



Operated by MIND

Volume 2, Issue 2

September 2005

## Message from the Business Director

Raising consciousness about virtues is something that Boundary Bay Montessori House does well. Very early in their education, students become aware of what it means to be caring, honest, considerate, thoughtful, gracious and joyful. It is interesting to note that a psychological study has recently confirmed that positive emotions contribute greatly not only to ones well-being but also to increased personal achievements and effective participation in team work.

Many years ago, Maria Montessori understood that education must develop character and self-esteem as well as academic capabilities. Now, psychologists have identified seven positive

emotions that promote achievement and increased well-being. These include: joy, contentment, pride, gratitude, recognition and love. Children who are encouraged to develop their creativity and intelligence through self-directed exploration of their environment, as is fostered by the Montessori method, are joyful in their explorations and take pride in their accomplishments. Our school environment, within which the students are given many freedoms and responsibilities, is characterized by a mutually supportive community of learners where helpfulness, gratitude and respect are prevalent.

As I look into the classrooms,

or work with the intermediate students, I am constantly moved by the warmth, caring and genuine concern for each other that I witness. This environment permeates the school, thereby creating a safe and nurturing environment for all students to pursue meaningful and fulfilling work. Montessori felt that inner peace is rooted in the ability to undertake deeply satisfying work within an environment of sincere, mutual respect. The year has only just begun, and yet these feelings of inner peace are already evident.

- Barbara Hofmann

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## Special points of interest:

♥ September 20, 2005

*Peace Day Shared Lunches*

♥ September 26, 2004

*Professional Development Day*

## 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 rec-

ognize 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, socioeconomic position and other differences among people, both to our children and each other.



The Elementary classes will be having our annual Peace Day celebration on Tuesday, September 20, 2005. In the Montessori setting, human and social development or social responsibility is known as the Peace Curriculum. It is a value shared by all - school, families and the broader community. This is an event that supports the British Columbia Ministry of Education mandated curriculum for human and social development. Our students are aware of the rationale of this day. We share with each other, learn the skills of peacekeeping and connect with one another on a school-wide basis, in an atmosphere of trust and inclusion, enjoying food and cooperative games.

Each student has been partnered with a student with whom they will share lunch. The children are reminded to be courteous and gracious as they discover the identity of their partner. The children will prepare and bring a lunch for that person on Friday. Each child must interview the other to determine food preferences. We encourage the children to continue to be courteous when determining the taste preferences of their 'guest'. aged groups to play cooperative games and to engage in peace .

Each student has been asked to bring a plain cotton t-shirt for the day. Please bring these in on Monday, September 19, 2005.

Thank you for supporting your child with this project.

PLEASE READ THE INSERT TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT WHO YOUR CHILD IS MAKING LUNCH FOR ON PEACE DAY.

PLEASE BE SENSITIVE TO NUT ALLERGIES AND READ THE LABELS CAREFULLY TO AVOID INCLUDING THESE IN LUNCHES.

THE CHILDREN KNOW THAT FOR THIS LUNCH (AS FOR ALL 'SPECIAL OCCASION' LUNCHES) INCLUDING POP, CHIPS AND SMALL AMOUNTS OF SWEETS IN LUNCHES IS ACCEPTABLE.

### Preschool/Kindergarten/Extended-Day Kindergarten News

We are off to a wonderful start!! Thank you to **all** the families for being patient while we settle into our new routine. Having gradual entry for the first few weeks allows this to happen with ease. This year our music class with Judy will be on Monday and cooking will remain on Friday. The children have been discussing Terry Fox as well as discussing the concept of *peace* and what it means and how it feels as September 20, 2005 "Peace Day" draws nearer. On that day the children will do a special cooking activity and a few crafts. A gentle reminder - Promptness at arrival and dismissal is imperative to a smooth and successful day for all - **children**, parents and teachers.

### Primary/EDK News

Our children are settling well. Parents likely share the same enthusiasm for the routines that September brings. In the primary classroom there are routines and lessons to review to re-establish everyone for classroom conduct and academic readiness. To be together, enjoying each other's company, seems to be our greatest joy. We are also preparing for Peace Day. We are taking pleasure in stories about peace, peaceful living and peace making. Many peace symbols have been made by our class through a push-pin exercise. During this time the children strengthen their finger muscles and prehensile grip while enjoying friendly conversation with one another. You will notice there are some new children in our class and we welcome them warmly. If you take the time to meet our new students and their families, as some have already at our family barbeque held September 9<sup>th</sup>, you will have the opportunity of knowing sincere people who, like you, care deeply about their children and Montessori education.

### Intermediate News

We welcome twelve new students to our intermediate program - ten in Year four, one in Year Five and one in Year Six - everyone is excited to be back. The room is beautiful and there are many updates to the room. We have started the year with a strong focus on developing a quality environment. The students have shared with us what makes a Quality classroom for them is one that is:

- ♥ Cozy, comfortable and safe
- ♥ Inclusive, supportive and constructive
- ♥ Teamwork and good sportsmanship
- ♥ Guidelines not rules

In Math Yr.4 and 5 students are reviewing basic skills, which have gotten rusty over the summer, by using the Montessori materials. Lessons on Roman Numerals have been presented and students will be receiving new lessons on measurement. We have launched our Language program with the Timeline of Language for all grades. Each group is undertaking different work as a result, with Yr. 4's creating their own timeline, Yr 5's researching the history of a language and the Yr 6/7's researching modern advances in communication. Work has also started on Spelling for the Yr4/5's with quizzes taking place each Monday. Students have also started Junior Great Books which is always a favorite. We have been deeply inspired by the life of Terry Fox as we prepared for the our first run. The virtue of *Determination* was chosen to describe his life and the children are reflecting on his legacy in their journals.

## BBMH CALENDAR Fall Term 2004

### MS Read-a-thon

<p>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.</p> <p>How it works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation October 2004 TBD</li> <li>2. Student Registration - place your</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Pledges—students collect pledges on pledge forms</li> <li>4. Reading - students record minutes read over a 3 wk period</li> <li>5. Money Collection—due Nov 15 (2 weeks after Reading Day)</li> <li>6. Money Pickup —by BRINKS</li> <li>7. Counting Funds—done by MS Society—tax receipts for over 15%.</li> <li>8. Prizes—scholastics books 10% if school raises over \$2500.</li> <li>9. 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!</li> </ol>
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### Out of School Care Program

<p>This year we will be offering out of school care (OSC) program from Monday to Fridays, for Elementary students 6 - 12 yrs. The after school session is from 3:00 to 5:30 pm and is available full time or part time. Jana Luchene will be the coordinator for this exciting program with general supervision by Eileen Wilson, Tammy Olson and Lize Hart.</p>	<p>The cost for this program is</p> <p>\$1,250.00 per year</p> <p>\$ 160.00 per month</p> <p>\$ 50.00 same day per week</p> <p>\$ 15.00 Drop in</p> <p>In order to register for OSC please contact Barbara Hofmann at the school 604-946-9814.</p>
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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

### Building Update News:

The school just keeps looking better! The walls have been freshly painted with a splash of colour in each room to add style. Thank you to Jeremy Meausette for undertaking weeks of painting work with help from Dicksan Chan, Arthur Ma, Sheila Binnie and Oscar Pamituan. The library has now been closed in to serve as a quiet study and reading area. The students have already been enjoying this space. A door has also been installed to provide a student tutoring area. Special thanks to John Larsen for his carpentry skills. New shelving has been installed in the Intermediate room and news tables/chairs added to accommodate the increased Intermediate class size. Much thanks to Harvey Shaffer for installing the new shelving, securing all book shelves to the wall and building a solid computer and printer table. The students have been pleased by all the changes. Thank you very much to Jacki Larsen for helping to clean and set the classrooms back in order. Thank you to Savannah and Karen for sorting the library books and Bruce and the Bluesman for 'hangin' the pictures. And in the preschool—thank you to Jeff Von Ende for cutting the shelving at the last minute. Thanks also to the Pincombe's for cleaning the windows and all the volunteers that help move furniture around over the summer so that all this work could be accomplished. Thanks to Earl and Pauline for the final beautification on the first day of school!



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### BBMH Parent Education Series

will be held on

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 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!

### Characteristics of Montessori Education at BBMH

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|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ The child's inherent desire to learn and perfect his/her skills is nurtured by the stimulating and dynamic Montessori environment.</li> <li>♥ The child develops a lifetime love of learning</li> <li>♥ Each child works at his or her own pace and receives a high degree of individual attention.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Student teacher ratios at BBMH are 10:1 in Preschool and 18:1 in Elementary.</li> <li>♥ A well structured, prepared environment, with learning materials that are self-correcting.</li> <li>♥ Respect for each other, the self and the environment are taught within a peace curriculum that is multi-cultural and non-denominational.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ With these opportunities, the child is empowered to fulfill his/her own potential thereby fostering:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independence</li> <li>Self-discipline</li> <li>Self-esteem</li> <li>Self-motivation</li> </ul> </li> <li>♥ The child is honoured in this caring, community-minded educational environment where parents are invited to participate.</li> </ul> |
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### Potluck Supper and Annual General Meeting of the MIND society Ladner United Church 4960-49th Avenue

Friday, September 23, 2005 is the date for our AGM/Potluck dinner with dinner at 6:00 p.m and the meeting commencing at 7:30 pm. This is the time that you have the opportunity to meet the teachers and parents who make up the special community at Boundary Bay Montessori House. In addition to a lovely Potluck dinner (forms will be posted by both doors to help coordinate salads, main course, dessert, etc.), sign up sheets for the various volunteer opportunities will be available for you to make your choices as to how you would like to spend your parent participation hours! The staff look forward to socializing with you on this evening! This is an adult event - all members of MIND are invited to attend.