



Operated by MIND

Volume 5, Issue 1

SEPTEMBER 2008

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

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! I hope your summer holiday provided time for relaxation and restoration, and that you are excited about the return to school on September 2nd. This summer has provided both relaxation and inspiration for me, as I took some time for family travel and connection (my niece's wedding and a family reunion in Alberta), as well as spending three weeks continuing my Montessori Elementary Directress training.

I am excited to be back at school, and I am especially looking forward to working with all the students and the new (and returning) members of our Teaching Team. This year, Jana Luchene and Carla Hall will be directing our morning preschool program, and Jana will also be teaching the EDK program in the afternoon. Lize Hart, Christine Johnson and Christina Davey will be the Primary Directresses, and Eileen Wilson and Cathy von Ende will be our Intermediate Directresses. Returning as Specialty Teachers are Alii Wright for Art, Annie Lanteigne for French, and I will again be teaching Music. Christina Davey will be working part-time as the Administrative Assistant.

As I begin my second year as Academic Director, I feel privileged to continue to work with a tremendously supportive and cohesive teaching team, and the MIND board and BBMH families. Please do not hesitate to phone or email me for information or to address any questions.

On behalf of the BBMH Teaching and Administrative Team, I welcome you all back to school, and know that we are all looking forward to wonderful year of growth with you and your children!

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to our new teaching team members. I hope you enjoy reading their short biographies below.

Christine Johnson, Primary Directress

My name is Christine Johnson and I feel fortunate to be joining the teaching team at BBMH. This year I will be working part-time in the primary classroom.

My roots in education and in Montessori started in Coquitlam as a preschool child. After three years in private Montessori preschool, I attended Montessori within the public school system from ages six through thirteen. My three Montessori teachers from my elementary years continue to be my mentors today as they have given me wonderful encouragement, support and are such a fine example of quality teaching.

After high school graduation, I attended the University of Victoria and graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree. That same year I completed my Montessori teachers' training as I had learned the Montessori way as a child and felt the need to teach and honour children from the philosophy exemplified in my roots.

Over the last five years, I have taught grades one, two and three in the public Montessori program at Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School in New Westminster. As a teacher, I am dedicated to guiding children to become socially responsible and independent learners, who can reach their fullest potential and have their diverse learning



**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST**

**EDK/Year 1 and
Year 4 Parent Ori-
entation**

Friday,

September 5, 2008

4:30-5:30 pm

In the

**Primary and
Intermediate
classrooms**

**Learn about your
child's transition and
classroom
expectations
and routines**

Family Barbeque

Friday,

September 5, 2008

Start at 5:30 pm

at the school

**Speak to Alison
Bermel if you can
help out!**





BBMH School Entrance and Exit Procedures

In order to provide a safe environment for the students, please review our procedures for school entrances and exits.

In the Elementary School building:

- ♥ Elementary school doors open at 8:30 A.M. and remain open for 20 minutes until 8:50 A.M.
- ♥ A member of the Teaching Team or Administration will formally greet children at the front door of the school.
- ♥ The parents' role is to observe the children and say good-bye on the front porch.
- ♥ Children will proceed to their classroom independently, where they will be greeted by the Classroom Directress.
- ♥ Children are expected to hang up their outer wear, backpacks, lunch bags, etc., put on their indoor footwear, and begin their classroom routine. Please defer to the Directresses to support your child if needed.
- ♥ At 3:00 PM, parents are to wait for their children on the front porch. Primary children will be dismissed individually when parents or the designated pick-up person has been identified by the classroom directress; intermediate children will be dismissed as a class and are expected to meet their parents or designated pick-up person on the porch.
- ♥ EDK parents will pick-up children at the back door, near the preschool playground. At 3:00 PM, parents are to wait on the back porch, and children will be dismissed individually to parents or designated pick-up person.

In the Preschool/Kindergarten building:

- ♥ Preschool/Kindergarten doors open at 8:50 A.M. and remain open for 10 minutes until 9:00 A.M.
- ♥ The Classroom Directress will formally greet children at the front door of the classroom.
- ♥ The parents' role is to observe their children and say good-bye.
- ♥ Children will independently remove their shoes and outdoor clothing, hang backpacks, and put on their indoor footwear. Please defer to the Directresses to support your child if needed.
- ♥ At 11:30 AM, parents are to wait on the porch of the Preschool building, and Preschool children will be dismissed individually to parents or designated pick-up person.
- ♥ Please refer to Elementary School building for EDK pick-up procedures.

Providing Information to the Teaching Team:

- ♥ In the case of EMERGENCY, please relate information immediately to the Directress or Administrative Team at the front door.
- ♥ If the information is URGENT, please leave a phone message at (604) 946-9814 as phone messages are monitored throughout the day.
- ♥ If your information is general or requires a lengthier conversation, please use the phone, email or make an appointment with the Classroom Directress.

Access to the School

Since its inception, BBMH has had a policy of strictly limiting access to the school between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM to ensure the safety of the children and to maintain the educational environment. This policy is in the best interest of the community for the following reasons:

- ▶ To meet the requirements of Child Care licensing when the children are in the preschool and extended elementary school in the afternoons for the EDK program,
- ▶ The teaching team is best able to focus on the needs of the students during school operating hours.
- ▶ Parents coming into the school have prescheduled appointments thereby allowing more personal communication between the teaching team and parents,
- ▶ In the event of an emergency, the door handles are equipped with a quick release if we need to leave suddenly, and
- ▶ Work space required for volunteers coming into the school can be prioritized and set aside for critical operations.

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Boundary Bay Montessori House
3800 72nd Street, Ladner, B.C.V4K 2B2

Phone: 604-946-9814
Email: teachers@bbmh.com
www.bbmh.com

- ♥ If at any time a parent needs to come to the school and cannot call in advance, there is a doorbell at the front door of the elementary school building that triggers a silent light signal in the classrooms. A member of the teaching team will answer the door as soon as possible.

Volunteers are a critical part of our program!

- ♥ Parents who need to be in the school for volunteer work or to meet with members of the teaching team can do so by making prior arrangements by telephone or email.

Thank you for helping us to make the system workable!

**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.

CALENDAR 2008 2009 * FALL TERM

SEPTEMBER	2	SCHOOL BEGINS TERM I
	5	FAMILY BARBEQUE—ALL WELCOME 5:30 pm
	5	NEW ELEMENTARY PARENT ORIENTATION (EDK, Yr. 1 and Yr. 4 parents only) 4:30 pm
	18	PEACE DAY
	19	MIND Annual General Meeting
	26	Terry Fox Run
	29	Non-Instructional Day—School is closed
OCTOBER	5	GANDHI BIRTHDAY
	9	PARENT EDUCATION SERIES I
	13	THANKSGIVING DAY—School is closed
	23	UNITED NATIONS DAY
	24	Non-Instructional Day—School is closed
	31	READ-A-THON
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

**SCHOOL CLOSURES
Sept.-Dec. 2008**

September 29
October 13
October 24
November 11
November 24-25
December 18 afternoon
December 19-January 5

School Reopens:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2008