

JANUARY 2009

Welcome Back!

We hope you are all well and ready for the beginning of this exciting New Year at Meadow Montessori School.

Over the holidays some families reported illnesses such as flues, colds and a case of Norovirus

(stomach flu).

Remind yourselves and

your children to wash those hands regularly.

This is the best defence against contracting and spreading malaise in flu season. Let's stay healthy!

Snow, snow and more snow! What winter weather we have experienced recently! If we get more snow remember to check our website (usually updated by 8 AM) or the School District #42 website to see if we are closed for the day. Remember, if SD # 42 is closed, we are closed. You can also listen to CKNW or News 1130 in the morning; the decision is usually made by 7AM.



BOARD BUSINESS

The next meeting of the board will be **January 12th at 7pm**; all parents are encouraged to attend!

Your child - Your choice -

Your school - Your voice!

If you wish to contact the board directly email:

board@meadowmontessori.ca



The virtue for January is

Self-Discipline

Self-discipline involves acting according to what you *think* instead of how you *feel* in the moment. Self-discipline is the assertion of willpower over more base desires, and is usually understood to be a synonym of 'self control'. With self-discipline you get things done efficiently and have order in your life. Life is more peaceful.

How do you practice it?

Set goals and do what is expected without people having to watch over you. Create routines that bring order and peace to your day, such as when to wash, exercise, work and play.

"The first and best victory is to conquer self."

~Plato

Greek Philosopher

"I think the guys who are really controlling their emotions ... are going to win."

~ Tiger Woods

Professional Golfer



Please don't allow your children to play in the snow right in front of the school due to the fragile boxwood shrubs that are hidden underneath. Thank you.



Happy Birthday!

Greetings for January

Preschool:	Chloe Gabrielle Esteban Rebecca June Sophia
Elementary:	Olivia Kaytlyn Erica



With your help, our winter concert was a complete success. Thank you to those parents who generously brought sweets, savouries and the like and automatically helped by removing food wraps and cleaning up after their little ones. A true community effort!

Meadow Montessori Preschool & Elementary

11391 Darford Street, Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 1V6

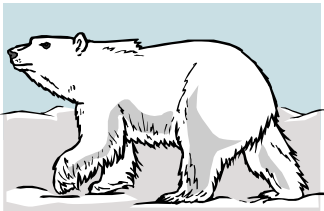
Phone: (604) 465-3492/ Email: admin@meadowmontessori.ca

www.meadowmontessori.ca

NEWSLETTER

Preschool Update

The children in the preschool have experienced quite a "polar transformation" since returning to the school with its new displays and materials for the New Year. They are busy learning about the Arctic, North and South polar regions and it's inhabitants such as: Penguins, Killer Whales, Seals, Krill, Polar Bears, Reindeer, Arctic Foxes, even Scientists and the Inuit people of our Canadian North.



The teachers would like to gently remind parents, who are just getting back into their school schedules, to set aside a little extra time to deal with snow, ice and traffic issues to get to school on time. Late students cause interruptions for the whole classroom, especially in the preschool at this exciting age of discovery.



Elementary Update

While the **Kindergarten** is studying concepts of family and community the **Younger Elementary** will be starting a new fundamental needs lesson. This culture study of identifying basic needs begins with prehistoric humans, continues through the Greeks, Romans and Middle Ages and ends with present day. The children are looking at how our needs have changed (or stayed the same) and how our needs are met.

The **Older Students** are continuing their study of the human body and this will extend to learning about harmful substances (smoking prevention). They will also continue to experience practical life in the kitchen, with their first attempt at preparing a hot lunch.

When the weather cooperates, elementary students will once again be going out for some physical education activities in the community. Further details will follow.



Scholastic Book Orders

DUE January 15th

(All classes)

The elementary classroom has a wish list of some items they wish to purchase through Scholastic Book Clubs. The more books you buy the closer we come to acquiring these items for the kids!



This year, our **Elementary** class is proud to participate in the Scholastic Book Clubs Classrooms-Care Program.

That means, **when our class reads 100 Books by May 31, 2009 Scholastic Book Clubs will make a donation of books to children in need** through its Literacy Partners: First Book®, Save the Children®, Frontier College, and Fondation pour l'alphabétisation.

All books your child completes until the deadline will be included in our class total, including books read at home, at school, on the way—anywhere!

Scholastic Book Clubs has a Classrooms-Care Web site where you can read about donations, its Literacy Partners, activities, and more. You can check it out at www.scholastic.ca/classroomscare.

The purpose of the initiative is not just to encourage reading, but also to empower children to make a difference in the lives of other kids.

**Reading IS giving in the Classrooms-Care program!
Thanks for your support!**



Monday, February 9th

(Pro-D Day - no school)

The teachers are busily organizing an **Open House** for Parents and the Public and as well, will be inviting Preschool teachers from other schools to inform and advertise the benefits of our elementary program.

Our **recycling video** will be available for viewing, featuring impromptu acting by our elementary students with their 'Three R Detective Agency' (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). This video was produced with the assistance of the Recycling Society. As well several pieces of work completed by the children from all the classes, will be on display in the gym.

Parents and the Public are invited to attend at the following times:
2-3:30 PM and 6:30-7:30 PM

We look forward to seeing you there!

Spread the word!



NEWSLETTER



Meadow Montessori has adopted a beautiful girl in Haiti by the name of **Guerdy Bonhomme**. She was born August 14, 1996 and has survived many recent hurricanes leaving her impoverished community in ruin. Guerdy is an ambitious child. She lives in the House of Hope Orphanage, which is located in the community of Gressier. Unfortunately, Guerdy's father is unable to be located and her mother is deceased. Guerdy helps out at the orphanage by cleaning shoes and cleaning her sleeping area etc. Guerdy is also a healthy child, as she did not need to visit the health clinic throughout this last year.

Guerdy is in the fourth year of primary school at House of Hope of Gressier School where her favourite subject is math. She enjoys attending school because she really enjoys learning new things. Guerdy likes to spend her free time reading, and often plays with friends during the school holidays. Guerdy's favourite food is corn and her greatest joy this last year was celebrating Christmas.



The children of Meadow Montessori School are asked to each donate 25¢ per month towards supporting Guerdy.

The money will be collected by the teachers and placed in a special fund towards our sponsorship fees.

Together, we can make a difference in Guerdy's life.

* * * * *

Are you a preschool parent thinking about our elementary program?

Come to our Open House!

Here, one of the most Frequently Asked Questions is answered...

What is the difference between Montessori and traditional education?

Montessori education includes work with the Montessori materials, which enable students to grasp concepts in a visual and concrete manner before engaging in more abstract learning. The Montessori program is designed to enable students to reach their full potential at their own pace. The multi-age grouping allows each child to find his or her own pace without feeling "ahead or behind" in relation to peers. In this way, students have an opportunity to learn from and respect each other's abilities. Teachers give lessons and observe the students, stepping in when a child needs help or is ready to learn a new skill.

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