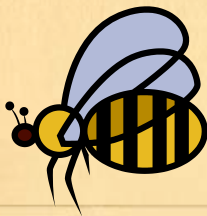


The Buzz of...



"Where Mind and Spirit Go Hand in Hand"

BHMS

June 2011 Newsletter



*A school that
believes!*



Junior Elementary experience Upper Canada Village



Writing on tablets

RENETTE WRITES

As I reflect on this past school year I am overjoyed at the accomplishments of the BHMS team, students, and community.



BHMS staff are truly the pulse of the school. The Graduation Ceremony followed by The Festival of Flavours event, which was led by our own Melina Vacca-Pugsley is a testament to spirit, collaboration and teamwork. Melina was supported by members of the BHMS team who came together to organize this event which was a true community success despite the rain. The event featured games, entertainment, and foods from around the world. It was a true labour of love on the part of the team – thank you!



Congratulations to BHMS students who learn to give back; they raised over \$7,500 this year to Help Lesotho.

We leave this year saying goodbye to Brian Ray, Janis Anderson and Anne Bacler for their many years of service as they retire from BHMS. The Retirement Celebration and Alumni BBQ which was organized by our parent community was a resounding

success. The event was overwhelmingly attended by present families, staff, former parents, former staff, friends of BHMS and lots of alumni. BHMS founder Elaine Hopkins also honoured us with her attendance and led us in prayer before dinner.



We cannot forget the support we receive from our community of BHMS parent volunteers. Without their help we would not be able to accomplish all that we do. On behalf of the BHMS team I would like to extend a heartfelt word of thanks to our parent volunteers and Board of Governors who have dedicated countless hours to our school community.

Congratulations to BHMS staff who are celebrating 5 years of service; Sujata Bajpeyi, Sharlene Dubois and Natalie Gamble. Congratulations to Ingrid Bohm, Kati Auchinleck and Tom Geddis who are celebrating 10 years of service.



I wish all our students and families a happy and safe summer. See you all in the fall.



CALENDAR

July 4 - August 19

Summer Camps

Separate registration

September 6

First day of school for returning students.

September 8

Class Parent Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m.

September 14 to 21

Class Coffee / Breakfasts begin. Please check BHMS calendar for start dates and times.

September 20

Meet the Specialists Night

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

September 30

Terry Fox Run

9:00 - 11:30 a.m. All welcome.

October 6

Thanksgiving Worship. All welcome.



Senior Elementary Science exhibition



Presenting his Science project

The Miracle of Metamorphosis

by Natalie Gamble, Senior Elementary Director (ages 9 to 12 years)

The day the package arrived was very exciting. The sticker that said “Live Specimens” doubled the excitement that the children felt. We unwrapped the package and inside we found a small container full of ten baby caterpillars, a bag of food, and an instruction booklet. Immediately we started the process. We had to mix the food and place it into small containers with lids. Then we placed caterpillars into their new “condos”. Some had to share with as many as four roommates. Then we left them for a few days, while observing their progress each day. Each student adopted a container and named their “babies”. When we left school for the long weekend, our caterpillars were still tiny,

although they had grown somewhat. After the four day weekend we came in and had a shock: The caterpillars had grown to at least four times their original size! They were huge. And just a few days later some had started to make cocoons and attach themselves to the roofs of their little condos. After they cocooned they wiggled back and forth. We wondered what was going on in there. We had to transfer the lids and attach them to the inside of a net that had come with the butterflies. As they kept cocooning, we kept moving them. It wasn't long before some had started to emerge from their little home. One poor guy got left in the little container so when he

emerged, he didn't have enough room to stretch out, and because of that his wings did not stretch and dry properly. That little guy didn't make it. One after the other the butterflies came out of their cocoons. We were excited to see a new one each day and to release anew into the world each day. This was a great experience and the students were able to see first hand what actually happens to caterpillars and how they change and become adults. Chicken eggs are next!



Senior Elementary Science Exhibition

by Rupa Rawat, Science Director (ages 10 to 14 years)

May was a busy month for our young scientific minds in Senior Elementary. They didn't just finish the unit of independent project work but also presented their projects to the community at the science exhibition. Doing a science project involves the process of scientific method that helps in the overall development of inquisitive scientific minds. It is a reflection of our Montessori approach to learning for excellence.



These inquisitive minds don't stop here. They are in action until the end of June. All Senior Elementary and Junior High students will be learning the skills of dissection and studying the anatomy of different specimens such as: rats, sheep body organs, frogs, salamanders and earthworms. Some of our Junior Elementary keen minds are eagerly waiting to watch the demonstrations of some of these dissections.

The Usborne Book Fair was a big success. Total sales were \$1418.41 and \$425.50 in free books for the school. Thank you to Usborne representative Fiona and to BHMS parents Susan S., Pamela C., Aleatha C. and Rosie G. for their help and support.

Montessori Philosophy, Music and Movement

by Janis Anderson, Toddler Director (ages 18 months to 3 years)

If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing.

-Zimbabwe Proverb

Humans are born to sing. As soon as a child can focus on the mouth of the mother, he is studying how lips move and how sounds are made. When he begins to make sounds and the adult imitates them, the first duet is born. Let us help the child continue with this joyful human creation.

There is no such thing as a non-musical child, there are just non-musical adults who did not get this practice as children. Songs give children a way of expressing emotions, and the very act of singing is a physical release. We do not need beautiful voices to model singing for children. Singing also gives practice in language, new words, poetry, and other cultural information.

The children in the Toddler Community enjoy singing, dancing and playing rhythm instruments. In this way, children realize that music is always the result of body movements. Even when making natural sounds, children understand that music is produced by human beings using various muscles of the mouth, hands and arms. A child can make music whenever she feels like it. Many children sit with their chosen work and hum melodies quietly as they concentrate.

The Toddler Community sang "O Canada" in the BHMS Grad Ceremony on June 24th. Continue singing and dancing, life will be richer!



French @ Home

by Julie Chamberland-Nicoll, French Director (ages 3 to 9 years)

French specialists are often asked how to integrate French at home. Please find the following suggestions:

Encourage your child to share some words with you in the car, at the dinner table, at the supermarket or before bedtime. Ask them if they know a particular word you don't know (or pretend not to know!). Allow them to correct you - but keep it light. Above all, this exercise should be spontaneous, casual and fun.

Encourage your child to look at or take out French books from your local library. The aim is to incorporate French in an informal setting, for the children to feel confident using their skills and to enjoy the books. Eventually, your child will realize that French is part of his/her world.

Check out "L'imagerie", "Imagerie pour les tout-petits", "T'choupi", "Apprentis Lecteurs", "Napoléon" or "Caramel" collections to name just a few.

A picture dictionary "my first 1000 words in French" would be a good addition to a home library and could become part of an after school activity.

A book on CD is a wonderful listening exercise or perhaps a movie such as IMAX in French.

Many resources can be found in the French Scholastic Book Club flyer you receive every month. A number of book collections are available for beginning readers such as: "Mon petit livre", "Clifford tout p'tit", "Lire et découvrir", "Coucou!", "Je veux lire", "A la ferme", "Petit poisson deviendra

grand", "Apprentis lecteurs", "Je peux lire!", "Allez hop! Les sens", "Sami", "Je suis fier de moi", "Mon corps", "Kilo et Ti-pou".

When ordering, be aware that the reading levels given on the flyer are typically for French Immersion children, so, depending on your child's reading skills, you might want to look for books that say "niveau 1" or "niveau 2". If you go to the site <http://scholastic.ca/editions> and click on "collections", you will be able to read a couple of sample pages of some books (click on "Lire un extrait" or "Cliquer ici pour lire un extrait!").

French bookstores where you can find or order a lot of French resources: Librairie du Soleil, 33 George Street, Librairie Le Coin du Livre, 1657 Cyrville Road, Centre Franco-Ontarien de Ressources Pédagogiques 435 Donald Street <http://cforp.on.ca>

When time permits, perhaps on a Saturday morning, explore the French television channels to find a suitable program, such as Georges, Arthur or Petit Ours Brun. They will not understand everything, but it helps train their ear.

CD ROMS are an interesting option. You could have an older sibling helping a younger one. Here are a few:

"Lapin Malin et ses Amis" (by TLC-Edusoft) caters to different age groups "Bayard Jeunesse Pomme d'Api" (by Ubisoft) "Ça se transforme", "Il y a quelque chose dedans" and "Ça fait peur" are some of the titles of this excellent software.

If you are looking for activities in French during holiday periods, check out the free newspaper "Capital Parent" for information.

Museums offer a variety of exhibitions and activities in both official languages. Your child could follow one of these in French.

You and your child could explore two excellent websites that are good complements to what your child learns in class while having fun together: <http://pagesperso-orange.fr/jeux.lulu> This website is from France. The red ° indicates games with audio support. The accent is good and the articulation is very clear. The games have auto correction. There are two "menus" offered, "Jeux à partir de 4 ans" (games for 4 to 6 years old) and "Jeux à partir de 7 ans" (games for 7 years old and older). Start with easy games as in "Jeux à partir de 4 ans" and increase the level of difficulty gradually. Most of the games have different levels of difficulty. As the child progresses, he/she gains confidence and is proud of his/her French skills. Some games you might want to try are: "Pour qui...?", "Classement", "Quelques mots" (the "photographier" exercises are interesting) and "Le bon choix".

<http://fslactivities.ca> This website "FSL Activities with M. Renaud" was created by a teacher who works in British Columbia. It is written in English for parents, students and teachers. Click on "activities" and choose a level of difficulty: "Beginners", "Easy" or "Intermediate".



Language work in Casa.



Booth presentation at Junior High Marketplace.

Casa Science Workshop

by Anna Watt, Casa Director (ages 3 to 6 years)

The CASA first and second year students had a wonderful time during a Little Ray's Science workshop recently. This workshop gave them the chance to explore the science of mixing primary colours.

Their session began with a display of the mixing of the primary colours; red, yellow and blue. Through the exhibition they were able to see the resulting secondary colours. Many children were able to respond to the exhibitor's questions due to their previous experiences with colour work in the classroom.

The hands-on segment began with each child being given a bag of shaving cream and the opportunity to select the two colours they would like to mix in their bag. This was an exciting time for them as they manipulated the shaving cream in their bag to produce their new colour. They enjoyed observing the colours their friends created as well. The best part for them however, was being able to mix colours with icing sugar to create a topping for cookies they were given. It was interesting to observe their intense concentration and fine motor skills as well as their total enjoyment in spreading their icing on their cookies.

This workshop supports the Colour Boxes the students work with in the Sensorial area of the class.

360 Kilometre Adventure

by Brian Ray, Junior High Director (ages 12 to 14 years)

On May 30th the Junior High class once again started out on a week long bicycle trip from Ottawa to Amherst Island and back, a 360 kilometre adventure. We spent the week cycling through the beautiful countryside of eastern Ontario on quiet country roads and spent a day exploring Amherst Island, just west of Kingston.

Students worked hard this spring to train on their bicycles and made many other preparations for this enormous undertaking.

The trip provides students with many lessons about perseverance, teamwork, working together to achieve a difficult goal, how a group can be stronger than the sum of individuals, the importance of planning and how important it is to remain flexible in our plans, meeting new people and practicing grace and courtesy in real situations, appreciating the beauty of the country and the joy of physical exercise.

This was the fifteenth edition of the BHMS Bike Trip and we were all very excited to make it a grand success!



Junkyard Symphony and Little Ray's Radical Science Visits the Casa Students

by Ivana Micucci, Casa Director (ages 3 to 6 years)

On Monday, April 18th, the Extended Day Casa students had an opportunity to become part of an exciting and captivating performance put on by Junkyard Symphony called the "Science of Sound." The performance was based on sound and how instruments can be created from re-used and recycled objects. Children were selected from the audience to help with the performance. The children who were not selected were also engaged and participated from their seats.

On Thursday, April 28th, all of the Casa students attended another performance by Junkyard Symphony. This show was slightly different from the first and was called the "Circo-Eco." It was tailored more towards the younger Casa students as well as to our Toddler community who joined us in the gym. The performance allowed for plenty of audience participation. True to its name, this performance had a certain circus feel to it with tricks and surprises that left the children amazed. Each show lasted approximately 60 minutes,

delivering entertaining antics and surprising tricks.

"So who is Junkyard Symphony?" Junkyard Symphony is an eco-entertainment company that reuses old objects such as junk to create musical instruments. The performers are the conductors while the audience becomes the symphony. Their one message in mind is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rock."

On May 10 & 11, Little Rays Radical Science returned to present a workshop on dinosaurs to all the Casa children. A brief introduction on the life of dinosaurs and the different species of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores kept the children captivated and attentive throughout the presentation.

The children learned about palaeontologists and how they study life of prehistoric times by using fossil evidence. Each child had a sensorial experience as the exhibitor delivered a hands-on activity allowing each child to



Junkyard Symphony visit BHMS

make a replica of a dinosaur's fossil tooth. The children were excited and thrilled to participate in such a discovery.

Junkyard Symphony and Little Ray's Radical Science proved to be fun, interactive and educational for our little ones.



FESTIVAL OF FLAVOURS & GRADUATION CEREMONY





Montessori & Help Lesotho

THANK YOU ALL; WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR'S FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND PEN PAL LETTERS.

by Linda Wrigley, Junior Elementary Director
(ages 6 to 9 years)

I'd like to extend our thanks to everyone for supporting our school in Lesotho again this year. I know we are making a difference in their lives at school. The principal wrote a letter to express her gratitude as well. They are a very spiritual community there and feel a great deal of love for us here in Canada. The Help Lesotho organization will be visiting our school again in the near future. We will be able to send them a nice cheque that should cover the building of a new water

collection system for the school; one that will be gravity fed and not require technology and technicians to service it. With just the garage sale, the \$1 per bag sale, Noah's \$250 from his First Communion presents and Madame Elysee's piggy bank, we raised \$624 for our school in Lesotho.

BHMS has contributed more than \$7500 towards Help Lesotho this year!

Volunteers are Precious

We appreciate our volunteers and would like to thank each and every one of you for your contribution to BHMS. This year could not have been a success without the help of the many volunteers who donated their time. Ways parents help at BHMS:

- Driving
- Class Parents
- IT support
- Material making
- Costumes
- Sewing
- Event planning
- Fundraising
- Scholastic flyers
- Book fairs
- Field trips
- Swimming supervision
- Uniform sales

A booth was set up during the Festival of Flavours to acknowledge all BHMS parent volunteers. We thank all our volunteers for stopping by and participating in our draws.

- LeeEllen won a bouquet of flowers
- Mabhin won a fruit basket
- Judy won a decanter

Congratulations to all!

The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. ~Terri Guillemets

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. ~Sherry Anderson

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew



Geometry in Montessori

by Lijun Tang, Junior Elementary Director (ages 6 to 9 years)

Geometry is one of the six subjects in the Montessori curriculum. In the elementary level, students are interested in reasoning and analyzing different geometric properties. They like to find the relationships and similarities between shapes based on factual knowledge that they learned previously. We are not presenting geometry to the students to make geometricians out of them, but rather to give them a basic structure for intellectual investigation and development.

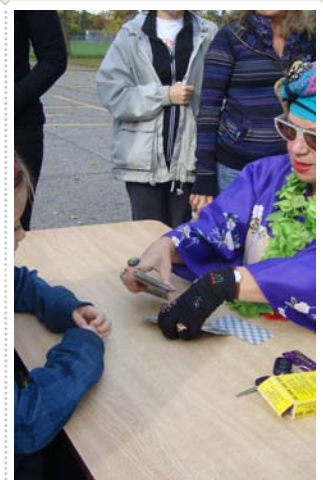
With the lessons that we give students, they are encouraged to use their logical and deductive

reasoning to form abstractions. Through this work, students create for themselves a foundation for understanding geometric theorems which can be applied later on in high school.

Junior Elementary 3rd year students are learning about the area of different polygons, including rectangles, parallelograms, and trapezoids. It may seem surprising that junior elementary students can understand these formulas. However, Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy and creative materials make all of this learning possible.



Geometry work in a Junior Elementary classroom (ages 6 to 12 years)



Terry Fox Fundraiser; run, face painting, fortune telling and more!



Supporting Montessori Outcomes in Your Home During Summertime

by Pamela Lawler, Montessori Resource Director

You have made a big investment in your child's future in choosing the Montessori approach at BHMS. Over the summer you'll want to support the gains your child has made this school year. Besides the academic skills acquired this year, your child has been learning a special kind of independence, which will be a tool for success in life. In Montessori philosophy, "independence" refers to an internal motivation on the part of the student to learn and work without external control as well as an autonomy and confidence with regards to handling oneself in a variety of situations.

For the young child, physical independence is developed in the Montessori environment with Care-of-Self activities. Your child has been practising dressing him/herself, cleaning hands, preparing food, etc. These skills lead to positive self-esteem and the desire to do things for him/herself. To support and extend these skills, parents can involve their toddler and casa-aged child in simple home activities like washing dishes, setting the table, and helping with aspects of meal preparation. In summer, these can be done outside to enjoy the sunny weather and minimize clean up. Set up a low table or bench with water tubs or a clean cutting board with a plastic banana slicer and your child will have a great time helping out the family.

For the elementary-aged child, independence is continued with snack and meal preparation but also pertains to the areas outside the home environment such as on the public bus system, at the theatre, at the museum and much more. You can encourage your child to plan outings for the family, organizing the payment of museum fees, or the route for the nature hike. For example, on a family trip or at home in Ottawa, your 6-11 year old can contribute to map reading, setting up a tent or grocery

shopping. She/he might need a bit of help to get started but will enjoy the experience. For the adolescent, independence relates more to intellectual and moral autonomy. This doesn't mean you should leave your teenager purely to his/her own devices but instead he or she should be involved in physical labour, real decision-making and opportunities for leadership within the family and their community. While your adolescent is discovering his/her strengths and interests for adulthood, leadership-in-training programs at summer camps as well as summer jobs in the community contribute to a sense of self and competence. Including teens in cottage repair and construction projects or gardening. Channel all that energy into positive directions and keep him/her linked to family life.

Supporting the development of your child's independence may require a time commitment on the part of the parents. It is much quicker to wash the dishes yourself, hook your child up to video games on the car trip, or build a shed on your own. However, the experience of bonding with your child, promoting his/her autonomy through time spent now, and seeing his/her self-satisfied smiles is worth any inconvenience. After all, summertime comes once a year and time spent now promoting your child's future success is invaluable. Enjoy the summer!



Setting the table

Independence refers to an internal motivation on the part of the student to learn and work without external control as well as an autonomy and confidence with regards to handling oneself in a variety of situations.



Religious Studies at BHMS

by Nancy deKemp, Catechist, Good Shepherd Atrium (ages 6 to 14 years)

“The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials they use to help them absorb the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith.

You may be wondering how these materials help the religious life of children. If an adult hears a beautiful passage from the Bible, the adult might take a Bible, find the passage, and read it slowly again and again. He or she may think deeply about the words and perhaps speak to God in a thankful or hopeful prayer. A little child, too young to read, needs another way. In an atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the material for that text and working with it - placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist. Older children often copy parables from the Bible, place written prayers in order from the rite of baptism, or label a long time line showing the history of the kingdom of God.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a sensorially rich experience for children from the ages of 3 to 12 years that gives children the opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of God.” (National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

Music Corner

by Kati Auchinleck, Music Director (ages 6 to 14 years)

Our spring concert this year focused on music taken from popular feature films. It was a wild ride so I hope you were strapped in for our journey through the fiery pits of Mordor with our selections from Lord of the Rings, or through the swamps of Duloc with our song from Shrek. Our global adventure continued through the wild plains of the Pride Lands with our music from The Lion King, and we visited a war-torn Japan with our choice from Mulan.

You may have seen some ruffians and thugs with our selections from Tangled, and maybe the Death Star with our selections from Star Wars. I hope the dragons and scary beasts didn't frighten you! After all, Hakuna Matata! No worries! The Animal Crackers in your soup can't hurt you and you brought along the Bear Necessities.

But if you got scared, just remember that The Sun Will Come Up Tomorrow!



Junior High students develop business plans and sell their wares at Marketplace 2011



The King and I musical production



News from After-school

by Wendy Marquardt, After-School Program Coordinator

This has been my first year as after-school program coordinator. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children and have tried to organize programs that your children would enjoy.

A wide variety of programs were introduced this year, with great response, such as Aikido, Art, Apothecary and Drama. Some of you may have even seen our Junior Elementary presentation of Peter Pan playing on the television in the hall, or the elephant in the *King and I*, that was produced by our Art class. A survey to our current after-school students was collected to get a better understanding of the types of programs they

would like to see next year. I wish to thank all the parents and students for making this an enjoyable first year for me and I hope to be seeing you all next year.



Drama After-school program presents Peter Pan

OC Transpo Visit

by Linda Wrigley, Junior Elementary Director (ages 6 to 9 years)

On Tuesday May 10th, elementary students were learning about our public transportation system here in Ottawa.

OC Transpo visited us with an exciting presentation. They addressed safety, all the different jobs people have with OC Transpo as well as promoting a cheaper and more environmentally friendly way of getting around the city. The students met special constables, a bus driver, trainer, fares and safety officers. They were shown around an articulated bus, how to work the exit door, how to use the bike racks on the bus, and courteous behaviour when riding the bus. The OC Transpo staff were very impressed with the

questions the students were asking and how experienced many of them were in riding the public buses. Learning about and using public transportation is an important skill for the students to acquire to become more independent.



Grandparents' / Special Friends' Tea