



Newsletter

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to Meadow Montessori and a warm welcome to our new students. We hope you had an enjoyable summer and are all set for the new school year.

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BOARD BUSINESS

An **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Meadow Montessori School Society Board of Directors will be held here at the school on **October 19th at 7PM**. This is when we welcome new members and start the year. **Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. Your input is indispensable and is a highly satisfying advantage of being a part of Meadow Montessori.** We hope to have a good turnout of interested parents!

*Your child - Your choice -
Your school - Your voice!*

The Present Board of Directors are:

Kristine Lockyer, President
Karen Horne, Vice President
Jeannine Lyotier, Secretary
Jennifer Philip, Treasurer
Celia Ferreira, Director

If you wish to contact the board directly, the email address is:
board@meadowmontessori.ca

Our Virtues Project

Last year with great success ideas from the **Virtues** project were incorporated into our curriculum. Virtues are the oldest ideas in the world and are universally valued by all cultures. The Virtues project is internationally known and was honoured as a model global program for families of all cultures by the United Nations Secretariat during the International Year of the Family. The philosophy of the virtues project is that by following the virtues, the best qualities within our children, we can encourage them to be at their best. The purpose is to "help develop a culture of character where respect, patience, self-discipline, tolerance and a joy for learning are among the virtues our children master."

With each virtue we will be looking at what that virtue means, why we should practice it and what it would look like under different scenarios. We will be letting you know each month what our "Virtue of the Month" is and we encourage you to discuss this with your child.

If you'd like more information about this program please refer to the website

www.virtuesproject.com or talk to the teachers. We will also have a small section each month in the newsletter that you can use as a guideline.

The virtue for September is
CARING

When you care about people, you help them. When you do a careful job, you give it your very best effort. You treat people and things gently and respectfully.

Why practice caring?

Without caring, nothing and no one matters. Caring makes the world a better and safer place.

How do you practice it?

You care for others when you show love and concern by doing kind things for them. Ask them how they are and what they think. When they are sad ask, "How can I help?" You handle things with control and gentleness. You give your best to everything you do. When you take care of yourself, you treat your body with respect.

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



Meadow Montessori Preschool & Elementary

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MEET & GREET PICNIC!

Our annual meet and greet picnic will be held **Saturday, September 26th** from 11 AM - 1 PM at **Albion Park, 24460 - 104 Avenue, Maple Ridge**. Please see the preschool bulletin boards for the sign-up sheet to bring goodies!



*Please remember to check out the **bulletin boards** just outside the doors of the preschool classroom. Here we will post any important notices, general school information and signup sheets pertaining to the whole school population. Please check there regularly so you don't miss anything important.

*If you have not already done so please be sure to have all the necessary forms from your parent packages, along with the Emergency Preparedness Kits and any other requested items, handed in to the teachers by the end of this week.

International Day of Peace Monday, September 21st

This year we will be participating in a worldwide 'sing for peace' project, which has been arranged by *Shelley Murley* of Vancouver, BC. Shelley has written a beautiful song called "Light a Candle for Peace", which will be sung continuously for 24 hours by Montessori (and other) classrooms from around the world in every time zone.

We are in Zone 23 and have been asked to sing at 10:36 AM. We will be singing for about 5 minutes, so we may use instruments and/or solos/duets to provide variety and lengthen the performance time. The song is quite easy to learn and will be taught to the students by Miss Donna during the first 2 weeks of school. **Parents are invited to join us at 10:30AM (sharp) and sing along or just listen. Please come out and share this event with us, your involvement is most welcome!**

LYRICS

Light a candle for peace,
Light a candle for love,
Light a candle that shines,
All the way around the world.

Light a candle for me,
Light a candle for you,
That our wish for world peace,
Will one day come true

Sing Peace Around the World
Sing Peace Around the World
Sing Peace Around the World
Sing Peace Around the World



We just sent home the first **Scholastic** order forms for the year.

We will do our best to have the orders submitted in a timely manner so any "holiday" and "special day" books will arrive on time.

**The first order is due
Friday SEPT 25th**

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Happy Birthday!

Greetings for September

Ronin
Feliicytii



MARK Your
CALENDARS!

**Parent, Caregiver &
Teacher Night Oct 22nd**

Does Montessori Prepare Children for the Real World? With Tim Seldin, Executive Hotel Burnaby 7-9PM, Advance tickets \$10, \$15 at the door. Ask your teacher for info.

Pro-D October 23rd

There has been a change to the school calendar. October's Professional day is being changed to Friday October 23rd from the 27th so the teachers may attend the BC Montessori Association Conference being held in Burnaby.

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Preschool Update & Reminders Welcome Sarah!

Most of you have already met the newest member of Meadow Montessori Preschool - Sarah Ferguson.

She has her early childhood education training and has worked in childcare since 2004. Sarah is presently completing her Montessori Diploma for 3-6 year olds and is thrilled to be a part of our community. Please introduce yourself and say hello!

Snack Sign-up - No nuts!

We prefer a healthy snack that includes 2 food groups. Please remember that grapes need to be cut in half.

Goodbye at the door...

Remember to prepare your child for a 'goodbye' at the door. And don't forget Moms & Dads - if you're OK with the separation, there's a good chance that your child will be too!

No TOYS please!

We prefer that the children not bring toys into the classroom but if they *need* to, we ask them to leave them in a basket just inside the door.



COOKING with the KIDS

For all parents interested in cooking with the children here is some important information:

Two (2) interested parents (you and another parent or family member) sign up. You decide what you would like to cook with the children and you bring ingredients and any special tools you may need. When you arrive at the school you can go into the kitchen and get set-up. We can help you move a table in and find items in the kitchen. When ready you come and collect half of the children and take them to wash hands in the church washrooms. When they are done cooking we can send in the next group as soon as you are ready for them. We have 2 working ovens, cookie pans, bowls, various mixing tools and measuring spoons available. You are welcome to come and see exactly what we have before your cooking day. We also have a school cookbook that can be borrowed for ideas.



Our goal with this program is to involve the children in a great "practical life" activity and we encourage lots of child participation such as measuring, stirring, pouring and so on. The children always enjoy these cooking days. **We encourage any interested parents to sign-up and have fun!**

We are truly looking forward to a great year of curiosity, learning and exploring together.

Miss Destin & Miss Sarah

Elementary Update

Our Kindergarten children have begun the **Junior Great Books Read-Aloud** program. This interpretive reading & discussion program with its at-home component, gives children the opportunity to continuously interact with excellent literature.

During the next few weeks, the students in the elementary classroom will be learning about **choice theory**. This is based on the work of William Glasser, MD, author of the book so named, which is the culmination of some 50 years of theory and practice in psychology and counselling.

The lessons will flow from the fundamental needs of the earth, to those of humans and then those of the individual. Choice theory posits that behaviour is central to our existence and is driven by five genetically driven needs. As the lessons progress, the students will learn to become more cognizant of their behaviour (as well as that of others) and the need(s) driving it. The overall purpose of this work is to help set a positive 'tone' for the classroom for the year.

We are very much looking forward to an exciting year of learning and exploring together.

Miss Bonnie &
Miss Donna

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\$Referral Incentives\$

A family that refers a student to our *elementary* classroom will receive one month free tuition after the student referred has been enrolled and paid for a minimum of three months.

As a refresher please review the following information as provided by Fraser Health.

Symptoms Which Should Exclude a Child From Attending a Child Care/School Facility

Parents should be advised to keep their child at home or to seek alternate care arrangements for the following conditions:

- Pain - any complaints of unexplained or undiagnosed pain.
- A common cold with listlessness, runny nose and eyes, coughing and sore throat.
- Difficulty in breathing - wheezing or a persistent cough.
- Fever
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing.
- Infected skin or eyes, or an undiagnosed rash.
- Headache and stiff neck (should see physician).
- Unexplained diarrhea.
- Severe itching, dry skin of either body or scalp if caused by head or body lice or scabies.

In Summary, a child must be kept at home (or taken home) when the child:

- Is suffering from one or more of the above symptoms, or
- Is not well enough to take part in the regular programs of the facility.

Husky Community Rebate Program

Participating in our Husky Rebate Program means more funds for the school to be spent on materials and activities for the kids!



It's EASY!

Swipe the card when you buy gas or eat at a Husky Restaurant and Husky will pay the school a rebate of 2% of your purchase!



One card is going home for each new family, if you wish to have two or three just ask and we'll get them to you pronto! The cards are available for anyone who wishes to support the school that includes grandparents & neighbours!



Mother Nature's Fuel

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

We appreciate your participation in our fundraising initiatives.



Read Now BC is a government action plan that promotes literacy programs and resources to help all British Columbians improve their reading skills. An information DVD is available to borrow and/or copy. **Please ask your teacher to sign out this DVD.** Reading opens the door to lifelong learning!



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.

Please sign and return the attached page regarding green newsletters and photo permissions.