



## Message from the Academic Director

Recently our Chimes choir has shared the season's spirit with their beautiful music conducted by our wonderful music directress, Pam Ferguson. They have entertained at three extended care facilities and at the Richmond Christmas Fund party hosted by Art Knapp's Plant Land. Their grace and courtesy was extended to all and was a shining example of the love and nurture they receive from their families and at school. There were a few Intermediate students who chose to not partake of the group activity and quietly adapted to the hubbub that occurs as the chimes group practiced and organized to leave for the various performances. What was noticeable was how peaceful this group was and how they extended themselves in an act of service that no one could have foretold.

The first session occurred on Monday. Their Directress asked if I would like them to come into the Primary room to help with the younger students in first year. I agreed this would be a good idea and they entered as I was about to begin a grammar lesson. This is a well-loved lesson on the meaning of the noun. For the Year One's the lesson was absolutely new and they were easily engaged by the questions that I posed.... "Please bring me a ....." They began to raise their hands to discover what I wanted. "A pencil?" said one. "No, please bring me the...." I responded. "The brush?" they queried? As the intermediate students quietly caught on the expression on their faces were one of fondness and gentle smugness. They understood what was happening. It was as though the lesson evoked treasured memory of their times in this classroom. Finally, I began to explain the power of the noun and the Year One children understood. I then led them on to naming nouns and as they did I created black label cards. After, they were to find the item and place the noun name on the item. As I conducted the lesson, I noticed two significant things. One was the incredible patience the older students demonstrated in the circle – they listened as though this was a new lesson to them, they gently reminded the younger students to remain calm and they held back in their enthusiasm as they recognized that they knew all of the answers. The other was their respectful attitude – they interpreted my cue as an instructor, anticipating when to join in and when to hold back, adding to my presentation when called upon to model appropriate behaviour.

After the lessons were given, I asked the Year One's to choose work and show the older students their achievements with the materials that they had mastered. This was when a complete transformation took place. The Intermediates became guides. They were composed and encouraging. The younger six year old students were thrilled to be the presenters and yet they were also tentative. I wandered around the room looking for areas where I might support the younger students and found that I was superfluous! I observed.... A senior student watching as a younger student built and counted coloured beads in order to add sums from 11-19.... I saw a middle student picking sandpaper letters in order for a new reader to identify the sounds of the alphabet. When I offered an extension material the older student gasped "Oh I love that work!" infecting enthusiasm for the young child who was seeing it for the first time. I watched as two students played the environment game that had just been presented and heard the elder remind the student of the need to work quietly. I witnessed another pair counting the cards in the material and explaining that it is necessary to remember how many cards are in the box for when it is time to clean up the work. The scene was heartwarming and exemplified what I imagine Dr. Montessori envisioned when she began her work with three to six year old children in the preschool. These young intermediates were 'diminishing so that the younger students could come forward and take their place. Their service to these youngsters was so natural and inspired me to share it with you. I was truly humbled by their acts.— Wishing you a wonderful holiday, Lize Hart

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

**Monday, Tuesday  
December 18 and  
19th, 2006 Re-  
hearsal at  
Tsawwassen Art  
Centre  
1172—56th Street  
All students from  
Preschool/EDK and  
Elementary to  
attend.  
Pick up for Pre-  
school students  
11:30 am  
Shuttle Drivers  
needed for  
Elementary and  
EDK students 11:30  
am**

**Wednesday,  
December 20  
Dress Rehearsal All  
Students 9  
9:00 am—11:30  
Dismissal 11:30 am  
for  
ALL STUDENTS  
Preschool/K return  
at 6:30 pm  
Elementary return  
at 6:00 pm**



# SCI—Community Meetings

Beginning in the New Year we are intending to host a meeting. The goal of these meetings is to bring the community together to work in a ‘Spirit of Continuous Improvement’ (SCI) . Last year the Board conducted a Parent Survey and at our first meeting we will review the findings of this report. In future we plan to hold a SCI meeting once a term. At these meetings we would like to hear all ideas that members of our school have that may improve the existing building, program and membership of our Montessori community. In addition, we would like to tackle the problems we perceive on a day to day basis and build consensus toward solutions. With our diverse backgrounds we know that there is an unlimited number of ingenious ideas that may be considered which will help us improve our school. The goals of the meetings will be to identify areas for improvement; learn about how they may have been addressed in the past; keep a record of these processes for the future; prioritize where areas of improvement stack up in terms of the community interest; evaluate ideas vis a vis our blue print vision; Montessori methodology; and determine a course of action to move forward. So if you are interested, want to find out more about what has made our school what it is today, and invest in moving our vision forward I encourage you to attend these meetings. Perhaps, attending these meetings will give you a sense of what you want to accomplish with your volunteer hours. Maybe it will be a social opportunity to meet the parents of the friends of your child. No matter what your reasons you are welcome and we look forward to meeting with you!

## Physical Education Schedule Term Two

	PRIMARY	INTERMEDIATE
HAP DO SOOL	Monday 12:45—1:45 Jan 15/22/29 Feb 5/12	GYMNASTICS Friday 12:45—1:45 Jan 12/19/26/ Feb 2/9
YOGA	February 19/26 Mar 5/12	Mondays 12:45—1:45 Feb 12/19/26

### From the MIND Board Fundraising

**Pistol Burnes Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and Cocoa** -- The next order will be due December 7 with delivery on December 14. This is perfect timing to plan to give Pistol Burnes items as gifts this holiday season.

**Thrifty Gift Cards**—This is an easy way to support the school while buying your groceries. BBMH gets 5% of the total purchased. Your cheque is not cashed until the day your card is issued, so your money is not “tied up” in between submitting your order and delivery of your card. And you can submit post dated cheques so you don’t miss the due date each month! Look for your order form in your family file.

**Bottle Returns**—Both Ladner and Tsawwassen have BBMH accounts to which you can direct your refunds. We will be holding a Wine **Raffle** at the Winter Concert in December. Please watch for the request for donations.

**Spring Gala**—please contact Diana Nesbitt if you have suggestions for this year’s major fundraising event.

### Family Advisory Committee

This year we held our first annual Jingle Bell Jaunt! All of the students participated in this, jingling their wrist bells and singing various songs both traditional and concert repertoire!. The children walked around the perimeter of the DCLS site one time and then the ‘runners’ carried on following Diana Nesbitt. The run was followed by hot chocolate in the classroom for the Elementary students.

**YEAR SEVEN STUDENT PREPARE FOR A TRIP TO OTTAWA!**



As you may have heard, the Year Seven students have made a proposal to their Directresses and The Board of MIND and are gearing up for a tour to our nation’s capital city – OTTAWA! They are planning to present issues on Global Warming to a member of parliament, visit and learn about parliament and see the beautiful place that is capital to our country. The students are busy planning fundraising activities in order to make their target goal of fundraising - approximately \$15,000! The students are planning to go in April. Please look forward to participating in the various events that the students will hold such as the recent Purdy’s Chocolate sales, Carwashes, Bake Sales and the ever present “Donation Jar” which is in the front administration area of the main building.

*This project is outside of MIND sponsored fundraising – all contributions will be gladly accepted.*

**CALENDAR 2006 2007 FALL TERM 1**

DECEMBER	18	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	19	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	20	CONCERT REHEARSAL—SCHOOL CLOSED PM
	20	CONCERT EVENING
	21	SKATING PARTY 9:30—10:30 TSAWWASSEN
JANUARY	22	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK
	8	BOARD MEETING
	9	SCHOOL BEGINS TERM 2
FEBRUARY	16	PARENT EDUCATION SERIES 2
	17	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
	14	PROJECT LOVE
	19	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
MARCH	16	SCHOOL DISMISSED SPRING BREAK 3:00 PM
	26	SCHOOL REOPENS 8:45 AM

**“We must believe in all the good that lies hidden in the child and prepare ourselves to recognize it with loving concern; only in this fashion will we gradually begin to assess the child correctly”**

**~Dr. Maria Montessori**

**Building Update News:**

Our school continues to be built upon the spirit of community. To that end, a meeting was held on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, with those preschool parents whom could attend, regarding improving the preschool entrance. We began by discussing the frustration that results due to the restrictions of the physical capacity of our new preschool. This, coupled with extreme weather conditions and parents desire to connect with the Directresses and each other were the main concerns cited. We talked about the guidelines that we must adhere to in order to meet licensing requirements and the need that the Directresses have to keep the classroom open in order to have full line of vision of the children in their care. We then began to brainstorm in order to determine what is needed to enhance the entrance to the building to allow for greater access by parents and a warmer environment in which the transition of children to directress could occur. Potential solutions were brought forward:

- ♥ Replacing the metal door with a door that has a window
- ♥ Widening the deck adjacent to the front door and covering it with an aluminum roof and protective siding
- ♥ Widening the staircase to allow more than one person at a time to move up and down the staircase
- ♥ Possibly changing the orientation of the stairs

These modifications will require volunteer support by members of the community. The next step in the process of improving the front entrance involves the building committee determining the most cost-effective and practical dimensions for the covered deck. The committee will keep parents informed and gather further input from the community at critical junctures throughout the process.



Operated by MIND

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

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MIND

It is once again that time of year when we all look forward to time with our families and friends, and to reflect upon the last year.

2006 seems to have flown by however, in many ways 2006 was a year of significant growth for BBMH. It seems to me that it was 12 months ago that we sat around a table discussing options to expand our Preschool facilities. Today, through the thousands of hours of volunteers' hard work we, as a community can be proud of the 1,000 square foot first class facility. Beyond the physical, of pulling up carpet, hammering nails, and cleaning, cleaning, and cleaning, in 2006 BBMH achieved its most successful EDK enrollment ever. Our current Year seven class is the largest in BBMHs' history, and we have also grown our amazingly dedicated teaching staff to its record high level. Last but not least our visibility in the community has increased multi-fold through marketing and participation in the Ladner parade, the Delta Triathlon, and our growing Chimes Program, to name a few.

Time to kick back, relax, and rest up over the holidays. Aggressive plans ahead for 2007...new volunteer opportunities...

On behalf of the MIND Board of Directors, I want to extend to you and your families our heartfelt wishes for a very joyous and safe holiday and a Happy New Year.

Harvey Shaffer, President, MIND

## Characteristics of Montessori Education at BBMH

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Each child's inherent desire to learn and perfect his/her skills is nurtured by the stimulating and dynamic Montessori environment.</li> <li>♥ Each child works at his or her own pace and receives a high degree of individual attention.</li> <li>♥ Respect for each other, the self and the environment are taught within a peace curriculum that is multi-cultural and non-denominational.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The child is honoured in this caring, community-minded educational environment where parents are invited to participate.</li> <li>♥ Student teacher ratios at BBMH are 10:1 in Pre-school and 18:1 in Elementary.</li> <li>♥ Using a 'spiral curriculum' teachers incorporate the latest educational research and use criteria-based assessment tools to promote academic excellence.</li> <li>♥ A well structured, prepared environment, with learning materials that are self-correcting.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Students are prepared for high school by learning the academic skills of time management, task organization, research and exam preparation.</li> <li>♥ With these opportunities, the child is empowered to fulfill his/her own potential thereby fostering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Independence</li> <li>♥ Self-discipline</li> <li>♥ Self-esteem</li> <li>♥ Self-motivation</li> </ul> </li> <li>♥ The child develops a lifetime love of learning</li> </ul> |
|--|---|--|