

### Message from the Academic Director

We are fully immersed in our 2006 2007 Academic School Year and a sense of purposefulness and understanding of protocol has begun to emerge amongst our new students. This year is unique because we have 20 Extended Day Kindergarten and Year 1 students and 10 Grade 7 students! The Grade 7 students are very helpful, acting as guides for the Kindergarten students at lunch hour and silent reading time. In the preschool gradual entry has completed and full sessions commence on Monday. In the elementary program we have launched the year with the five Great Lessons. These lessons provide the foundation for all study and integrate the various subjects of Humanities and Sciences. They are called, The story of the Universe, The Story of Life, The Story of Humans, The story of Language and The Story of Math. The Great Lessons are told to inspire reverence for nature; to build appreciation for the gifts of the progress of civilization; and to understand both human contribution and responsibility to the entire earth and its inhabitants. Most importantly we hope the telling of these stories will develop a sense of purpose in our students so that they eventually come to realize that they are architects of the future of humankind. Dr. Montessori held the belief that 'the child was the father of the man' and that the caregivers obligation was to prepare the environment for the child to become a world citizen. As Montessori Directresses, working with children from age 3 to 13, we keep Dr. Montessori's vision in the forefront. We understand the need to assist your children to become independent, self-evaluative and independent at every stage of development. If you are interested in deepening your understanding of what this looks like at each of the planes of development I urge you to read the Absorbent Mind by Dr. Montessori. Additionally, this year we are planning to review this fundamental concept of Montessori methodology at our Parent Education Evening the first to be held in October 12, 2006. We look forward to a wonderful and inspiring year with you and your children! ~ Lize Hart

*Peace cannot be kept  
by force: It can only  
be achieved by  
understanding*



### **SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST**

### **POTLUCK**

### **AND**

### **MIND—AGM**

**Friday, September 29.  
Ladner United Church  
4960 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**

Potluck dinner begins at 6pm and meeting begins at 7:30. Please bring a meal contribution as well as your own cutlery, plate (don't forget one for dessert, too!) and mug. Coffee and tea are provided. The dinner provides an opportunity to meet other parents, talk with the teaching team as well as enjoy a diverse range of delicious foods. At the Annual General Meeting of the Montessori in Delta Society, the various volunteer opportunities are presented, new board members are elected and the budget for the school year is approved.

*Please note this is an adult only evening!*



Our Peace Day, which has been held for the past five years in the beginning weeks of September was a day filled with activity. As always, we prepare a few days ahead with our students to raise their consciousness about what peace is. The primary children listened to stories that tell about peace and they, in turn, wrote and illustrated mini-books using their senses to tell what peace means to them. Some examples are peace feels like a bed made of clouds, it tastes good, like cookies, it sounds like my dad snoring, it smells like the forest, it looks like a bird landing on a tree and feels like my mum's hugs. The intermediate children wrote prose about the essence of peace. Most of the interpretations were personal which is how peace is best understood. It is from our ability to experience peace in a profound, personal way that it spreads to the community and the world at large. The class painted squares of fabric that became our version of Tibetan flags. Each flag is vividly painted with designs, symbols and words based on the virtues or qualities to which we aspire.

In the morning we assemble in a quiet and thought-provoking manner, guided by a story called "Children Hope for A Peaceful Future" by Camy Condon from a book called "On the Wings of Peace". The focus was on becoming a peaceful person by learning to first forgive ourselves and be peaceful. During our busy day we participated in various workshops. Indoors we rotated through Conflict Resolution discussions, to Art activities where we created origami birds of peace, to session of relaxing yoga. Outdoors we enjoyed the egg game and drumming. The children speak enthusiastically about the egg game which requires concentration, cooperation, balance, requesting and taking turns and encouraging one another. If you can't visualize this activity, be sure to ask your child about it. The students found peace within themselves during the quiet and focused yoga sessions on Peace Day. Barbara and Christina led the students through a series of poses designed to gently stretch and strengthen their muscles. The younger students quickly caught on and happily displayed their incredible flexibility while the rest of us worked at stretching out our physical boundaries. It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of the children as they reached for the sky. Drumming and using percussion instruments was a wonderful new delight this year. Brought to us through the inspiration of our music teacher, Pam Ferguson, along with her husband, Rob, and friend, Tony, we were introduced to the pleasure of listening well to each person's sound, making a musical contribution and creating harmony together. These activities work as a springboard to enlist our desire for unity and peace. The children are drawn to the activities and are nurtured to offer their spirit of generosity. Sharing lunch with a new friend and being gracious was one of the highlights of the day.

Our day was so full that we had the concluding ceremony the next morning. We assembled once again and walked in a processional to the playground. There we sang *Peace is the World Smiling* as we hung the Intermediate students' Tibetan flags in the garden boxes. The intention behind these flags, that state words such as Respect, Love, Kindness, Caring, Loyalty, and Humour, is to send a message in the wind to the world. The flags stay up until they are worn and threadbare from the elements.

<b>CLOSURES TERM I</b>
September 25
October 9
October 20
November 13
November 30 - December 1
November 24
December 20 PM
Last Day December 21
<b>December 22-January 8</b>

<b>Physical Education Schedule Term One</b>	
<b>PRIMARY/EDK</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>
<b>GYMNASTICS— MONDAY</b>	<b>HAP DO SOOL—MONDAY</b>
1:45-2:45 PM	1:45—2:45 PM
SEPTEMBER 11, 18	SEPTEMBER 11, 18
OCTOBER 2, 16, 23, 30	OCTOBER 2, 16, 23, 30
<b>SKATING—WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>SKATING—WEDNESDAYS</b>
10:30-11:30 AM	10:30-11:30 AM
NOVEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29	NOVEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29
DECEMBER 6, 13	DECEMBER 6, 13



## News from The Preschool/EDK Class

We have had a successful start to the school year. Our children have adjusted well and are developing new friendships. One delightful story involved a young student entering the cloak room excitedly exclaiming “Jana, Jana, I dressed myself this morning!” One of the first goals is to aid the children to become independent. We do this by paying close attention to routines. Each day we see the children becoming increasingly familiar with routines. We are thankful to the Year 7’s and lunch hour supervisor who help the EDK children walk back from the playground to join our afternoon sessions. In the coming week we will be venturing outside with all of the members of our class! We look forward to having everyone full-time beginning on Tuesday. Please remember that Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Development day. School will not be in session.

### From the Intermediate Classroom...

We welcome eleven new Year Four students to our classroom and Cathy von Ende as a part of the intermediate staff two days a week. Research and a variety of assignments have been launched with the “big picture” Montessori Great Lessons on : Timeline of Humans, Language and Mathematics, and more recently The Story of the Universe. Students are engaged in creating reports and materials for each of the Timelines. We continue with our emphasis on learning about our basic needs (Fun, Freedom, Love and Belonging and Power) and sharing that work with the Year Four students. Currently, we are discussing “My Job/Your Job” and what is our “Quality World”. Students have been reviewing Math and their basic skills as well as starting new lessons. Geometry will be part of our curriculum throughout this term. All students have just receive their first J.G.B. story and will continue with a new story every second week. I overall theme this term is to look at how peace and communication links through all of our work.

Barbara, Cathy and Eileen

### From the Primary Classroom,

Cathy, Elicia and I have embarked on our year sharing the enthusiasm and delight for school with our students. It is interesting to observe how focused the students are when given work and how much pleasure they derive from it. Yesterday we learned that two students’ carpool would be late at pick up and both of the children’s’ response was “Can we do more work?” Another marvel is to see a Year Three boy wanting to write a story at lunch hour with another friend. This as an alternative to the usual boisterous hockey game! One new piece of information for primary children this year is that we are no longer having hockey at lunch. The game works better for the older children and those who were enjoying it have quickly modified their activities and are playing soccer and baseball. Our special words to date have been joyfulness and helpfulness—pretty appropriate for the time of year.

This term we are directly teaching social emotional curriculum using the materials that we received at the Emotional Intelligence Workshop that will be offered to you on November 26, 2006. Please see your email for details. To date we have talked about feelings, moods, different ways to express your feelings and various ways to be comforting to yourself. We have a well-stocked library, which we have termed our ‘peace library’ that supports the work we are teaching.

Please remember that our first professional day is Monday, September 25, 2006. School will be closed that day.

~ Cathy, Elicia and Lize



Operated by MIND

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### BBMH Fundraising News

Fundraising plays an integral role in the school. The nature and number of fundraising activities are intended to spread the opportunity to participate across the whole community and to avoid the purchase of excess consumer goods. We will be continuing with the following fundraisers over the 2006/2007 school year:

**Thanksgiving Raffle**—Each family will receive a book of tickets next week and the draw will take place October 4—the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (to prevent the lucky winner from having already gone out and purchased a turkey). The bounty includes a turkey, organic vegetables, homemade buns and dessert as well as two bottles of wine.

**Thrifty Foods Gift Cards**—5% of the purchase price goes back to the school. Watch for the order form in your family file each month, or prevent missing the “deadline” by providing monthly, post-dated cheques in the amount desired. Cheques are not cashed until you receive your gift card.

**Coffee**—Organic, Free Trade coffee from Pistol and Burnes. Hot chocolate mix, cocoa and tea are also offered. BBMH receives \$4/pound of coffee.

**Bottle returns**—There are BBMH accounts at both the Ladner and Tsawwassen bottle depots. Every little bit helps!

**Concert Raffles**—We ask that each family donate a bottle of wine; the donations are grouped into lots and raffled off at each of the winter and spring concerts.

**Annual Spring Gala**—We will have both a live and silent auction. The format of our event is still to be decided, so if you would like to have input, please contact Diana Nesbitt at 604.943.1823

**Scholastic Books** offer their selections through their monthly flyers as well as a book fair—The school receives its profits in the form of book selections, chosen by the teaching team, to supplement the library.

### CALENDAR 2006 2007 FALL TERM 1

SEPTEMBER	6	SCHOOL BEGINS TERM 1
	8	FAMILY BARBEQUE—ALL WELCOME
	11	NEW PARENT ORIENTATION
	12	PEACE DAY
	25	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
OCTOBER	29	TERRY FOX RUN/Potluck Dinner AGM
	5	GANDHI BIRTHDAY
	9	THANKSGIVING DAY
	12	PARENT EDUCATION SERIES 1
	20	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2
	24	UNITED NATIONS DAY
NOVEMBER	1	READ-A-THON
	13	REMEMBRANCE DAY
	14	OBSERVATION WEEK
	24	PROFESSIONAL DAY 3
	30	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE PRESCHOOL
	30	3WAY CONFERENCES INTERMEDIATE/PRIMARY
DECEMBER	1	3WAY CONFERENCES—INTERMEDIATE/EDK
	18	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	19	CONCERT REHEARSAL
	20	CONCERT REHEARSAL—SCHOOL CLOSED PM
	20	CONCERT EVENING
	21	SKATING PARTY 9:30—10:30 TSAWWASSEN
	22	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK
JANUARY	9	SCHOOL BEGINS TERM 2

### Family Advisory Committee (FAC)

The mandate of FAC is to foster a cohesive community by facilitating education service and social events for families and staff of Boundary Bay Montessori House. The FAC is a place for members of the BBMH community to bring concerns of a general nature and to become informed of existing policies and guidelines for resolving specific issues. FAC sponsored events are consistent with the peace curriculum and the philosophy of the school as outlined in the school “Blueprint” document.