



Westside Montessori School April 2012 Newsletter



Dear WMS Parents,

We hope everyone had an enjoyable Spring Break, and like ourselves, are rested and ready for the last term. The bulbs the children planted in the garden are showing us some signs of spring. Another eventful month is planned with our second round of observations, conferences and also a field trip to the Norman Rothstein Theatre where we will be seeing a production of Eric Carle's children's books.



March's **Degas** study was very inspiring. The children had an opportunity to use chalk pastels on charcoal paper. They "smudge" the colour (pigment) onto the paper and were shown how to blend colours using their fingers. After smudging and blending within the

ballerina stencil, removed the stencil and revealed their masterpiece!

Shrove Tuesday was a great event! The children prepared pancake batter and certainly enjoyed cooking and eating them.

Those sly Leprechauns painted the classrooms green this **St Patrick's Day**! They turned all the water in the school green and wreaked such havoc throughout the school - it was literally topsy-turvy! After putting the rooms back together we enjoyed the day eating all the festive snacks.

April Themes: Mars and Jupiter

Our Space focus this month is on the planets Mars and Jupiter. The classes have really embraced the Solar System study and the field trip was very enriching.

April Music and Artist

We're switching things up a bit this month and will be listening to the music of **The Beatles**! With songs like Yellow

Submarine, Here Comes the Sun, Octopus's Garden and Obladi Oblada - we'll have many songs and ballads to enjoy.

"All you need is love."
~ John Lennon

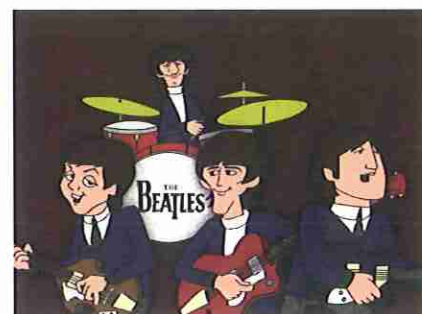
In anticipation of our upcoming field trip, our Artist Appreciation focus is **Eric Carle**.

Field Trip - Eric Carle at the JCC

We will complete April's Eric Carle art focus with a much-anticipated field trip to the Norman Rothstein Theatre, at the Jewish Community Centre at the end of the month.

We will be seeing a stage production that closely follows the books from which they are adapted. The charming vignettes teach as well as entertain with large-scale puppets brought to life through the magic of black light. This triple bill includes the wonderful story of **The Very Hungry Caterpillar's** metamorphosis, the fanciful account of **Little Cloud's** travels through the sky and **The Mixed-Up Chameleon's** discovery of his own unique nature.

Field Trip forms will be distributed on April 16th and are due back on the 19th. We require forms to be returned on time so we can complete the paperwork on our end of things. Thank you.



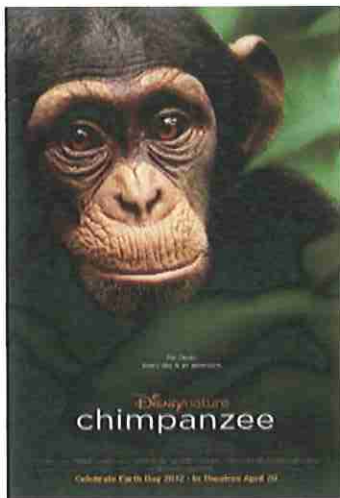


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Earth Day Movie: Chimpanzee

If you are looking for a film to see as a whole family, we recommend the movie, *Chimpanzee*. It takes moviegoers deep into the forests of Africa, a new True Life Adventure introducing an adorable baby chimp named Oscar and his entertaining approach to life in a remarkable story of family bonds and individual triumph. It will be in theatres on April 20th, 2012, for Earth Day.



Spring Progress Reports

Your child's **Progress Reports** will be given to you on Tuesday, April 24th. It is a summary of his or her activities in the classroom with observations from the teachers.

Enrichment Reports will be given out on the last day of Enrichment - Friday, June 8th. The Jr Kindergarten report is a summary of the class' activities. The Kindergarten one is both a general summary of activities as well as an individual narrative report.

Spring Observations: April 16th - 19th

Spring Parent Observation Week is from Monday, April 16th to Thursday, April 19th. Observations are *twenty minutes*. If both parents wish to observe, they can both sign up for the same time slot. Alternatively, you can sign-up to observe a specialist class - Music and Theatre (Mondays), French (Tuesdays) or

Yoga (Wednesdays). Let the teachers know your preference ahead of time, so they can facilitate it according to the specialist schedule. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the notice boards when we return after Spring Break on Monday, April 2nd.

P/T Conferences: April 24th and 26th

Parent / Teacher conferences follow the observation period on Tuesday, April 24th and Thursday April 26st. (We have the Eric Carle field trip on Wednesday). Each conference will be *15 minutes*. If it is more convenient to schedule an after-school meeting, please make arrangements with the classroom teachers.

Summer Program - July and August

We have a very exciting Summer Program planned for July and August. It will run in the mornings for **seven weeks** - July 2nd to August 16th. The focus will be on fun and creativity. The different themes are:

WK1: July 2 - 6: Baking Week

WK2: July 9 - 12: DIY Crafts

WK3: July 16 - 19: Hip Hop, Dance & Movement

WK4: July 23 - 26: Scavenger Hunts and Nature Crafts

WK5: July 30 - Aug 2: Pets Week

WK6: Aug 6 - 9: Dinosaurs and Fairy Tales

WK 7: Aug 13 - 16: Games! Games! Games!

This Summer Program at WMS will have a different mix of teachers each week. Teachers include Garland, Portia, Bettina, Victoria, Alexis & Sarah Kuhl as well as alumni teachers: Annie Craig and also Monique & Nicole Sobieski.





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New WMS Email Addresses

Please take note of our new email addresses:

Office: admin@westsidemontessori.ca

Teachers: staff@westsidemontessori.ca

Our previous Gmail accounts will forward incoming mail to our new accounts, but will have automatic replies directing you to our new email addresses.

Mark Your Calendars ...

Mon, April 2 nd	First Day of Spring Term
Mon, April 2 nd	Summer Camp forms go out and Sign-up forms for Observation & Conferences are posted
Thurs, April 5 th	Scholastic due
Thurs, April 5 th	Easter Egg Hunt
Fri, April 6 th	Good Friday (school closed)
Mon. April 9 th	Easter Monday (school closed)
Mon, April 16 th - 19 th	Observation Week
Mon, April 16 th	Field Trip forms go out
Thurs, April 19 th	Field Trip and Summer Camp forms due
Mon, Apr 23 rd	Earth Day Celebration Progress Reports
Tues, April 24 th	P/T Conferences
Wed, April 25 th	Field Trip: <i>'The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favourites'</i>
Thurs, April 26 th	P/T Conferences

May 2012

Thurs, May 3 rd	Scholastic due
Thurs, May 10 th	Mother's Day Tea (last hour of class)
Mon, May 21 st	Victoria Day (school closed)
Thurs, May 24 th	Children's Evening AM Classes: 5 - 6 pm PM Classes: 6 - 7 pm
Thurs, May 31 st	Scholastic due Summer Birthdays Party

June 2012

Fri, June 4 th	Picnic sign-up goes up
Fri, June 8 th	Last Day of Friday Enrichment Classes
Thurs, June 14 th	Father's Day Coffee (first hour of class - regular day follows)
Fri, June 15 th	K-Enrichment Graduation 9:30 - 10:30 am School Picnic at <i>Quilchena Park</i> , 11:30 am - 2 pm
Mon, June 18 th - Tues, June 19 th	Scholastic Book Fair (two days)
Mon, June 18 th	Pyjama Day
Tues, June 19 th	Last Day of School
Wed, June 20 th	New Children's Visit Day
July 2 nd - Aug 16 th Summer Camp	