



Operated by MIND
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Message from the Academic Director

The recent teachers strike leaves me feeling sad and confused. I feel compassion for the teachers whose lives are altered as their pay cheques are reduced to strike pay, their livelihood altered from working with students to pacing on the street, and their values questioned when they are expected to support the opinion of their union which is negotiating with government officials. The plight of the teachers and their working conditions makes me reflect on the educational environment at BBMH in which we work. I am appreciative of the harmonious atmosphere shared with our parents and our students. I am thankful for the support that we receive from the MIND Board, who, as you are aware, volunteer to help lead this school in the right direction. On October 4, 2005

the new Board for 2005/6, Barbara (as Business Director) and I (as Academic Director) gathered at the school for the annual Board Orientation meeting. Jeff von Ende chaired the meeting. In his role as President of MIND he facilitated establishing this year's executive. He emphasized the need for the Board to be active stewards, and to bear initial responsibility for the integrity of governance. Diana Nesbitt voiced the understanding that the Board needs to be very conscious of following process. She recalled a conversation with Allen Kanerva as he passed on the mantle of President to her in 2003. Allen said that not only does process need to be done, but needs to be seen to be done. Board process and policy begins with consideration of the Board's overall reason for existence. At the orientation meeting Jeff referred to our mission statement

in order to focus the newly elected board members. The role of our board is to provide the bridge between the Mission Statement and the program offered by the BBMH teaching team. The measure of their success is the level of harmony with which the board, community and teaching team co-exist; the explicit nature of governing policy and the continued assurance that the criteria for teaching performance is upheld. During the meeting, Jeff also encouraged existing Board members to mentor new members as they begin to take on the stewardship of the community of BBMH. This first meeting motivated Barbara and me both as Directors and as part of the teaching team. We left feeling supported and grateful that the new Board of MIND, our employers, were not only receptive to our level of expertise in the way we manage BBMH but also were clearly committed to continuing on to steer the society and the school towards excellence!

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- SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**
- ♥ Friday, October 21, *United Nations Day*
 - ♥ Monday, October 24, *Professional Development Day*
 - ♥ Thursday, October 27, *Parent Education Series I Math Intermediate Field Trip to Victoria*
 - ♥ Friday, October 28, *Preschool Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch*

BLUEPRINT UPDATE

1.5. BBMh prepares students for life
(Our goal is to inspire a passion for excellence and a lifelong love of learning)
 BBMh provides a broad preparation for life, balancing academic achievement with the development of personal and practical life skills.

1.5.1. We teach universal virtues using aspects of the Virtues Project as a basis.

1.5.1.1. We make a concerted effort to empower students at our school helping them to learn how to make responsible choices for themselves, to recognize they are assuming increasing control over their lives as they mature, and to discover how to make a difference in the world around them by positive efforts and contributions to others. We empower students to become responsible, critical, and caring members of

a pluralistic society and recognize that they have the power and resources to effect change. We want students to love learning and to value knowledge, creativity, humour, as well as to develop the self-esteem and confidence necessary to achieve their goals.

1.5.1.2. Our goals for students are for them to be open-minded and compassionate, to gain a strong sense of themselves and others, and to understand and appreciate the diversity of the human spirit.

1.5.1.3. To facilitate the development of independence and a sense of engagement in the community we strongly encourage participation in day-to-day classroom management, care of the environment and decision making. We seek to help each student to feel a commitment both to the local and the global community of humankind. We want each student to understand

that the good of the individual and that of the community are interdependent.

1.5.1.4. We respect the fundamental human needs, rights, and dignity of each person, regardless of age, as a full and independent person who is engaged in the ongoing process of development. During this developmental process, while honoring the right to self-determination, we model and encourage certain virtues: kindness, honesty, openness, and respect for each person's uniqueness, tolerance, cooperation, good sportsmanship, and nonviolence.

1.5.1.5. As educators, parents and citizens of the world, the mutual goal of world peace, we consider it our responsibility to model and encourage acceptance. We celebrate diversity. We consider it our responsibility to model and encourage acceptance of cultural, racial, religious beliefs, socio-economic position and other differences among people, both to our children and each other.



For the last fifteen years on or around October 24 we celebrate UN Day. This event presents our students the opportunity to show their respect for cultural diversity, the common bonds of unity and the universal desire for peace. The children dress in ethnic costumes and offer food for a multi-cultural potluck banquet from the country which they choose to represent. The day is filled with sharing, songs, statements recited from the UN Convention of The Rights of The Child, feasting and, in the afternoon, we play multicultural games. Please help your child design a simple costume that highlights either their own ethnic background or one from another continent that will add to the texture of the day! Also, please help your child prepare and contribute to the potluck banquet. We ask that your child bring labeled dishes and cutlery for the luncheon. We have a range of contributions from cookies to butter chicken. For those of you with busy schedules please keep in mind that the act of participation is as important as preparation!!!

Our guest this year is Christine Nkanku of Kinshasa, Congo. Her languages are Tshiluba, French and English. She will

be present with her two-year old daughter, both wearing Congolese garb, to explain a day in the life of a child growing up in a major city in Congo.

PRESCHOOL UNITED NATIONS DAY INFORMATION

The Preschool/Kindergarten will also be celebrating United Nations Day (BUT WILL BE SEPARATE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PROGRAM) As part of the celebration we ask the children to dress in traditional clothing from the country of their choice. The children will start the morning by discussing their choice of clothing. We are privileged to have a visitor who will describe the life of a child from the Congo. We will then have some crafts for the children to do. The final part of our day will be spent eating! We ask that each family bring in a dish from a country of their choice. There will be a sign-up sheet for food on the bulletin board in the cloakroom. Food can be dropped off at 9:00 a.m. or at 10:15am. Food dishes should be **well labeled and nut free**. We will need three volunteers for set-up and clean-up. The sign-up sheet will be in the cloakroom. **Parents are invited to join us at 10:15 a.m. to share our banquet.**

What happens after Montessori?

As a parent of 3 Montessori children I have been confronted with this question numerous times throughout my children's Montessori education. I can answer with first hand experience after having our first daughter graduate from BBMH with 10 years of Montessori education behind her. During her Montessori education, I often questioned how my daughter was performing in comparison to other children relative to her age or grade. A benchmark or grading system being the norm, how could I be sure that my child could succeed if she herself had no benchmark or grade to evaluate her own performance. As humans we are conditioned by our surrounding environments to believe that performance in school should be tied to a letter grade. After all, that's how we went to school.

A letter grade is simply that...a letter. It does not measure the ability that my child has developed to manage the abundance of homework assigned, to organize her day and weeks, and hand in her assignments on time. It does not measure her ability to resolve conflicts that she is faced with by her peers; it does not measure the self-motivation, self-drive, and her innate desire to succeed. It does not measure the compassion she feels for others and her willingness to help others in need. It does not measure her ability to schedule appointments with her teachers when she feels the need for support. It does not measure her inner strength to confront a peer with something that has hurt her feelings. It does not measure her ability to confidently speak in public on intelligent subjects. A letter grade did not teach my child to be this way, it was her Montessori education and THESE are the skills that are giving her the tools she needs to achieve her "A". It is the strong character that she is, the inner peace she feels, and her self-motivation all instilled from the 10 years of life training she received in Montessori.

September 2005, I watched our daughter on her first day of high school introduce herself to other classmates with confidence. I was amazed at her ability to establish her existence and find her place in the unknown environment she was suddenly placed in. An environment in which she is now thriving and excelling!

She has blossomed into an intelligent, caring and responsible person. She is an "A". - Despina Williams

INTERMEDIATE NEWS

This has been yet another exciting month in our very busy intermediate classroom! Pet Day, as always, was a highlight for the Intermediate class last week. Intermediate students organized this afternoon of sharing their family pets, and invited the primary children to attend. We had dogs, cats, gerbils, hamsters, a rat, fish and new budgies visit this year. Quite a menagerie, with everyone getting along fine!

In culture, we have launched a pilot program on the Fraser River Sturgeon that we are integrating with our Montessori lessons. After having survived for over 250 Million years, these giant fish are now endangered and we will be finding out why.

The Intermediate class have been gifted with a field trip to *Galey's Farm* on Vancouver Island courtesy of Thrifty Foods – all expenses paid! We are booked for **Thursday, October 27th**. **Please drop the students off at the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal at 8:20 a.m. to catch the 9:00 a.m. ferry to Victoria. We will return on the 3:00 p.m. ferry and should arrive at approximately 4:30 p.m.**

MS Read-a-thon

MS Read-a-thon is a program created by the MS Society of Canada as a fundraiser that promotes literacy, disability awareness and community involvement in schools. It is a 3 week program that stimulates students to read and enjoy books of their own choice. Students collect pledges from family and friends for the minutes they read and help raise money for the MS Society to help them support research into a cure of MS and for essential services that meet the immediate needs of people living with MS in all communities throughout British Columbia. How it works:

1. Presentation October 2005 TBD
 2. Student Registration - place your name on Classroom List
 3. Pledges-students collect pledges on pledge forms
 4. Reading - students record minutes read over a 3 wk period
 5. Money Collection—due Nov 15
 6. Money Pickup –by BRINKS
 7. Counting Funds—done by MS Society—tax receipts for over 15%.
 8. November 1, 2004 Reading Day
- All Students will be involved in a Day of reading! Wear cozy clothes and come to school for a day of pure reading fun!

News from the Primary Class

Parents are quite up-to-date with our classroom activities from the information the children offer in their Friday Journals. Thank you for taking the time to look at these notes your child writes and for writing a reply. Not many children wrote about observing Gandhi's birth date but it is our custom to take time every October to discuss his accomplishments. The value of three-year grouping allows children to have repetition with certain lessons that become internalized by looking at them each year with 'new eyes.' Sometimes we read about the highlights of his boyhood and adulthood, sometimes we dramatize an excerpt from his life story and sometimes we retell what we know. This year we discussed his accomplishments from the perspective of his notable virtues. He was inspired by his mother to be gentle. The children offered this definition of gentleness: 'using a kind voice' and 'being calm.' His quality of determination, they said, was 'to work at something until it has been accomplished.' How articulate and insightful the children are becoming! The lesson didn't end here. Gandhi's campaign for fairness through non-violent protest was, said an eight year old, in the name of *justice*. Justice is another of the virtues we study and it is gratifying when the children offer such precise words and connect them with relevant meaning. It is exciting for a teacher to have a discussion with a group of primary children who get it. They are familiar with the importance of leadership through peace-making and the inspiration it gives to others.

News from the Preschool/Kindergarten

We have started cooking with the children. Cooking will occur every Friday. So far the children have made berry smoothies and blueberry muffins with blueberry sauce. We are focused on creating healthy, eggless, nutless snacks that can be enjoyed by all. Willow and Ash have returned back fresh from their summer vacation. We look forward to visiting with them during our outdoor play time. We will be visiting the pumpkin patch on October 28th, 2005. Details will follow... Please watch for the notice.

BBMH CALENDAR Fall Term 2005

September	6	School Starts
	9	Family BBQ
	14	Parent Teacher Conferences Elementary
	15	And EDK program
	16	Newsletter
	16	Terry Fox Run
	20	Peace Day
	23	Potluck/AGM
	26	Professional Development Day
October	5	Mohandas Gandhi
	10	Thanksgiving Day
	14	Newsletter
	21	UN Day
	24	Professional Development Day
	27	Parent Education Series
November	1	Read-a-thon
	11	Remembrance Day
	18	Newsletter
	21	Observation Week
	25	Professional Development Day
	29	Three Way Conferences
	30	Three Way Conferences
December	13	Rehearsal 9-11:15 am
	14	Rehearsal 9-11:15 am
	15	Rehearsal with Preschool 9-11:15 am
	15	Newsletter
	15	Concert 7:00 pm
	16	Skating Party
	16	Winter Holiday 11:30 am

Before you go to sleep tonight, let your last thoughts be "Thank you!" and when you wake up, let your first words be "Thank you!"



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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 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.

BBMH Parent Education Series

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Math

Thursday, January 19, 2005

Language

Thursday, May 18, 2005

Geometry

These will be material based demonstrations given by our teachers and will allow for interactive practise and experimentation by the participants!

We welcome new and experienced parents and all educators from the private or public system who are interested in learning more about Montessori Education and methodology to join us for these evenings!

Thank you!

As treasurer of our society, I would like to say thank you to all who participated in the selling/buying of tickets for the Thanksgiving raffle. The school raised over \$2,000 with this fundraising initiative!

As the recipient of the wonderful bounty, I want to let everyone know it truly was a windfall—everything for a complete dinner, plus the added ambience of flowers and candles! I would also like say a special “thank you” to Diana Nesbitt, Linda Masarsky and Leslie Kanerva for procuring and baking for this event. I truly feel thankful to be a part of such a wonderful community....Karen Gillespie

From the Treasurer

Just a reminder to anyone submitting requests for reimbursement of expenses they have incurred on behalf of the society. Please ensure you fill out our reimbursement requisition and attach original receipts in a timely manner, so we can process your reimbursement and keep track of our expenses on a timely basis. The forms are found in the Administration area at the front desk in an envelope in the treasurers tray labeled ‘cheque requisition’. All expenses must be approved by the project leader, academic director, business manager or treasurer.

Thanks for your co-operation.

Karen Gillespie – Treasurer MIND