



Westside Montessori School May 2012 Newsletter



Dear WMS Parents,

April was a very full month. We had our Spring Observations where parents had the opportunity to see the difference in the work cycle and activities being done in the classroom, compared to November. At this time of year, the children have really bonded with their class as a group and there is a real sense of camaraderie and community. Thank you for taking the time to come and see your children in their classes.



For **Earth Day**, the children painted, cut and pin-poked beautiful Eric Carle inspired globes encased in hearts. The artist study came alive and the field trip to the Normal Rothstein Theatre was a nice way to end the unit. It was mesmerizing to see the Caterpillar,

Chameleon and Little Cloud come to life in black light puppetry. We all learned a lot from the Q&A about the magic behind the performance.

This month brings us some annual favourites: **Mother's Day Tea** and the **Children's Evening**.

Staffing Change for September 2012

We want to congratulate Ms Tasneem on completing her Degree in Early Childhood Education. We are sadly going to have to say goodbye to Ms Tasneem as she is going on to pursue her Montessori Elementary training. We are so grateful for the warmth, talent and expertise that she brought to the school. We wish her the absolute best and look forward to these next few months with her.

We welcome Ms Victoria to our staff. She received her Montessori Training in Toronto and has over ten years teaching experience. She will be involved in five weeks of summer camp, to get to know some of the children and start to acclimatize to Westside Montessori.

Staffing for September 2012 - 2013:

1st Floor and Kindergarten Enrichment:
Bettina Tioseco and Garland Lam

2nd Floor and Jr Kindergarten Enrichment:
Portia Geczi and Victoria Wedgbury

May Composer and Artist

Our Artist Appreciation study is modern female artist, Georgia O'Keeffe, with a focus on her flower paintings, to tie in with Spring.

Our Composer this month is Richard Wagner.
"Joy is not in things, it is in us."

May Themes: Saturn and Uranus

The Solar System focus has spread throughout the classrooms. The children have really embraced the space materials, songs, stories, art and experiments. Our focus this month will be the ringed planets **Saturn** and **Uranus**.





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The Sandbox is Now Open!

On sunny days, we will open up the sand box.
Sandbox rules:

Sand stays in the
sand area.

We don't throw
sand.



Keep sand away from the play kitchen and
woodchip area.

Please ensure that before class, the children
and their younger siblings respect and care for
our playground, garden and toys. This includes
not walking on the picnic table and following
the sandbox guidelines.

With the nicer weather, we will be spending
more time outside! The classes may have
picnics or Yoga, French or Music classes in
front yard or go for neighbourhood nature
walks.

Mother's Day Tea: Thursday, May 10th

On Thursday, May 10th, we shall be holding our
annual Mother's Day Tea during the last hour
of classes:



MORNINGS

1st Floor Class: 10:30am

2nd Floor Class: 10:45am

AFTERNOONS

1st Floor Class: 2:00pm

2nd Floor Class: 2:15pm.

This is an occasion for the children to show
their love for their Moms by serving them tea
and a specially prepared snack of strawberries
and cream. They will also be singing some
heartfelt songs and giving Mother's Day gifts.

If you cannot attend, a Grandmother, Aunt,
caregiver or a friend could fill in instead (one
guest per child). Please let the teachers know
ahead of time if this is the case.

Children's Evening: Thursday, May 24th

On Thursday, May 24th we have the **Children's
Evening** in the classrooms. The children invite
their parents and siblings to visit the school.
The children show their guests around their
class and share favourite areas and activities.
The Kindergarten students will be presenting
their Solar System projects as well.

The **Morning Classes** are to come to school
from **5-6 pm** and the **Afternoon Classes** are to
come to school from **6-7 pm**. The children are
very proud of what they can do and look
forward to sharing their classroom
environment with you.

Summer Program - July and August

There has been a great response to our
Summer Camp! We are happy to announce that
both classrooms will be used to run
simultaneous sessions. Registration will remain
open until they fill up.

Charity Project - Heifer International

The children had a great
time planning out,
budgeting and choosing how
to spend the money we
raised with the Charity Bag
Project last December.
They chose a cow, llamas,
goats, chickens, sheep, pigs, bees and trees.
We had meaningful discussions about our gifts
of not just livestock, but the benefits of milk,
wool, eggs and offspring, that will continue to
be passed on from farmer to farmer.





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Mark Your Calendars ...

Monday, April 30th Scholastic due

May 2012

Thurs, May 10th **Mother's Day Tea**
(last hour of class)

Thurs, May 17th **Alphabet Party** (details to follow)

Mon, May 21st **Victoria Day**
(school closed)

Tues, May 22nd **Summer B-days sign-up**

Thurs, May 24th **Children's Evening**
AM Classes: 5 - 6 pm
PM Classes: 6 - 7 pm

Thurs, May 31st **Scholastic due**
Summer Birthdays Party

June 2012

Fri, June 4th **Picnic Potluck sign-up**

Fri, June 8th **Last Day of Friday**
Enrichment Classes

Thurs, June 14th **Father's Day Coffee**
(first hour of class -
regular school day follows)

Fri, June 15th **K-Enrichment Graduation**
9:30 - 10:30 am

School Picnic at Quilchena
Park, 11:30 am - 2 pm

Mon, June 18th -
Tues, June 19th **Scholastic Book Fair**
(last two days of school)

Mon, June 18th **Pyjama Day**

Tues, June 19th **Last Day of School**

Wed, June 20th **New Children's Visit Day**

July 2nd - Aug 16th **Summer Camp**

50 Things To Do by the Age of 12:

1. Climb a tree
2. Roll down a really big hill
3. Camp out in the wild
4. Build a fort
5. Skim a stone
6. Run around in the rain
7. Let a ladybug crawl on your hand
8. Catch a fish with a net
9. Eat an apple straight from a tree
10. Fly a kite
11. Throw some snow
12. Hunt for treasure on the beach
13. Make a mud pie
14. Dam a stream
15. Go sledging
16. Bury someone in the sand
17. Set up a snail race
18. Balance on a fallen tree
19. Swing on a rope swing
20. Make a mud slide
21. Eat blackberries growing in the wild
22. Take a look inside a tree
23. Visit an island
24. Feel like you're flying in the wind
25. Make a grass trumpet
26. Hunt for fossils and bones
27. Watch the sun wake up
28. Climb a huge hill
29. Get behind a waterfall
30. Feed a bird from your hand
31. Hunt for bugs
32. Find some frogspawn
33. Catch a butterfly in a net
34. Track wild animals
35. Discover what's in a pond
36. Call an owl
37. Check out the crazy creatures under a rock
38. Bring up a butterfly
39. Sit under the night sky and look up at the stars
40. Go on a nature walk at night
41. Plant it, grow it, eat it
42. Go wild swimming
43. Go rafting
44. Light a fire without matches
45. Find your way with a map and a compass
46. Try rock climbing
47. Cook on a campfire
48. Catch a snowflake on your tongue
49. Find a four-leaf clover
50. Canoe down a river