

NORTHSTAR

NEWS

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May 2008

visit us @ www.northstarmontessori.com

9th Issue

Staff Announcements

We would like to congratulate the early arrival of Mrs. Bajac's first-born baby, Quinton Michael, born on April 21st. Mr. Russo will be in LE3 for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Chanel Tsang, who is currently finishing the school year teaching in another Montessori school, will be joining Northstar and taking over LE3 in September.

Northstar would also like to congratulate Mrs. Sta. Ana, who is also expecting her 2nd child in October.

Miss Nunes and her fiancée will be participating in a charity event to raise funds for the OSPCA regarding cruelty to animals. Altogether, \$550 was raised of which \$185 came from her Casa 2 students.

Let's Plant a Tree for Earth Day



The Casa and Elementary students planted 3 trees on Friday, April 18th to show awareness of the crisis Mother Earth is going through in the past decade. Students learned about how to plant a tree, why it is important and how to care for it. They also had an opportunity to shovel the soil and water the trees for the first time. Let's make everyday Earth Day and do our part to help the environment!

PLAY DAY!!

This year, instead of participating in Laps for Lungs we will be holding a Play Day in the afternoon on **Friday, May 16th** organized by the Upper Elementary students. (Rain date: May 23rd)



We're asking for each student to bring in a \$2 donation and we'll forward all money raised to THE LUNG ASSOCIATION.

This event consists of cooperative games, chosen by the Upper Elementary students. With assistance

from Mr. Ramirez, teams will be made up of approximately 8-9 Casa and Lower Elementary students, plus a teacher. The goal of this event is to encourage leadership of our Upper Elementary students and to develop relationships amongst our student body.

We invite all morning Casa students to stay for the entire day, so they can participate in the fun! The games will begin promptly at 1:00 and be finished around 3:00pm. The students will spend the afternoon inside the gym and outside enjoying games and refreshments. A celebration will follow to cap the day.

May Birthdays

Toddler - Arthur McLeod, Hunter Semple
Pre-Casa - Victoria Mlcoch, Elliot Pratt, Serena Toscani
Casa 1 - Brianna Bookye-Cofie, Faaris Mian, Justin Tai
Casa 2 - Ishan Bhatia, Mark Gasior, Davis Parsons, Hannah Warby
Casa 3 - Gillian Lee, Christine Marshall, Bishan Sunner
Casa 4 - Tristan Cabral-Pereira, Ethan Golias
Lower Elem 1 - Brett Addison
Lower Elem 2 - Millen Iaboni, Breanna Samuels
Lower Elem 3 - Patrick Khreich, Justin Law
Upper Elem 1 - Yousef Heiba, Angelica Mapeso, Samuel Wong

The Parent Committee is asking parents to donate drinks and freezies for the refreshment station. If you're willing to donate, please sign your name on the sheet outside of each classroom. We ask that all **cold** drinks and **frozen** freezies to be brought in the morning of the event.

InSchool Wear on SALE



Once again, InSchool Wear will be visiting Northstar to take orders for the next school year. All orders are guaranteed ready for the September start. Date is set for May 12th from 3:00 - 5:30pm. Order Forms available at office. **DON'T MISS IT BECAUSE THERE'S NO TAXES!**

PARENT REMINDERS

- * PHOTO ORDERS DUE - Monday, May 5th
- * CASA GRAD DATE MOVED - Saturday, May 31st
- * PIZZA DAY - Tuesday, May 6th & May 20th
- * MOTHER'S DAY - Sunday, May 11th
- * PLAY DAY - Friday, May 16th
- * SUMMER CAMP FORMS DUE - Friday, May 16th
- * VICTORIA DAY - Monday, May 19th (No School)
- * ELEMENTARY TRACK MEET - Friday, May 30th
- * SCIENCE FAIR - Friday, June 6th
- * ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC - Saturday, June 14th

Homework Survey Results



Recently, the Elementary parents were asked to complete a survey to receive some feedback about homework for elementary students. Of 82 students, 43 completed surveys were completed.

In summary, 60.5% of the parents felt homework should stay the same and 30.2% would like it to decrease. About 43.2% of students spend 2-3 hours/week on homework. Thank you to those that participated in our elementary homework survey.

International Day

On Wednesday, April 23rd, Northstar parents had an opportunity to visit some countries from around the world. It was a great success and parents had expressed gratitude for the experience. Many thanks to parents that made contributions for International Day to make it extra-special.



(Left) Venus, Sarah and Simrah of Casa 4 smile just before a presentation
(Right) Samuel Wong (UE1) offers samosas to guests.

All the teachers and students would personally like to express a great, big thank you to the parents for their support, help and contributions toward making International Day such a roaring success. The classes had a lot of fun and they hope you did too!

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS

PARENT COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

The volunteers of the Parent Committee work diligently throughout the year striving to enhance students' school experiences.

We hope you can spare ten minutes of your time to complete a short survey which will assist us in planning for the upcoming year. **Your participation is critical to ensure subsequent activities are a success.**

The survey will be posted for a two week period from **May 9th to May 23rd** and will only be able to accept 100 responses.

To complete the survey, please:

- 1) Go to the Northstar website at: www.northstarmontessori.com
- 2) Login as a "member" (if you haven't yet become a member, you must do this first)
- 3) Under the "Latest News" section, click on "Parent Committee Survey"
- 4) Complete the survey

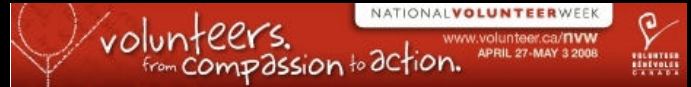
The Parent Committee will incorporate the results of this survey into next school year's planning.



National Volunteer Week

April 27 - May 3, 2008

In honour of National Volunteer Week, Northstar Montessori would like to sincerely express our gratitude to our parent volunteers who work with us to help enrich our school community and students' experience. By volunteering your time you have helped to include the students in various activities and events that are a part of their education and self-development. **THANK YOU!**



Let's do our part for the Earth

For children to learn the proper way of disposing food or drink items, we as adults must be good role models and do the same. Please dispose items in the proper allocated bins. All blue bins must only have recyclable materials. Do not include straws, coffee cups, plastic wrappers, etc. Throw only the following items: all beverage containers, plastic bags, zip-loc bags, yogurt containers, drink boxes, foil and any other plastic containers. It is in our best interest to keep our community healthy for years to come.



2008 Parent Committee Meetings

The Parent Committee is busy finalizing Play Day, the Family Picnic, and making plans for next year. It's never too late so if you'd like to get involved, please join us **Monday May 5th**, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30pm: The last Parent Committee Meeting is set for Monday, June 2nd.

FAMILY PICNIC 2008

The school year is coming to an end and our annual Family Picnic is almost here! The Parent Committee needs your assistance in completing and returning an order form (one per family) for your food choice no later than **Friday, May 30th**. The form is attached.

We encourage all of you to come for the entire duration of the picnic. We look forward to a day full of sunshine, fun and laughter with our Northstar families. See you there!