and we get to write all about that person. It is so much fun-Alicia

The favourite thing I did this term was virtues because I like to learn about their meaning. I like joyfulness the best. I think it is exciting to go to school.-Jennifer

The favourite thing I did was the Spelling Quiz because it was funny. Lize said the same thing in every sentence! - Jacqueline

BBMH CALENDAR Winter Term

January	3	Back to School
	13	Newsletter
	16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
	19	Montessori Education Series #2
February	14	Project Love
	17	Newsletter
	27	Professional Development Day
March	10	Newsletter
	11	Spring Break
	20	School re-opens

What the very interesting thing is that there are big checkerboard questions like 65241x1956 for example. I do these questions with my friends—Curtis

One of my favourite activities this term was the Terry Fox Run. We ran a mile and it was fun-Madeleine

The favourite thing I did this term was doing the stamp game because I liked putting the stamps on.—Mitchell

So far my favourite memory was United Nations Day. I liked when we got dressed up. I liked the desserts and I like the lunch too-Simon

This term was special because everyone in the class is special. Because everyone here is so nice, great, gentle, smart etc. and it is so fun. I learned a lot! It is the best school in the world.-Steven

The favourite thing I did was Canada maps!-Beck

I have really enjoyed the Me Museums we do. The part I like the best was bringing in my favourite thing to touch. I also get to learn a lot about my friends.



Operated by MIND

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**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 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.

BBMH Education Series

Thursday, January 19, 2006 Language

Thursday, May 18, 2006 Geometry

These will be material based demonstrations given by our teachers and will allow for interactive practise 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!

BOOK YOUR CHILD CARE NOW!

Reminder from the Treasurer

It's not too late to make your 2005 tax receipted donations to our Society! As most of you are aware we are growing... and looking into options for expanding our facilities. If you are able to make a donation to the society, it would greatly help in facilitating this expansion, or other ongoing needs. To obtain a tax receipt for 2005, please forward your donation to my attention before the end of the calendar year. Thanking you in advance for any support you are able to provide! - Karen Gillespie

Happy Holidays from the Board of MIND!

