



Boundary Bay Montessori House

Operated by MIND

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May 2005

Message from the Academic Director

Inside this issue:

...One of our special words this month is wisdom. Rachel Carson writes "I sincerely believe that for the child...it is not so important to know as to feel. If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow." Facts produce wisdom? Perhaps, and also learning through and by experience teach us as much. Additionally we learn in our Montessori training that "the hand is the instrument of the brain" supporting the notion that one learns by doing especially through the training of the senses. Wisdom, or the accumulation of scientific and philosophic knowledge, insight, good sense and judgement needs to be a blend of emotional (feeling) and cognitive (intellectual) knowledge.

At Boundary Bay Montessori House we take great pride in our belief that what is important for our students is to learn is to identify feelings and express those feelings as they gain wisdom through experience, knowledge of facts and being actively involved. Recent brain research supports the idea that in order for humans to learn they must be emotionally stable. Often for our students that means having a time to share their feelings, share a laugh and confirm their understanding of the expectations of their day and their work schedule. We do this in circle and there is a well-established pattern of trust in what is being shared. It is the wise teacher who understands that by consistently establishing trust we create a container out of which the qualities of wisdom grow: clarity, objectivity, discernment, and detachment.

Cathy and I present a Peace Curriculum workshop every two years at the Canadian Association of Mon-

essori Teachers conference in Toronto. We dispense advice to other Montessori teachers to help them create harmony in their classrooms. One of the pieces of wisdom we share with them is through the acronym DARE. It stands for *Drop your Agenda to Resolve Emotions*. It is essential to live by this motto when working with the students at our school. Throughout the day students are faced with the challenge of mastering routines, materials and concepts. They learn to interact respectfully and when they do not understand they learn to re-try, practice and clarify until their communication skills develop and they feel a great sense of being understood, enjoyed and even loved. It is our 'cosmic' task, as teachers, to continually set the stage and create the environment to nurture this emotional growth and as a result we see small and large leaps in our students.

Montessorians are to be observers. It is a difficult task to wait and trust, (a component of wisdom). It is hard to have faith that each child who enters the doors of our school, in spite of their race, religion or socio-economic background, will leave a little bit wiser. And yet we see it over and over again. They learn a sense of justice that is created from being heard; a sense of right and wrong by learning to listen to the feelings behind the actions, the heart behind the thoughts. Montessori implored society to follow the child. I think that in doing so your children, our students, teach us to be wise as we teach them the importance of feelings. The importance that outweighs who-said-what and-when-and-how-myopia that can permeate a conflict and restrict the vision towards resolution.

We are a small community but we have a very large will and our chil-

dren exemplify this in their ability to pay attention to one and other. This is not to say that they do not quibble or that they do not feel resentments. However, in instructing them from a place of feelings they are learning that respect for each other is highly significant and show us in their day to day actions.

I heard from one of our parents, that during his recent trip to Angola, he learned that young children are rounded up after dinner to sleep in local community centres—for their safety. Kissing your child to sleep at night is not an option. Not if you cared to see them safe and sound the following day. When he told me of this I noticed how sad he was and yet how he wisely turned this sadness into a feeling of gratitude that he lives in a country where he knows his children are safely tucked into their bedrooms and, should they need to, can call for comfort and have their parents come to their bedside.

It is important for all of us to wisely consider our blessings. That we can spend the time to make feelings a priority because our security is a given. That we have a terrific school, filled with every educational tool needed to support our children and nurture them emotionally, intellectually, socially, physically and spiritually!

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| REMINDERS | |
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| May 16 to June 13 | Primary swimming lessons from Mondays 2:00 to 3:00 |
| May 18 | Student-Led Interviews Elementary 6:00-9:00 KindeS Leds 6-7pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences 1-3 pm & 7-9pm |
| May 26 | Intermediate field trip to Grouse Mountain |
| June 2 | FIRST Parent Evening for 2005 2006 7:30 pm |
| June 17* | NOTE CHANGE from June 15 Sports Day-Mountain View Park |
| June 16 | Gala Fundraiser 7:30 11:00 pm Cammidge House, Centennial Beach |
| June 21, 22, 23 | Concert rehearsals at Delta Arts Council 9-11am |
| June 23 | Concert and Graduation Ceremony 7:00 pm |



*He who has begun has
half done. Dare to be
wise; Begin!*

Primary Class Update

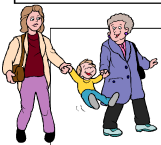
Since our last issue we have had a great deal of activity. Our elementary school celebrated Earth Day as we do every year (usually April 22nd.) It was a gorgeous day and we enjoyed many activities at Diefenbaker Park from the spontaneous, free-flowing rolling down hills that children are inclined to do when the spirit moves them to our organized games. Ask your children to tell you about "Bear! Bug! Frog!" An unfortunate accident occurred at mid-morning when Emma Kanerva broke her leg. She was running her fastest and slipped, breaking her femur. With a lot of quick thinking and responding, the teachers and her mother, Leslie, got Emma the care she needed, where her day closed at Children's Hospital. The recovery time for Emma will take weeks and she has returned to school for small intervals of time. In our school photographs taken May 11th, Emma is seated in a wheelchair. Our students have been devoted to bringing her good cheer and Emma says she receives 'three letters a day' from her classmates. As experienced letter-writers and caring young people, they are able to write their letters with ease. Emma is an adaptable student and she is keeping up with her missed work. All of us look forward to her being fully recovered.

These last weeks of school are filled with lessons and practise that are the conclusion of long-term learning. The Year Three children are occupied with a spelling program known as Six-Spell. The students begin to apply their understanding of the word studies they have learned such as antonym, synonyms, syllabication and consonant digraphs and diphthongs. They are also showing mastery in grammar by their ability to identify parts of speech. The Montessori grammar scheme greatly appeals to children and empowers them through a captivating lesson and colourful follow-up as each part of speech is defined by a particular colour and symbol. Their neat and accurate work is a joy to view. In History the lessons in the Clock of Eras and the Time Line of Life have the children working with a hands-on a model and creating their own learning material. Their full participation in this work helps them to embrace concepts that might otherwise seem abstract.

Year Two children are busy with an on-going study of Rocks and Minerals. While the terms sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic are new to the ears at first, the study of how rocks are formed brings the words to life. The Year One students are completing an investigation of the solar system.

All the students are showing remarkable refinement in the paragraph maps they create every week about virtues. The most stunning improvement is seen in Year 1 work which shows the ability to verbalize and write sentences in an original way, to print neatly and to be aware of spelling and punctuation. Our virtues have been determination, bravery, obedience and wisdom.

The word 'secret' is the mode of operation while the Year Three children begin rehearsing for a play based on a story from Junior Great Book literature. This is one of the highlights of being in Year Three and excitement is running high. The date will be announced for this little piece of 'theatre' which is viewed by the parents of the Year Three children, their classmates and the intermediate children.



WISDOM FROM A GRANDMOTHER - Having watched several of my grandchildren graduate from BBMH, I am thankful that they have had this privilege. I can think of so many reasons for my gratefulness. First of all I see the special attention paid to the children by such truly caring teachers - the gentleness of their counseling - the concern for the individual needs of each student, be it academic or social. This careful consideration is so apparent. And then I see the moral attitudes - so firmly imparted - which the children integrate in their daily lives. I see the affirmation received each day by peers and teachers, making growing up and passing through the "teen" years so much easier for them. I believe this total dedication by the school community to each child creates such a positive setting in which they spend their early school years and is a remarkable thing. It is an invaluable and priceless benefit at the most important time of their lives and so for all these reasons, I care and am ever-grateful!

*Wisdom is more
precious than ru-
bies...Proverbs*

Intermediate Class Update

The school year is quickly coming to an end (it is hard to believe!!!) and we are completing a variety of interesting work. In history the students are researching First Nations, Early Explorers, and the Canadian government. We are studying poetry in language and exploring a variety of poetic devices and types of expressions. In math we will be exploring geometry for the last part of the year. In science, we are continuing with our study of ecology and the relationships between all living things on Earth. This will culminate in a field trip to Grouse Mountain on endangered wildlife in British Columbia. We will depart from the school at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 26th, and return to the school for pick-up at 3:00 p.m. A list requesting car pool drivers will be posted at the school shortly.

The Intermediate class is in the midst of completing the Fundamental Skills Assessment for the Ministry of Education. All students are writing the Numeracy, Reading Comprehension and Writing evaluation, although only Grade Four's and Seven's work is required to be submitted. It is an opportunity to learn to sit for a formal exam.

Preschool Class Update

What's new? We are continuing our 'growing' theme and studying plant life and lifecycles. We would like to invite any donations of flowers from your garden for our classroom. Boughs, branches or flowers which would be safe for children to handle and arrange to make their learning space more beautiful and give them the creative experience.

What's been happening? Our Earth Day celebration was a great success! We created two garden areas and planted pansies, African daisies and sweet peas into the earth. Many little hands were very busy digging, watering, and painting our mural. The scarlet runner beans which each child planted, went home and some were a whole foot taller! Enjoy your beans.

What's coming up? Six more weeks until summer!!! We will be very busy this term not only with our learning, but will also be: having school photos, practicing for the June concert, practicing for Sports Day, conferencing with parents... Time is of the essence and it is more important now than ever to be prompt at arrival and pick up times. **Please remember school begins at 9:00am and children are to be dismissed at 11:30 to an adult's supervision.**

Please continue to check the parent information board!

FIRST PARENT EVENING OF 2005/2006 TO BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 2 AT 7:30 PM.

The Go-bid auction site will be available for viewing!

Calendar

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|-------|---------------------------|
| March | 11 Newsletter |
| | 14 Observations |
| | 15 Observations |
| | 18 Reports Distributed |
| | 21 Spring Break |
| April | 4 Return to School |
| | 5 Intermediate Camp |
| | 15 Newsletter |
| | 22 Earth Day |
| | 29 PDDay 5 |
| May | 8 Mothers Day |
| | 9 Sign up for conferences |
| | 13 Newsletter |
| | 18 SL Conference |
| | 23 Victoria Day |
| June | 2 Parent Evening #1 |
| | 10 Sports Day |
| | 16 Gala |
| | 17 Father's Day |
| | 23 Concert |
| | 24 Picnic |

The days that make
us happy make us
wise.—anonymous





Operated by
MIND

Boundary Bay Montessori House
3800 72nd Street
Ladner, B.C.
V4K 2B2
Phone: 604-946-9814
Fax: 604-946-9816
Email: teachers@bbmh.com

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.

MESSAGES FROM THE FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bottle Returns - Both the Tsawwassen and Ladner bottle depots accept returns directed to BBMH.

Organics - Look for organics fresh sheet orders Monday morning. Written orders need to be at the school by 3pm Tuesday and Leslie Kanerva needs to receive online orders by 7pm Tuesday for Friday pickup at the school. 20% of the purchase price goes to the school.

Thrifty gift cards - Everyone needs groceries, so ask your friends, family and neighbours about buying Thrifty Foods gift cards. They are available in any denomination and 5% of the value of the card comes back to the school.

Coffee Orders - Will be coming May 16 and again in June. Volunteer wanted to tend to the orders!

Year-end fundraiser - In past years, we have had a "gala" event which included dinner, entertainment as well as silent and live auctions. This year, we are changing things by separating the silent auction component of the event in favour of going with an online auction on www.gobid.ca. This auction runs from June 1st to June 15th. We are also holding an evening of live jazz music, wine, and art "Chords and Canvass" that will include a live auction of the ceramics made by the different classes and a small number of silent auction items. If you are able to donate items for our auctions (or need volunteer hours), please contact Diana Nesbitt or Christina Davey. We are hoping that a wine and cheese format will allow all of our parents to attend on June 16th at the Cammidge House, from 7:30-11:00. Please feel free to contribute to this fundraiser if you are unable to participate. See Leslie Kanerva or Cathy Von Ende for tickets.

Wine raffle - We will be holding a wine raffle at the end of year concert on June 23. We will be using the same format as at December's concert. A request for wine donations will come in May.

Volunteer hours - Please remember to record volunteer hours in the red binder on the library shelves.

Board meetings - Our next MIND board meeting is on Monday, May 16th at 7:30 at the school. Please feel welcome to attend. If you would like an item to be on the agenda, please forward details to Wayne Davey at wcdavey@dccnet.com.

May Days Parade - This event is coming on May 29th. Please see Jeremy Mauseette if you would like to participate!

"W" is for wisdom. Wisdom means to be kind, to have courage and to make decisions well. I practice wisdom when I choose carefully and am smart in my thinking. I show wisdom when I do what is best. I feel proud and helpful when I am wise.

Love Ryan Von Ende



St. John's first aid course
Offered August 30 & 31, 2005 from
9:30 to 5:30 at the school site.



Blueprint Update

I.3. We are an international school.

- I.3.1.** We recognize the challenges and opportunities presented by a world population that has become integrated well beyond traditionally established cultural borders.
- I.3.2.** As members of contemporary society, we recognize the existence of a variety of beliefs. We celebrate this diversity in our community.
- I.3.3.** We seek to develop a global perspective and international education throughout our curriculum at every age level:
- I.3.3.1.** through the study of a second language
 - I.3.3.2.** through the study of physical, cultural and economic geography
 - I.3.3.3.** through correspondence and travel opportunities (as is age appropriate)
 - I.3.3.4.** through encouraging families to share their cultural traditions, travel experiences and traditional festivals.
 - I.3.3.5.** through experiential opportunities in multi-cultural education.