

Mission Statement: "To create a community environment that fosters children's social, ethical and intellectual development."

November 2009

The days are getting shorter and cooler and there's even been a bit of frost. The colours of the trees have been spectacular this year and we've had a beautiful Indian summer to enjoy it all. What a *GLORIOUS* time of the year!



The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was held here at the school on October 19th and we had a good turnout of some wonderfully willing parents! Thank you all for participating. The new Board of Directors are as follows:

Jeannine Lyotier, President
Jennifer Philip, Vice President
Jill Gillespie, Secretary
Nancy Gill, Treasurer
Celia Ferreira, Director
Karen Horne, Director
Jody Makela, Director
Kelly Melonie, Director
Angie Ramsay, Director
Marie Portugal, Director

Welcome to all of you! We, the teachers, are looking forward to a productive year. The next meeting of the board will be: **November 9th**; all parents are encouraged to attend! If you wish to contact the board directly, the email address is: board@meadowmontessori.ca.

The virtue for October is **COURAGE**

Courage is personal bravery in the face of fear. Courage is going ahead even when you feel like giving up. Courage is needed in trying new things. It is admitting mistakes and then doing the right thing.

Why practice courage?
Without courage, people would only do what is easy. No one would try new things. Everyone would do what everyone else is doing, to avoid standing out - even if they knew it was wrong. With courage, you can face any situation.

How do you practice it?
When you feel afraid, name the fear and then let it go. Then do what you really want to do. Admit mistakes and learn from them. Keep trying. Stand up for what you know is right even if all your friends are doing something wrong. Ask for help when you need it.

(Reference: The Virtues Project Educators Guide, Linda K. Popov)

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."

~Anais Nin

"With courage, you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity."

~Keshavan Nair



PICTURE DAY is
Tuesday
November 10th



Remembrance Day
Wednesday
Nov 11th
School is
CLOSED



Happy Birthday!
Greetings for November

Preschool - Reese & Kihanna

Parent/Teacher Interviews went very well, we are so proud of the children. Please remember that you can talk to the teachers at any time and you don't need an appointment to do so.

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Preschool Update

We thoroughly enjoyed learning about Diwali the "Festival of Lights". **Big thank-yous** to Ethan's mom, Nancy, and his grandparents for the snacks and bringing in the sari, drums and fan for us all to admire!



Our next celebration we will be exploring is *Hanukah*. Please see the preschool teachers if you have any ideas or if you have something you can contribute.

We all enjoyed the pumpkin patch field trip in early October - it didn't rain so we felt especially lucky!

From now until the winter break we will be learning all about our senses in the classroom. As well, we will be starting to practise for our winter concert so you'll probably start hearing a few of our jingles quite soon!

Please save any lids from frozen juice containers and bring them in to the preschool please, we need them for an upcoming craft.

NEW! The teachers in the preschool can be reached directly via email at:

teacher@meadowmontessori.ca

Elementary Update

In the classroom, the K's & 1's have been learning about pumpkins. We learned about the parts of the pumpkin, cut one pumpkin open, scooped out the insides, and baked it so that we could use the pulp to make pumpkin ice cream, which not too many liked!!! We washed the seeds and put them in a jar and made guesses as to how many there would be in that one pumpkin. The guesses ranged from 30 to a million (!!!) - the actual number was 440. The closest guess was made by, none other than, Miss Donna who guessed 425! She was, of course, accused of having counted the seeds, therefore being able to make the closest guess. She denies it and I, of course, believe her completely!!!

All grades are going to begin learning about **flags** - the history of them, the various shapes of flags and their meanings, focusing on the Canadian flag (history, etc.) as well as the provinces. The older students will go into more depth. We will probably be creating our own flag - maybe even a flag for Meadow Montessori!

FYI

Halloween Costumes

Why we don't allow costumes at our school.

- Dressing & undressing
- Super-hero play
- Safety Issues
- Distracting
- Losing or breaking parts of costumes.

Purdy's Fundraiser



Halloween has just past and some of us are already thinking about Christmas. Participating in our Purdy's Fundraiser is very simple and makes your holiday shopping a little sweeter! **Let's make this a record-breaking fundraiser folks!** Please have a good look at the brochure, think about your Christmas list now and place your orders!

Take it to work with you! Extra catalogues are available.

Orders will be accepted until November 16th

Fresh delivery on Dec 4th!



Remember, we are a Non-Profit Society and your support positively affects our classrooms.

We appreciate your participation in our fundraising initiatives.

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SCHOLASTIC

We are sending home the November's Scholastic order forms. Ordering through our school is not only very cost friendly, it also helps us acquire new teaching items and books. Please take advantage of the excellent prices offered through Scholastic!

**Orders are DUE
Friday November 13th**



Please remember, the children of Meadow Montessori School are asked to each donate 25¢ at the beginning of each month towards supporting Guerdy, our sponsored child in Haiti.



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

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As of November 1st, 2009 our school is now a **NUT-FREE ZONE**

Have a look at the attached information from Fraser Health regarding nut-free lunch, snack & preparation ideas!

Important Information Regarding H1N1 Flu

We had our first reported case of H1N1 in the preschool afternoon classroom late last week and teachers were informing parents at the door.

In response to this we are undertaking the following as recommended by the Fraser Health Authority:

We will continue all educational programs and school activities as per usual unless otherwise notified by Fraser Health.

We will be reporting any influenza-like illness school absenteeism of greater than 10 percent of the school population to Fraser Health.

We are allowing students and children who may have been exposed to the Influenza A H1N1 virus who are feeling well and not showing any symptoms to participate in regular activities.

We are also teaching the following precautionary measures:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve.

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.

Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Our teachers and cleaning staff



continually sanitize our classrooms. We are taking every measure possible to make this flu season as safe as possible for all.