

Now that we're settling into the school year and observing that wonderful satisfaction and peace the children find in their work, are you *Noticing the Gifts?* This past weekend, teachers attending a retreat that focused on communication discovered wonderful gifts in each other and renewed their delight in our vocation. And what a gift to see so many of you at our parent meeting last Thursday evening. We have to include our beautiful weather and the emerging fall, as we harvest garden bounty and prepare for Thanksgiving next week. Every season has its own gifts as we move into changing leaf colours and Hallowe'en costumes, and of course our annual ...



Jumping for joy at Camp Alexandra

Fall Fair!

Friday, October 31

Lots more details to follow!



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Housekeeping

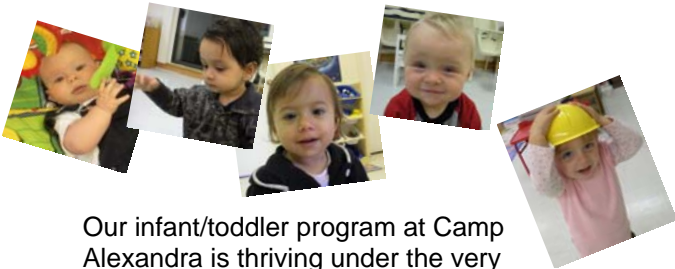
Parking

We have new parking lines for your guidance in our parking lot, which will make it much easier for you to know where and where not to park. Thanks for paying attention to them – and for turning off your engine while you're parked. If you idle your engine for more than 10 seconds, you are spending more on gas! The earth thanks you for turning it off.

Out of School Care

Just a reminder that Marsha has room in her after school program for drop-ins, so if you would like your child to have the occasional romp on our back acres, just let her know - \$20 per day.

Infant/Toddler Care



Our infant/toddler program at Camp Alexandra is thriving under the very capable direction of Angel Yang. We're almost ready to open the other location in Whalley. If anyone has infant furniture, equipment or toys in good condition that you no longer need, give us a call. We still need a couple of high chairs, riding toys, a sandbox and more multi-strollers. We could also use a slow cooker for heating bottles.

Cotton Bags

Don't you love the sight of all those cotton bags hanging on your children's hooks? We plan to reuse them each year for the children's extra clothing, but if you wish to personalize one for your child to keep, they are available for only \$5 at the office.

Daycare

Of course our 3 – 5 year olds daycare continues to thrive, in its 22nd year with our excellent staff under Arceli's very capable guidance.



Global Consciousness email Group

As part of our stewardship of the earth and its consciousness, we often receive emails regarding activities that are going on, often behind the scenes, which affect us all; or messages regarding our health, such as the one below on minicarrots. Because we are very conscientious about not bombarding our parents with emails, we would like to forward this information to only those parents who indicate a desire to receive them. We have therefore established an email group entitled "worldconsciousness". If you would like to be included in this group, please let Melissa know.

Baby Carrots and Chlorine

The following is information from a farmer who grows and packages carrots for IGA, METRO, LOBLAWS, etc.

The small cocktail (baby) carrots you buy in small plastic bags are made using the larger crooked or deformed carrots which are put through a machine which cuts and shapes them into cocktail carrots. Once the carrots are cut and shaped into cocktail carrots they are dipped in a solution of water and chlorine in order to preserve them (this is the same chlorine used your pool). Since they do not have their skin or natural protective covering, it gives them a higher dose of chlorine. You will notice that once you keep these carrots in your refrigerator for a few days, a white covering will form on the carrots; this is the chlorine which resurfaces. Chlorine is a very well known carcinogen. At what cost do we put our health at risk to have esthetically pleasing vegetables which are practically plastic? For more information visit <http://www.snopes.com/food/tainted/carrots.asp>

Parent Meeting

September 25

It was standing room only at our parent meeting last week – wonderful to see such a great turn out and a message to us to try for a larger space next time. Pam, Rhonda and Chami presented the Montessori philosophy on “practical life” activities, the many ways in which your children can benefit from becoming independent, confident and capable, both at home and at school.

The Directresses brought out the value of Self-Care, Care of the Environment, Grace and Courtesy, Movement and Repetition. Activities develop concentration, refine hand/eye coordination, large motor skills and sequencing



Steve and Kristin noted that there is very focused, hard work going on behind the scenes with our building project, which is at a stage too sensitive to share at the moment. They noted the strong need for more professional representation on our board – parents with accounting, legal, fundraising, marketing, land development or project management background. We are forming committees which also need members. Once we have them detailed, we will present them for parents to sign up where they feel they can contribute.

We also need a project manager for our next stage of building. Thanks in advance for your contributions. The great success of our school is largely due to the terrific parent input!



<p>Stephen Lott Board Chairman</p>
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CLASSCLIPS

Ah yes...the joys we have in the first month of our Montessori classrooms! I found a little anecdote **from** a Montessori teacher **to** Montessori teachers and it inspires us all:

“Every year, we begin again... Our classrooms begin in such chaos. Children are crying. Mothers are crying. Fathers are crying. When everyone’s gone home, we are crying! Pitchers of water crash down from the shelves, the tiny math beads hide in the cabinet out of fear. Toes are stubbed on unattended chairs. The toilets overflow...yet we trust and we know that the children and the classroom will calm. We know the fear will subside.

There is a gift for each of us in this cycle. Each autumn brings us rebirth. Each school year gives us the chance to begin again, to apply the lessons we learned from our mistakes. Each school year gives us the chance to be young again, even on the days when we feel like we may be too old for this!

*There is danger too. Each year, we agree again to love the children we may lose in ten months. Each year, we agree to the briefest moment’s glimpse of the peace it creates before it is time again to say good-bye. Amazingly, our vulnerable hearts keep beating...” (McTamaney, Catherine. *The Tao of Montessori*)*

What more can we say? The classrooms are beginning to tenderly unfold as the chaos gently subsides and peace quietly tiptoes in to heroically take its place.

Our returning students have embraced the newest members to their family community with such a degree of loving kindness, patience and understanding...what more could we ask for? They help, not hinder; hug, not hit; laugh, not curse...as we all tread lightly forward on our path of serenity, joy, love and laughter amidst the work we are all so passionately drawn to daily.

Thank you for allowing our vulnerable hearts to continue beating, thank you for letting us love your children.



Namaste
The Primary teachers

Extended Day

by Lauren



“Them bones, them bones, them ‘live’ bones, them bones...” Have we been having a great time exploring the inner workings and skeletal structure of our bodies! The children are so keen on the body that I just had to bring in some work from the senior class to let them delve into. This helps us open our year’s curriculum with a good foundation. They have also been working on their new routines of coming in from play after lunch and coming to circle prepared for novel time and closing our day with classroom job responsibilities. We’ve almost got it!

In the coming week, we’ll be launching into the Big Bang Theory and investigating the prehistoric timeline. This opens up a huge amount of material that we’ll be exploring over the coming months around our solar system, the magnetosphere and space weather, what’s inside the earth, volcanoes, rock cycles, earth’s rotations, moon phases, etc. We are always excited and surprised to observe what energy the children have towards these areas and what other paths of intrigue open up because of them! Chami and I are really enjoying this group and their level of awareness!

Pizza Tuesdays

So far, our change to the healthier, locally-owned Panago pizza's multigrain crust has worked out very well. The pizzas contain:

- no added trans fat, MSG, artificial flavours or colours
- 2% partly skimmed lower-fat, rennet-free cheese
- multigrain dough made fresh and cooked in-store

The children appeared to enjoy it just the same, but it's our teachers and a few parents who need a bit of nudge away from that ooey, gooey white flour crust ☺



Lauren, Chami, and the Extended Days

Intermediates

by Duncan

We've been learning about the planets and stars. I like going up in the loft. I like watching the fishes play around their tank. I like doing the work in the class. Jennifer isn't here this week because her mother is dying and she needs to be with her, so Sheryl will have to take over for her for about a week.



Would you like to buy some of our delicious applesauce?

Seniors

The Senior Class has started out the new school year with class! We had a fabulous time at Camp Alexandra for our beach camp experience. The children learned a lot about the ocean and the life in it, team building skills, journaling, hiking, running, bird watching, fire building, cooking and much more. It was an incredible experience and we all felt very attached to Crescent Beach and each other by the end. Goals of camp include bonding experiences, independence and a crash course on cooking in preparation for the hot lunch program. All of these were achieved!

In the classroom we have continued learning about the oceans and its great explorers. We're also exploring sound and how we hear.

Along with national and US elections, the Seniors are preparing for their classroom elections this week, voting for a Prime Minister, Treasurer, Secretary and Hot lunch Manager, the executive which will enable them to run their own classroom meetings and confidently discuss the issues they find pressing to them, at the same time learning about government roles and responsibilities. We will begin serving hot lunch the first week of October!

We start each day with fifteen minutes of yoga, a very mindful and relaxed start to our day; we go to gym classes at the YMCA and have started French and music. Our schedule is full and we are having a lot of fun learning.

Camp Alexandra



Minding Each Others' Business

We are always open to businesses who come up with creative ideas to support the school and themselves. It benefits us all to create a culture of mutual support. If you have a business that complies with the school's mission and ethics, and you would like to offer it in some way, please let us know and we can consider the options.



Here is a great example: YTB Travel will set up our own travel agency, similar to Expedia, Orbitz and Travelocity, which will give parents even lower rates on travel, hotels, car rentals, cruise ship packages, vacation packages and even concerts and attraction tickets, etc. As soon as possible we will create a link to YTB Travel on our website, so that we can all start benefiting. If you have any questions, contact Ravinder Singh

For Small Hands Project!



Here's another one, that the teachers love! The most precious gift possible for a child is INDEPENDENCE. To continue to foster a *passion for learning* in all areas of our children's lives, the For Small Hands catalog (on our display table) and the website: www.forsmallhands.com was created for Montessori parents by Montessori teachers for use in the home environment.



This "mini-catalog" features items appropriate for families and children to use at home, enabling children to participate more easily and successfully in the daily life of the family. It is an offshoot of Montessori Services, an educational business in Santa Rosa, California that supplies the world with remarkable Montessori practical life materials.

This project is specifically designed for four main reasons:

- to holistically enrich your family life and the lives of other families you are gifting
- to help you avoid purchasing over-packaged, ecologically-harmful toys that 'offend' your child's intellect during the "giving season"
- to benefit your child's school by earning free materials for the classrooms!



*****Teachers always much prefer gifts for their classroom instead of personal gifts! Yes...it is what really excites a Montessori teacher ☺ So, there will be wish list ornament tags attached to Autumn leaves on the walls in front of your child's classroom to make the gift-giving process a little easier! *****

How can families place an order?

- 1) Please take a family group order form, peruse the catalogue at www.forsmallhands.com and write down the items you want.
- 2) Hand in the form with your payment by cheque or money order (please make sure you include the shipping costs as shown on the form!) payable to Roots and Wings Montessori, to your child's teacher by October 23rd.

We welcome a few parent volunteers willing to help us with this project!

Parents' Forum

Question: When will my child start receiving homework?

Answer: This is a common question which comes from the world's belief that children need to have learning imposed on them, and from our own school experience. Montessori assures us that children love to learn, and that when the motivation comes from them, they learn much more effectively, retain and build on what they discover, and are eager for more. A book in our parent library entitled The Homework Myth presents the many negative results of assigned and forced homework, including the stress it brings to families. We therefore do not often impose homework, (unless a child is having trouble fulfilling commitments at school), but we do require that the children do something *constructive* each evening, rather than focusing on screen entertainment. Constructive activity could include baking cookies, playing soccer, doing a science experiment, playing in a natural environment (read Last Child in the Woods), art or crafts – anything that requires original thought on the part of the child and brings a sense of accomplishment and fun. For more information, visit our website (www.rootsandwingsbc.com) and click on Philosophy then Homework.



Question: Why doesn't my child tell me what she does at school when I ask her?

Answer: Children live in the now. They rarely analyze or even identify what they are doing, and once they move on, it leaves their conscious thought as it is filled with a new interest and focus. Memory of what was been done can be triggered by questions, as Melissa suggested, such as, "Did you have a story today?" or "Did you work with the pouring this morning?", "What did you eat or prepare for snack?" or "Did you work with a friend today?"

Once they move into the Intermediate class, they begin to know what they know" and can articulate it better. Right now she's just grooving every moment and loving it!

Outdoors

When I run out for playtime
It feels so nice to be outside.



I feel so happy amongst the trees,
and they are very nice to climb.
At our school there also is a creek where
when it rains the water will go in to the
creek, we also find frogs and salamanders
there. Past the creek is our playground
where there are swings and monkey bars.
We also have the hay-barn were there is lots
of hay and also a slide. Past that there is
lots of forts made out of trees. And even
farther back there is the 2 acre long field that
used to be a tranquilizer court (a game that
we invented).

My nostril smells awesome inside of
my nose, a bit like the bloom of a
newly-picked rose. It started this
morning I couldn't say why, and all
day it smelled like Kyro's banana
cream pie. It had the aroma of
Kristin's freshly-baked bread with hot
melted butter and blackberry spread,
and maybe the breeze of a warm
afternoon, that follows a
thunderstorm early in June. It smells
like a pine forest right by the lake and
Kyle's chocolate chip cookies that
his mom used to bake.

By: Jorge

