



# Boundary Bay Montessori House

Operated by MIND

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## Message from the Academic Director

Our annual potluck and AGM was an evening that provided us with a chance to share fun with one and other. It was wonderful to be a part of the tribute to Heather Main who returned to be honoured by the families of Boundary Bay Montessori House. In order to create the tone of the evening numerous volunteers were very busy for the months and weeks before the evening. It was an extremely worthwhile event and one that emphasizes the unique school community of which we are all a part. While eating dinner, I addressed the guests by posing, and answering the question of ...

**What motivates us?** For those who were unable to attend the event I have included my message....

What motivates us to be parents and teachers in this Montessori school? A school that exists because of the hard work, (thousands of hours of hard work), of our volunteer time? Why work so hard for this form of education for our children? I thought long and hard and came up with the realization that we recognize that we are very advantaged.

Firstly, we are a group of people that have the advantage of understanding what mindful parenting is. We know that creating these beautiful beings was not a random occurrence- that what we began set us apart from the minute they were born. We wanted to enjoy and nurture in a way that would lend meaning to our time with our precious children. Each activity from feeding to toileting to spending leisure time was a joy in spite of the

effort. Our children were worth all that we had. We also have the advantage of time and place – we live in a place where we have the luxury of peace, the luxury of leisure time and the luxury of intellectual sophistication. Peace and time let us use our intellect to seek an education for our children that fits.

We understand intuitively what Montessori wrote of the planes of development. For preschool parents what strikes us is the calm that pervades our children when they are captivated by activities that absorb them completely. This is provided for in their classroom. For the parent of the primary child we seek the basic fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic. And more over we desire sincere social exchanges, emotional safety and the presence of a loving teacher. This is provided for in their classroom. For the intermediate parents we want structure, challenge, clear feedback and direction from an inspirational teacher. Once again, this is provided for in their classroom.

And so, for we types of parents, we have landed at 3800 72<sup>nd</sup> street and have recognized the advantages of Montessori education.

- Each child's inherent desire to learn and perfect skills is stimulated and nurtured by the dynamic Montessori environment
- Children are honoured in this caring community-minded environment and receives a high degree of individual attention
- Student teacher ratios at BBMH are 9:1 in the preschool and 18:1 in

the Elementary classrooms. Teachers are certified by accredited Montessori Training Centres

- Using a 'spiral curriculum, teachers incorporate the latest educational research and use criteria-based assessment tools to promote academic excellence.
- A well-structured, prepared environment, with learning materials that are self-correcting enable children to develop independence
- Respect for each other, the self and the environment are taught within a peace curriculum that is multicultural and non-denominational
- Students are prepared for high school by learning the academic skills of time management, task organization, research and exam preparation.
- Children gain social awareness and moral development. They learn a vision of humanity and its accomplishments that inspires them to take their place in the community as responsible, contributing adults.

Finally, and gratefully, we understand that the magnitude of raising solid citizens is a job that requires 'the village'. We count our blessings that when we get to know one and other we know that, like ourselves, the parent speaking with you shares your vision, a set of values that motivates them, like yourself to move beyond the monitoring of volunteer hours and, in doing so, helps provide our children to take advantage of the kind of education received at BBMH.

**Lize Hart—Academic Director**

### BLUEPRINT UPDATE

The staff will be continuing with the blueprint cycle by reviewing the sections of the blueprint listed below. (Please refer to August and September newsletters for additional information regarding the blueprint cycle.)

- ♥ The Montessori approach to learning is the educational framework of our education program at BBMH.
- ♥ BBMH is a multicultural school committed to diversity.
- ♥ BBMH is designed to prepare students both for life and for future educational endeavors.
- ♥ Our school teaches children to be at home in the world of nature.
- ♥ BBMH is a family-friendly school.
- ♥ We are committed to developing character by embracing virtues and high personal standards.
- ♥ BBMH is a close-knit community of students, educators, parents, extended family and friends of the school.

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### REMINDERS

- Artist-in Residence
- Out of School Care Program
- MS Read-a-thon November 1 Reading Day
- Gordon Neufeld "Why Parents Matter" November 18
- Family Fun Fair November 20
- Winter Concert December 15 (originally scheduled for December 17)

*True knowledge gives a moral standing and moral strength.*



## What's Happening in the Classroom

### PRESCHOOL UPDATE

*"Thank you for this food, this food, this glorious, glorious food...and the animals and the vegetables and the minerals that make it possible"*

We are truly thankful for many things and at this time of the season we are appreciating what we have and admiring nature. We have discussed Thanksgiving and what we are personally thankful for-look for some quotes on our new bulletin board in the entryway. This season of the Harvest, with the abundance of fruit and vegetables will add to our theme of 'growing' this term. We will be visiting the pumpkin patch on **Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** which will be our first field trip of the year. An exciting outing at Sunnyside nursery in Tsawwassen will provide the children with a chance to plant a paper white bulb and pick their own pumpkin. We will be needing volunteers for carpooling and supervising that day, please look for posted information.

Another celebration this term is '*Continents Day*'. We are beginning to introduce and rediscover the Continents through culture including people, places, animals, food and language in our own and the other 6 continents of our world. We ask that if you have an interesting item, story, or other artifact to please talk to Jana and Andrea about sharing it with the class or having it stay on loan on our shelf until Continents Day. Items such as clothing, numbers, books, money, photos or some language are fun and interesting to experience. We will have the celebration on **Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** and we ask that the children are dressed in Ethnic clothing (opposed to a Halloween costume) so that we may admire sameness and difference among nations. We will be inviting family members to this event at the preschool, the agenda for the day will be posted. We will need volunteers for set up and clean up because the day involves a multi-cultural buffet lunch that is *numero uno!*

Observations are coming up soon! All parents will have a 20 minute observation for each of their children in our class. On Fridays each child is provided with the opportunity to attend Music class with Judy. In order for a typical observation we have arranged for the following days to be available for parents: **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>** between the hours of 9:20 – 10:40am in 20 minute intervals; parents are to attend one 20 minute observation per child. Sign up sheets will be posted. Following the observations, parent/teacher conferences will occur on **November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>** when the entire school will be closed for these meetings. Again, please look for the sign up sheets to be posted.

We are very excited about the up-coming events and look forward to our outings and innings! Please let us know about your cultural items.

Thank you to our material makers over the long weekend and to Earl Masarsky for creating our new step-up for safe sink access! This step-up now requires painting, if you are interested let us know. If you are a parent who would like some take-home volunteer tasks or something during school time please let us know. Preschool parents can volunteer for Elementary too: refer to the Parent Participation Information.

**Special request:** Does anyone have a dehydrator for food we could borrow?

**Thank you for your ongoing support, Jana and Andrea**

### PRIMARY CLASS UPDATE

Our class is actively interested in the two fundraisers that MIND has approved. Our Jump-Rope-for-Heart was held on three days on the hard surface play area. Everyone, no matter what their skills, enjoyed the playful fun, skipping and songs. Some children have brought in some money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and others intend to bring in their fund-raising soon. We have discussed pledges and the interest we now have in our other fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis. This time it's a read-a-thon which spans three weeks. The children enjoy reading and need their parents to verify the time they spend at home reading. Garnering money for these charities is entirely up to the individual. While everyone shows an interest, there is no obligation to raise funds unless the child and family want to.

On Thursday, October 7th, our former principal, Heather Main, visited our school to reconnect with the students and tell us a bit about the work she is doing. Our children prepared to say 'good-bye' to Heather by thinking of a greeting, compliment or a good wish to say to her when they each met with her and shook her hand. Our virtue taken from the special words bag is "thankfulness." The children each gave Heather their final copy of polished work comprised of a paragraph and an illustration inspired by this word. We practised singing *Peace is the World Smiling* and *Every Child's a Promise* and in a small assembly with the intermediate class we sang together to bid our farewell to Heather. By practising how to offer a sincere compliment, to use eye contact, and to walk with dignity, the children presented themselves admirably. Grace and courtesy are components of the Montessori curriculum, an area that supports the children to have courage, credibility and composure. Heather was pleased to meet with the children and she was touched by their beautiful songs.

We integrate physical, cognitive, social, emotional and creative skills in our weekly rituals. We offer ideas, write, illustrate, demonstrate and problem-solve with tasks such as paragraph mapping for a virtue, writing about the qualities of the special person and in delighted interaction during the special person's presentation of his or her *Me Museum*. All these activities foster self-esteem and character development.

In a recent meeting the children decided what matters to us and we have all agreed that this is what we want to see and offer in our class. Each year the children volunteer various traits that they consider important and this is what we stand for this year:

*In our classroom, we believe it is important to be respectful, peaceful, responsible, caring, happy and helpful.*

These are qualities that they know make school a pleasure. We encourage the children to commit to these attributes by reminding them of their agreement and by helping them learn to be generous in spirit. This is particularly important as they strive to do quality work and to get along well with one another. Each child deserves to be treated fairly and to be valued for his or her individuality.

**Lize and Cathy**

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS UPDATE**

We are all excited to be back and welcome Barbara Hofmann, and four Yr. 4 students, to our classroom. I am amazed at how much the students have grown and matured over the summer. After a warm reunion and the sharing of events of the past summer, the intermediate class was off to a focused start.

During the first week, we started with a Montessori science story called "The Great River." (Have your children share with you the metaphorical "secret" of the Great River.) This lesson launched us into the study of the human body. Students completed a summary package of math work from last year to gauge what review is required and what lessons are to be taught. This will act as a springboard for tailoring this year's math program. We are returning to activities and group work related to Choice Theory, Multi-intelligence and Virtues Project to nurture a safe and open environment in the classroom. We are also preparing ourselves for Peace Day.

An intermediate field trip is planned for September 27th from 10:00 am—2:00 pm to the **Seymour Watershed**. This is an outdoor field trip rain or shine. Please come prepared with rain gear, layers and lunch. Carpool drivers are needed for the day. Sign up or call and leave your name if you are available. *Please be at the school by 8:30 am in order to leave by 8:45 am.*

The intermediate PE program will commence with sports games and circuit fitness, followed by gymnastics, Yoga and skating. We will also be having fun raising money and jumping rope for the Heart and Stroke Foundation with **Jump Rope for Heart**.

In French, the intermediate class will begin with review games prior to starting new packages on sports and the Olympics, communicating likes, dislikes, wants and needs, as well as more in-depth examination of community and culture. Visages 2 contains a lot of dynamic activities that combine speaking, writing, listening and singing in French in ways that are fun for the students.

Eileen Wilson and Barbara Hofmann

***Absolute calm is not the law of ocean. And it is the same with the ocean of life.***

**Elementary P. E. Program**

Yoga                      October 11, 18, 25 and November 1  
 Skating                 November 8, 15, 22, 29 and  
                                December 6 - 9am—10 am

**Keep your eyes out for the opportunity to gather some volunteer hours through material mak-**

**BBMH CALENDAR**  
**Fall Term 2004**

September	2	Primary Orientation
	7	School Begins/Open House
	10	BBQ
	13	Sign up For Conferences
	15	Peace Day
	17	Newsletter
	20	Potluck Sign Up
	23	Parent Conferences
	24	Potluck/AGM
October	5	Mohandas Gandhi
	11	Thanksgiving Day
	15	Newsletter
	21	UN Day
	25	ProD Day 1
	27	Sign up for Obs/3way
November	1	Read-a-thon
	8	Observation Week
	11	Remembrance Day
	12	Newsletter
Newsletter	15	3 Way Conferences
	16	3 Way Conferences
	26	ProD Day 2
December	10	Newsletter
	13	Rehearsal
	14	Rehearsal
	15	Rehearsal/Concert
	17	Skating Party
	17	Winter Holiday 11:30 am

***Individual liberty and interdependence are both essential for life in society.***



**Operated by MIND**

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*Boundary Bay Montessori House is an independent Montessori school registered and classified as a Group I school (Preschool to Grade 7) under the British Columbia Ministry of Education. BBMH opened its Elementary program in 1990. BBMH is administered by the Montessori in Delta Society (MIND), a registered non-profit society since 1986. MIND is comprised of educators and parents who strive to promote excellence in Montessori education in Delta, B.C. All staff are qualified by the Ministry of Independent Schools or the B.C. College of Teachers in accordance with the Independent School Act of British Columbia.*

Literary education should follow the education of the hand – the one gift that visibly distinguishes man from the beast. It is a superstition to think that the fullest development of man is impossible without a knowledge of the art of reading and writing.

That

knowledge undoubtedly adds grace to life, but is in no way indispensable for man's moral, physical or material growth... **Gandhi**



(The child) is directed by a mysterious power, great and wonderful, that he incarnates little by little. In this way, he becomes a man. He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work. The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence...those children who have been able to work with

their hands make headway in their development, and reach a strength of character which

**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.*



***The law of love could be best understood and learned through little children.***

