



It is in his soul that a man's education is accomplished.
~ Dr. Maria Montessori

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Message from the Academic Director

Welcome back from Spring Break! What a difference a week has made! We are all relaxed and have had a chance to welcome in the Spring season and embark on a new academic term.

I would like to formally acknowledge some visitors and new members to our school. David comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in Art therapy and has been working with some of our students in both the Primary and Intermediate classrooms. He can be seen on Mondays and Fridays and frequently joins the lunch hour supervisors on the playground. Our other visitor is Lisa Hider, a practicum student from Queen's University. Her uncle lives in Ladner and met one of our parents on the football field. He made some inquiries on behalf of his niece and she and I communicated so that she is now part of our teaching team as a practicum student. She leaves shortly but not without leaving all of our students with a lasting impression. Lisa's background is in biology and she has given our Intermediate students a presentation on Global Warming. She has also effortlessly worked in the Primary room assisting children in math, science and literature. We have enjoyed her expertise and welcome her back any time as she is a wonderful and natural fit in our school.

This term we begin with a Science Fair on Thursday, April 5, 2007 and we welcome John Cummins, MP for South Delta. Our Intermediate students will be presenting their experiments and our Primary students will be presenting various experiments based on the Laws of the Universe experiments that support Dr. Montessori's great lesson of the Origins of the Universe. Very shortly, the Intermediate students head off to Strathcona Park Lodge chaperoned by Barbara Hoffman, Cathy von Ende, Pam Ferguson and David Houghland. This coincides with the Year Sevens cross country trip to Ottawa. They will take the message expressing their concerns about Global Warming to the House of Commons and will be chaperoned by Eileen Wilson and Cathy Goss. They will tour the capital and sit in session, hosted by the assistant to the Speaker of the House.

And while the Intermediate students travel, our Primary/EDK students will enjoy additional Art sessions with Alii Wright and will enjoy the slice of freedom as a result of having a larger area of the school in which to work.

We look forward to the rich experiences that our elder students will share as a result of their 'going out' experiences. ~Safe Trip!

Lize Hart

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

SCIENCE FAIR THURSDAY, APRIL 5 2007

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2007

EASTER MONDAY APRIL 9, 2007

SCHOOL CLOSED



If asked how many seeds may be sown, my answer is "as many as possible"
~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Blueprint Excerpt

1.2. The Montessori approach to learning is the educational framework of our education program at BBMH.

1.2.1. We use the Montessori approach, along with compatible curriculum and selective programmatic elements of additional approaches and materials from the larger non-Montessori educational community, to provide opportunities for enrichment beyond the basic curriculum. As educators, our primary focus will always be the well being and best interests of our students.

1.2.2. The nature of the child plays an important role in the learning process.

1.2.2.1. We affirm that education begins at birth and continues throughout life. While our emphasis is on our children, we provide a center of support for all of us to continue learning and developing toward becoming whole, balanced, and healthy individuals and families.

1.2.2.2. We believe that intelligence is not rare among human beings, nor is it fixed at birth. We believe that people have the intelligence and natural ability required to learn everything they need to lead full, happy, and productive lives.

1.2.2.3. We believe that wisdom can be cultivated and that it emerges from the ability to listen to both heart and mind. To achieve this goal, self-esteem, human dignity, and emotional well being, as well as the ability to communicate and cooperate effectively with others, are valued at BBMH as highly as academic and material success.



News from the Preschool

The final term has taken off with a burst of energy. Finally we have had a chance to enjoy our playground and the children really enjoy this! Please refer to the posting on the door for playground guidelines. We would appreciate if you could adhere to these guidelines during before and after school play.

The EDK children have made the transition to the afternoon program in the Elementary classroom with ease and the Intermediate children will begin to travel into the preschool to 'assist' with the three and four year olds.

Our cultural studies have been the study of the Arctic with the children investigating polar animals. The EDK children have furthered this study by learning about Penguins. They will share their discoveries with the preschool children in the morning and afternoon. We are beginning to develop our terrarium which will add to our menagerie which at present includes the bunnies being part of our classroom. This month the EDK children begin Junior Great Books Literacy Program in afternoon.

A Note From Lisa

The evolution of learning and discovery is a sensory experience in a Montessori environment. You explore matter with the touch of your hands, the inhaling and exhaling of smells, with visual cues distinguished with your eyes, with sounds waves entering your ears, and with the taste of new flavours and creations. Each sense is equally important for active discovery. That's simply it! Montessori schools unlike traditional schools, take a student-centered learning approach by placing hands-on materials into the fingertips of students. The mastering of strategies and concepts continually aid to support the building of new fundamental ideas. The bridge between abstract and concrete concepts is well laid out, preventing students from forming gaps in their understanding. Because of the multi-year classrooms, the older students act as teachers, mentors, role-models, and supporters for younger students. You rarely get this type of opportunity in larger public school classrooms. Students are intrinsically motivated to learn and this is clearly evident when they are able to work and accomplish projects when given the freedom and time to do so. Everything is so structured, timed, transitioned, and rigid in a normal classroom. Personally, I feel that kids thrive on being given responsibility and the flexibility to be creative without worry about what "grade" they will receive. The Montessori philosophy believes that students become masters and experts of skills by means of self-correction verses testing. I fully believe this.

The students are constantly building a repertoire of new words and behaviours with virtue training. It's a simple way to educate and remind students of evaluating their own actions and how they are to treat others. It's brilliant! It is a privilege to attend such an outstanding school community, where the parents, students, volunteers and teachers are a big family. The teacher's exemplify a passion for teaching, continual learning, and a love for their students. This package is rarely offered in a traditional school.

Leaving Boundary Bay Montessori House, I am taking with me a new excitement and fresh outlook on the ability of students to be self motivated, the confidence in using manipulates or hands-on materials when teaching, and allowing students more freedom to discover, invent, and become leaders. For me, the reward of teaching is knowing that your life makes a difference and that's simply it!

~That's all from me,

Lisa Hider

Queen's University Student Teacher



BBMH CALENDAR SPRING TERM

Intermediate students are excited and looking forward to their various trips. The Year Four to Six students are counting the days until they leave for Strathcona Park outdoor camp. The Year Sevens are anxious to leave for Ottawa! Prior to departing on our respective trips, the students are busy preparing for the Science Fair on Thursday, April 5th. The intermediate parents are invited to view the science fair from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. Our special guest on that day will be John Cummins, our Conservative Member of Parliament. The Year Sevens will present their reports on global warming to John Cummins. Besides these amazing events we are continuing with our daily work in all areas and have started a six week, indoor rock climbing program at the Hangout in Richmond.

~Eileen, Barbara and Cathy

April	6-9	Easter Break
	10-13	Intermediate Camp
	10-17	Ottawa Trip
	20	Earth Day
	23-27	Observations
May	TBA	FSA
	21	Victoria Day
	31	Student Led Conferences
June	7	Sports Day
	11	Professional Development
	19-21	Rehearsals 9-11 am
	21	Early Dismissal 11:30 am
	21	Concert 7 pm
	22	School Closed—Florin Time TED

Our class is occupied in many areas of the curriculum but it is their involvement in *Junior Great Books* that we wish to highlight in this edition of the newsletter. The Year 1s are enthralled with the stories that are presented to them and their attraction keeps even the wiggliest children engaged. We are taking two weeks for a mini '*Beatrix Potter Festival*' and we ask those who have materials to share, to offer them to the class. Some children are bringing their books and some have DVDs and songs to share.

The Year 2s and 3s are actively using their critical thinking skills in response to their stories. Often these fairy tales paint the traits of characters and their actions in a strictly 'black and white' fashion. We like to examine this with children, who are between 7 -9 years, as they are ready discuss the 'grey' that is part of their moral development. Recently we had a favourite called *The Fisherman and His Wife*. In this story a fisherman catches a magical fish who urges the man to cast him back into the sea. His wife asks about 'the catch of the day' and when she hears of the magical powers of the fish, she harshly chastises her husband for not asking for a favour. Surely the fish could transform their humble living conditions from a hut to a cottage. This wish is granted and a fine cottage it is with fruit trees and flowers, pastures and livestock, and a home as comfortable as can be. The wife is greedy and she commands her husband to repeatedly request more riches of the fish. The story escalates in a remarkable way to the point that all wealth is lost and the couple is returned to squalor. The children all said they would be content with the cottage for its setting appealed to them the most. The children put themselves in the shoes of the fisherman as they appreciated his perspective. Asked what the husband could have done since he loathed asking the fish for more and more, yet he obliged his nagging wife in her quest for power and luxury, the children offered these responses. One child said they could have divorced, another suggested that he could take the money and leave town, and the teacher asked, "Is this the best way to solve a problem?" One child defended his answer saying some people do handle it that way. Another thoughtful child offered, "Well, he could have told her how he felt and firmly say that he wouldn't ask anything more of the magical fish." The teacher nodded and added, "The fisherman could take a stand and say clearly what his position was. When we do that, what virtue are we using?" The children confidently answered in spontaneous unison, "**Assertiveness!**" They were emphatically certain of their answer! They shared the mutual understanding that they've gained from our study of *The Virtues Project* and felt a united bond in a socially responsible approach to concerns. Bravo for their application of what they are learning and how they are developing sterling qualities in their character!

For more information, enjoy this web site: www.virtuesproject.com



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REGISTRATION UPDATE

Thank you to families who promptly returned their registration packages. We have openings in the following classrooms—afternoon Preschool/Kindergarten and Primary classrooms. Please spread the news to your friends and acquaintances who may be interested in Montessori Education and ask them to contact Lize or Barbara for more information.

We are currently conducting tours and are accepting applications for September 2007.

Here is a short testimonial from a mum's moment at BBMH

"Early one afternoon, my younger son fell ill with this season's flu. I came to pick him up from the preschool classroom, a tired sleepy boy cuddled in a blanket glad to go home. All his classmates were curious. They sneaked concerned glances his way and then resumed their activities. At the car, I bundled him up and gave him a bottle of water to hold while I went to the main building to pickup his older brother. He had spotted the car and was worried about his younger brother. As I entered the school, the air inside was calm and a quiet buzz of activity emanated from every room. What immediately ran through my mind was "This is why I chose this school" On this regular school day, I saw the students engaged in art class, mapping making, group and independent learning and all of them coexisting. My oldest son got to bring home math materials for the night and we took his younger brother home to rest...."

You may have noticed two Primary students sporting "floppy mohawk" haircuts.... Here is an explanation from the children....

"We are being supportive to Connor Duchek who is Jack Harris' cousin and Beck's friend. He is in Children's Hospital because he has leukemia. The reason we have a "Mohawk" haircut is because he asked us to support "Balding for Dollars". We are shaving all of our hair off on April 21st in support of him."

~Jack Harris and Beck Malenstyn



Never let a child risk failure until he has a reasonable chance of success

~ Dr. Maria Montessori.

PARENT PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

- ♥ Material Makers
- ♥ Book coverers

- ♥ Fundraising committee members—see Diana Nesbitt
- ♥ Board Members

Fundraising

Pistol & Burnes Coffee Order forms are in your mail box. There are many different blends of coffee to choose from as well as teas, syrups, chocolate and cocoa.

Bottle Depots Both the Ladner and Tsawwassen bottle depots have BBMH accounts. You can direct the proceeds from your empties to our accounts just by mentioning the school name.