



**Boundary Bay
Montessori House**

**Stay tuned
for Winter Concert Raffle
Information!**

Operated by MIND

Volume 5, Issue 2

NOVEMBER 2008

**Message from the Academic Director,
Pam Ferguson**

One of the strengths of BBMH and Montessori education is the emphasis placed upon teaching the values surrounding social responsibility, and supporting students to develop a conscientious approach to the roles they play in our community. BBMH has participated annually in various service and charitable projects, but this year, the Teaching Team felt a strong need to ensure that these projects are meaningful for students, and that they have a voice in determining how to direct their energy and commitment to supporting their community. This fall, the Teaching Team spent professional development time examining values related to service in the community. We determined that it was critical that students understand how all of us contribute through our actions and service, and that they become involved in determine how they provide service, guided by the values which define the BBMH community. The students have embraced their involvement in this decision-making process, and have become empowered through their research, presentations and choices about how they want to contribute to their local and global communities.

As we wrestled through the process for providing students with a voice in our community, this article by Ted Kuntz "landed" in my email Inbox, and I would like to share it with you. Ted has written a book called *Peace Begins With Me*; you can find further information about his book and website at <http://www.peacebeginswithme.ca/index.html>.

**Some Assembly Required
Creating Healthy and Peaceful Communities**

By Ted Kuntz (reprinted with permission)

When my daughter Lani was young her most prized possession was a Cabbage Patch doll. So, of course, she needed a Cabbage Patch stroller to proudly display her doll. And so on her next birthday I purchased the focus of her desire.

The stroller came in a box much too small to contain a stroller. I read the fine print on the side - "*Some assembly required*". I struggled for hours to assemble the numerous pieces in a manner that resembled a stroller. Eventually I had something that moved on four wheels but with enough parts left over to build something else!

I reflect upon my stroller assembly experience when looking for how we can come together as human beings to share land, resources, space, and time. The words - "some assembly required" rings in my ears. Building a healthy community does not happen by accident. It requires intention, thoughtful actions, patience, consideration, and acceptance of

**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST**

**See Kirsten, Paola, or
Lorraine for volunteer
needs.**

Nov. 11 Remembrance Day
School is closed

Vancouver Symphony
Orchestra field trip for EDK-
Year 7 students
Wed., Nov. 12, 2008
8:15 a.m. arrival
8:30 a.m. departure
12:00 p.m. return to school
Volunteer drivers needed!

Ice Skating Begins
Thursday, **Nov. 13**
12:45 pm departure
**Volunteer drivers
and skaters needed!**

PURDY's Chocolates orders
due **Nov. 14th**

Observation Week
Nov. 17-21

3-Way conferences
Nov. 24.-25

**SCHOOL CLOSURES
Nov.-Dec. 2008**

November 11
November 24-25
December 18 afternoon
December 19-January 5

School Reopens:
**TUESDAY,
JAN.6, 2009**



values and perspectives different than our own. And yet, when we venture boldly into this endeavour, we can create a world of comfort, safety, and companionship.

Many years ago I participated in the creation of a cooperative housing development in Port Moody, BC. In the beginning, a housing community based on cooperation and inclusion was just an idea, and the land was part of an untouched forest. I remember tramping through the woods, stepping over logs and moving branches to get a glimpse of where my new home might be. What I remember most, however, was the experience of coming together with a group of people and imagining, designing, and considering the dreams and wishes of the many families who would share this space and call it home.

The result was a beautiful interplay of trees and earth, bricks and mortar, to create a place where people could live. The goal was to create a community where people would come together and share life. The design included a common building for community gatherings, a number of playground areas for children of all ages, level walkways for mothers and fathers with strollers (and my daughter), special design considerations for individuals with mobility challenges, and the preservation of some of the most majestic trees on the site.

The design component that made the most impact however, was the decision to locate the parking adjacent to the street rather than attached to homes. This allowed for as much green space as possible, and more importantly, invited people out of their cars. The result was the opportunity to interact with one's neighbours. I remember many an evening where the 3 minutes walk from my car to my front door took 30 minutes as I engaged in rich conversation with my friends and neighbours.

A healthy and peaceful community doesn't happen on its own. It requires the thoughtful actions and intentions of committed citizens who behave in ways to ensure that we live in a safe and healthy community. A healthy and peaceful world too doesn't happen on its own. It requires the thoughtful actions and intentions of committed citizens who behave in ways to ensure that everyone lives in safe and healthy communities regardless of race, religion, nationality, or resources. In both cases "some assembly is required".

*"It is possible that the next Buddha will not take the form of an individual.
The next Buddha may take the form of a community -
a community practicing understanding and loving kindness,
a community practicing mindful living.
This may be the most important thing we do for
the survival of the earth ."*

Thich Nhat Hanh

Family Advisory Committee (FAC) Activity Update

- FAC has chosen a charitable organizations to provide assistance to this holiday season. "Sox in the City" is an organization that provides clean socks to the homeless. The FAC will also collaborate with the Intermediate class to support their fundraising efforts. Further information regarding how contributions can be made will be provided in upcoming weekly newsletters.
- The year-end skating party will take place December 19, 2008. This is a potluck event, and everyone is encouraged to come out and have fun!
- If you are interested in joining the FAC, please contact Ashifa Ahmed @ 604-542-4786.



A major focus this term, for both the staff and students, was on the virtue of *service*. We started this process by defining it for ourselves as staff members at a Professional Development Day in September. It was then brought to the Intermediate Students we started by discussing and defining the term *service*. We used the Virtues Project definition as a starting point.

“Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives. It is looking for ways to be helpful instead of waiting to be asked. The needs of others are as important to you as your own. When you work with a spirit of service, you give any job your best effort. You make a real contribution. People who want to be of service can change the world.”

The Intermediates then defined *service* in our class and listed the ways in which they already volunteered within the school, community and globally, such as helping out in the primary and preschool, singing and performing at care facilities, contributing to Project Love. The students then brainstormed a list of other organizations and causes which they might want to support through volunteer time or financially. Once the list was compiled, they broke into small groups to choose five or six organizations they wanted to learn more about.

When we reconvened, they each chose one or two organizations on which to gather information and research. As well as determining if the organization was legitimate, and supported the values of our class, they also tried to determine the amount of funding going directly to the cause, and the amount spent on administration. The students were very enthusiastic and focused while doing this part of the project. They created a short presentation that they shared with their peers and with the primary students on U.N. Day. The organizations they chose were either from the community, a national or international organization. Their final choices for organizations to support this year are the following: W.W.F., Basics for Babies, Make a Wish Foundation, Delta Hospice, Mountain View Animal Shelter, U.N.I.C.E.F. Pink Ribbon Foundation, Children’s Hospital, and Secret Santa.

Students are now eagerly brainstorming methods of fundraising and an action plan for implementation. The Intermediate class is looking at ways to include the primary students by presenting their research to them and eliciting their support for the organizations they have chosen. The Primary students will also be included in the many fundraising projects this term and throughout the year.

Next week, the Intermediate class will be presenting their service plans to the Family Advisory Committee, in order to look at ways that fundraising efforts can be collaborative throughout the school year.

Message from Montessori in Delta Society Board President, Sheila Binnie

As the clocks changed last weekend, we regained a few days of brighter mornings and began adjusting to the earlier evenings. In our parks and gardens, the golden and red leaves blew to the ground awaiting a stampede of feet or the roar of the gardener’s leaf blower. We searched our closets for boots, jackets and gloves so that playtime was warm. New activities and learning adventures are beginning. This year’s AGM was held on September 19th, a total of 66 of 98 MIND members attended (67%) plus the teaching staff. This is an excellent increase over the 42% of the previous year. So thank you all for:

- ▶ Your flexibility in the last minute venue change
- ▶ Listening first hand to last year’s highlights
- ▶ Participating in M.I.N.D. Board elections
- ▶ Meeting the School’s Teaching and Administrative Team

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CALENDAR 2008 2009 * FALL TERM

NOVEMBER	11	REMEMBRANCE DAY—School is closed
	17-20	OBSERVATION WEEK
	24-25	3 WAY CONFERENCES EDK/ELEMENTARY; School is closed
DECEMBER	8	Term I Report Cards Distributed
	16	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	17	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	18	CONCERT REHEARSAL—SCHOOL CLOSED PM
	18	CONCERT—evening activity
	19	SKATING PARTY—morning activity
	19	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK
JANUARY	6	SCHOOL Re-opens

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Subsequently, at the Board Orientation meeting October 1st, Executive and Committee Leads were chosen for the 2008-09 school year. All parents are welcome to join or assist with FAC, Fundraising, Building, Volunteer, and Marketing Committees. Consult the underlined lead for info. The other committees are for school administration only.

Executive Officers & Committee

- President. Sheila Binnie.
- Co-Treasurers. Alison Bermel and Jennifer Rosen
- Secretary & Vice President. Jeff Von Ende

Committee Representation from Board

- **Family Advisory (FAC).** Ashifa Ahmed, Alison Bermel, Rauni Malhi
- **Fundraising.** Rauni Malhi, Mona Jagga
- **Volunteer.** Sheila Binnie, Mona Jagga
- **Marketing.** Mona Jagga, Pam Ferguson, Sheila Binnie
- **Buildings/Playground.** Harvey Shaffer
- Personnel. Jeff Von Ende, Karen Gillespie, Jennifer Rosen
- Policy. Harvey Shaffer, Jeff Von Ende, Pam Ferguson
- Finance. Karen Gillespie, Jennifer Rosen, Alison Bermel
- ♦ Bursary. Sheila Binnie, Harvey Shaffer

Most of my spare time this month was spent marketing for the FAC sponsored public parent education night with speaker Barry MacDonald. With the support of our school community and our connections within Delta this event was a great success. Last night, we had 211 attendees and sold 35 tickets at the door and gave out 6 door prizes. Barry MacDonald held our attention for the greater part of two hours regardless of the varying ages and genders of our children. Then we went home to see the historical results of the US Election.

FAC/Volunteer Committee Reminders:

Before the Winter Holidays suddenly arrive please submit your volunteer hours and projected Dec. hours via email to sbinnie@telus.net by December 1st. Alternately, look for the PPP binder starting November 17th Observation week. The school contract requires each Preschool family give a minimum of 12 hours and each Elementary family to give 24 hours by December 31st; otherwise the first PPP default cheque will be cashed.

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 9:1 in Pre-school/Kindergarten 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.