



**Boundary Bay  
Montessori House**

**Inside this Issue:**

Blueprint Update	1
Calendar	3
Classroom Updates	3
Board Information	4

**Operated by MIND**

Volume 2, Issue 10

June 15, 2006

**Message from the Academic Director**

On May 24, 2006 Eileen and I attended a conference in Richmond specifically to listen to Dr. William and C Glasser, the noted psychiatrist who had written several books on Choice Theory and Quality Schools. We have many of these books in our school library and I invite each of you to read and learn more about this concept. Our teaching team have various levels of experience with his method and we use it actively with your children in our school. The methodology fits like a glove with Montessori philosophy and supports the Administration, teachers and students alike in our day to day interactions. Diane Gossen and Judy Anderson, expanded Glasser's work in their book called Creating the Conditions, Leadership for Quality Schools. Although the title suggests a 'how to' for schools it is equally a handbook for lead management and the premises set forth work in any organization from large to small ones which include the family. In the first chapter of the book it states "We always know when we are in a quality organization by the presence of five hallmarks: environment, management, mentorship, accountability and quality work. These are not complex; half a day in an organization will reveal its character to any astute observer." Some of the characteristics of a quality organization are:

continued on **Page 2**

<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Evidence at BBMH</b>
♥the environment feels calmer;	♥ Enter any classroom to observe this ♥ Most evident upon entry into front foyer during sessions
♥people are doing their best to bring themselves into alignment with the goals of the program	♥ Attendance at Parent Education Evenings and school sponsored events ♥ Attendance at Conferences
♥Self-evaluation occurs and judgment and defensiveness is reduced	♥ Teachers do this annually (formally) and daily practice ♥ Students do this as part of Criteria Based Assessment ♥ And in Conflict Resolution/Restorative Justice Process
♥Internal evaluation is evident	♥ Working with materials
♥Delight is expressed and pride is genuine but praise is not the motivator	♥ The Aha moment ♥ This is felt by the teachers at BBMH when observing your children interacting and learning
♥Decisions are made after vigorous dialogue	♥ Class meetings ♥ Teaching team meetings ♥ Board Meetings
♥Conflict/mistakes are welcome and are a source of inspiring improvement	♥This is a continuous spiral and part of the learning process at BBMH
♥Competition is reduced—mentorship increased	♥ Peer teaching, multi-aged activities, teaching teams
♥The role of team is evident	♥ Lead management by Administration, ♥ Group lessons in classrooms ♥ Student peer teaching and multi-aged groupings,
♥People have problems rather than people are problems	♥ Consensus as a decision making model ♥ Class Meetings
♥Process is the focus and quality becomes part of the product	♥ Criteria Based Assessment at the school/class and project level ♥ Opportunities are given to repeat the process cycle to product
♥Work is need-satisfying	♥ The Montessori principle of Freedom of choice and application of choice theory



*Continued from Page 1*

At BBMH we are working towards being a Quality School. In order to do so it is essential that the teaching team are trained in choice theory. It is also recommended that Board Members learn the principles of choice theory. The process is continuous and we continue to aspire to the goal of Quality. Eileen and I were informed that to become certified by the Glasser Institute we 'declare' ourselves as a Quality School. Before we do this I would like any of the families interested to please express their interest. The benefits of learning this model are that it provides you with a communication and planning tool to use with yourself, your children, individually or in group settings. It creates a foundation for respectful dialogue that will serve you as your children move through the evolving stages of development. It allows both parents and children alike to articulate and meet their needs while being mindful of the needs of others. Most importantly it extends the quality work we do with your children as our students to include you, as their primary caregivers. It aligns the expectations we hold for our students with those that you hold for them as members of your families. If you are interested in learning more please ask any of the teaching team for information. In closing, I would like to wish all each of you a wonderful and safe summer vacation! Thank you for sharing your children with us for this past terrific school year! - Lize Hart

### *Graduation Ceremony*

*Thursday, June 22, 2006 7:00 pm*

We wish the best to the Year Seven students of 2006!

Michaela Forsyth-Schiewe—2000-2006

Jacqueline Fraser—2005-2006

Thomas Hart-1998-2006

Year End Family potluck and  
BBQ—June 23, 2006—at Ken  
and Andrea Malenstyn's home-  
6626-60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, starting at  
5:30pm

**Please come and celebrate the closing of the 2006-2007 school year. Bring something to share, something to barbecue (if you like) as well as plates, cutlery and cups/ glasses for your family. We will be eating outside, so bring chairs or a picnic blanket. If you have**



**BBMH CALENDAR SPRING TERM**

15	Newsletter
16	Professional Development
16	Gala—Cambridge House
20-22	Rehearsals 9-11 am
22	Early Dismissal 11:30 am
22	Concert 7 pm
23	School Closed—
23	Picnic 5:30 pm Malenstyn'
26	Website Meeting 12:00 noon
26	Classroom cleaning
27	Classroom cleaning
28	School closed

**Montessori Masala****June 16, 2005****Ethnic Dress Encouraged—Wear your sari, lederhosen or kimonos**

If you are helping with the decorating or food preparation and need child-care, please sign up at the preschool or elementary doors to ensure appropriate numbers of senior intermediate students are present at Cambridge House.

“...If we remember that man has no behaviour foreordained at birth and that for a child the question is not one of mental awakening, but of mental creation, we see at once how much greater is the role which the environment must play in his life.” - Maria Montessori

**READ YOUR PARENT  
HANDBOOK FOR NEXT  
YEAR'S CALENDAR DATES:**

Or log on to  
[www.bbmh.com](http://www.bbmh.com)



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

....the child adapts himself serenely to his surroundings without reluctance. He sets out on the path of independence we have described, and opens his arms to the environment. He absorbs and makes his own the customs of the world around him.

Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind

*As the year comes to a close we say goodbye to Judy Fulton, our Music Directress and to Tammy Olson, our lunch hour supervisor. We have many fond memories that include both Judy and Tammy and thank them for their work with our students. Their level of care and love has been felt by the children and witnessed by the teaching team and families.. Please take the opportunity to personally say goodbye at the Summer Concert.*

## 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.

### Interested in joining the MIND Board?

The MIND Board is recruiting new members to join for the 2006/7 school year. If you are interested in a position the next meeting is Monday, May 29, 2006. It is a 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