



# Leonardo Da Vinci Academy

100 Allanhurst Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9A 4K4

## LDVA NEWS March/April 2015

and concentration, to learn the value of perseverance, and to develop confidence through trial and error.

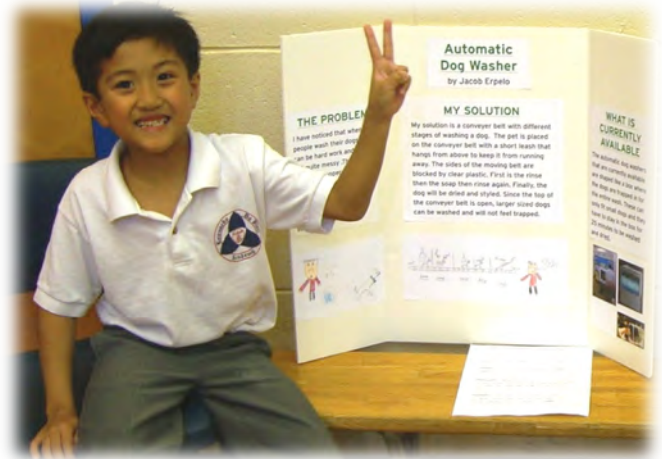
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### INVENTION CONVENTION

Mrs. Lee

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> the school hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> LDVA Invention Convention from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm in the school gym. Each invention was created by a student from grades 1 to 7 as a solution to a perceived real life problem. The students used all the Da Vincian principles to invent their prototype. The display included inventions and proposed apps to help the environment, aids for seniors and the blind, and some very practical solutions to help with daily chores including a "Brother Blocker". Some of the inventions including a board game promoted fitness and sports. A few of our young Leonardo's with their inventions are shown top right and below.



### LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

March's Leonardo's Challenge, hosted by Mrs. Barba, successfully incorporated many of the Da Vincian principles and in particular *Arte/Scienza*, *Dimostrazione* and *Sfumato*. Students were required to use math and reasoning skills to guess a secret number known only to a teammate. Specific clues were given with each guess. Teammates were required to make use of previous information and use logic to correctly guess the number. The objective was to guess the number with the fewest number of guesses. It proved to be a challenging and engaging mental exercise that incorporated teamwork and "Thinking Like Leonardo" skills.



Photos of students engaged in the March Leonardo's Challenge.

### ROCK CLIMBING

On April 29<sup>th</sup> students in grades 1-7 will be going to Boulderz Climbing Centre in Etobicoke for a lesson on rock climbing. The excursion will engage students in many of the *Da Vincian Principles*. In particular it will provide an opportunity for them to practice focusing

<i>Dimostrazione Dragons</i>	25	42	8	<b>58</b>
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**INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

*Mr. Jewell*

Spring is finally in the air, and this is an exciting time for elementary students participating in the LDVA Sports program. Inspired by the Cricket World Cup, which happened in Australia and New Zealand last month, students learned how to play a modified indoor version of this classic game that is very popular in other parts of the world. As such, teams have now competed in soccer, flag football, basketball, European handball, lacrosse, floor hockey, and cricket. Only one sport, Ultimate Frisbee, remains to be played before playoffs start in May, and the *Sfumato Speedsters* are still occupying the pole position at the top of the standings, having enjoyed fast paced success in all sports thus far. Their closest rivals, the *Arte/Scienza Army* are sitting comfortably in second place, strategically placed for an assault on the championship. The *Curiosità Carnivores* were involved in a seesaw battle for third place that left them licking their wounds in the wake of a scorching charge from the *Dimostrazione Dragons*. For now the *Dragons* seem to have backed off slightly, although they performed very well during the cricket unit, and will look to put the heat on the top teams in the upcoming playoffs. Do not be surprised if they burn a team or two with an upset victory as they catch the scent of playoff glory.

Below is a summary of the standings as of April 12<sup>th</sup> (two points are awarded for a win, one point for a tie, none for a loss). During the playoffs, the top ranked seed will face the bottom seed, while second and third will square off in the other match up. Each semi-final will consist of a best of seven series featuring most of the sports already played during the regular season. Winners will advance to what should be an exciting best of seven final series. Good luck to all teams!

TEAM	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
<i>Sfumato Speedsters</i>	45	19	11	<b>101</b>
<i>Arte / Scienza Army</i>	33	30	12	<b>78</b>
<i>Curiosità Carnivores</i>	27	39	9	<b>63</b>

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

*Mrs. Barba*



On Holy Thursday, April 2, the school celebrated the start of the **Easter Season** with our traditional “*Stations of the Cross*” assembly. Pictures of the some of the stations



performed by the Grade 2 class are shown.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

*Mrs. Barba*

LDVA students who have elected to celebrate their First Confession did so on the evening of April 22. This was in preparation for First Holy Communion which took place on April 25, at 5 pm at All Saints Church.

**SPRING CONCERT**

This year's LDVA Spring Concert production will take place on May 21 at 7:00 pm in the gym. Casa and Scuola graduates will join our Elementary students in an

evening of music and song. Mr. Sheehan and the students have been working hard to provide an evening of great entertainment - not to be missed!

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### **SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS** Ursino/Ricciuti

*Per il mese di aprile e di maggio i bambini della Scuola Materna continuano ad impegnarsi allo svolgimento del programma. Con l'arrivo della primavera, scopriranno il cambiamento della natura, facendo così uso dei cinque sensi che promuovono lo sviluppo intellettuale.*



*Un ringraziamento speciale a un genitore della scuola materna, il Vigile del Fuoco, Signor Maidment, che ha fatto una presentazione sul tema di "Fire Prevention" il 6 marzo.*



*Durante il mese di aprile si è lavorato soprattutto sulla Santa Pasqua, i bambini si sono impegnati nello sviluppo di lavori artistici sul tema, creando così un'atmosfera di felicità e di pace.*

*17 aprile - Visita alla biblioteca locale alle 12:30 per il gruppo pomeridiano.*

*22 aprile - "Earth Day": Giorno dedicato alla terra. I bambini avranno delle attività in merito, incluso la pulizia del cortile.*

*24 aprile - Visita della Signora Simone in classe, dove farà un lavoretto con i bambini sulla primavera.*

*Inoltre per il mese di maggio ricordiamo:*

*21 maggio - "LDVA Spring Concert", alle 7:00 pm, partecipano solo i bambini dell'ultimo anno*

*28 maggio - "Parents Day", alle 9:15 am, presentazione musicale per i genitori.*

*Ricordiamo ai genitori che per quanto riguarda "Show and Tell", con la lettera Z abbiamo finito questa attività per quest'anno scolastico. Un grazie a tutti per la collaborazione nel preparare i bambini. Inoltre, con l'arrivo delle belle giornate, i bambini dovrebbero sempre*

*portare il cappellino per sole e la crema solare se il tempo lo richiede.*

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### **CASA MONTESSORI NEWS** Cameron/ Rutherford

The children were all excited to tell us of the grand adventures that took place over March Break which included exotic vacations, eating a special snack and watching a show. It sounds like everyone had a wonderful vacation.

To celebrate Easter the Casa children were back in the kitchen. Our baking skills have come a long way over the course of the year and we decided to take on some more challenging projects. The children were delighted to make

"Butterfly Banana Cupcakes" and "Spring Robin's Nests". Thanks to parents for providing all the ingredients

Graduation pictures will be taken on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. All graduates should begin gathering photos for their timeline projects. Please discuss with your child what is going on in the photo so they are prepared to write a few sentences about it in class.

On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, all Casa parents are invited to come for the *Preschool Parents' Day Concert*. Your children have been working hard to perfect a delightful set of songs and poems. The concert will take place at 9:15am in the gym followed by a brief reception in your child's classroom. If you would like to contribute any nut-free refreshments please notify your child's teacher in advance.

On Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> we will be returning to Springridge Farm for strawberry picking and learn about strawberries and why they are good for us. We will also be taking a wagon ride and visiting with some of the farm animals.





Casa children proudly displaying their baked treats



Casa children being delighted by animal presentation



Scene from a skit during Serata Italiana March 12

## PARENTING CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITAL AGE

S. Ritacca

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a comprehensive article on the work of Neuroscientist Daniel J. Levitan on "**Why The Modern World Is Bad For Your Brain**". Parents are encouraged to at least read the last paragraph to get an idea of what Levitan is warning us about.

Mental health experts have discovered that excessive internet use is creating major shifts in our children's personalities and mental health. The digital age child is susceptible to internet addiction, internet use disorder, and a constant state of anxiety labeled "*reward anticipation*". When kids develop a dopamine habit during early childhood, whether through sugary treats or computer games, more serious problems may ensue. Recognizing that screens can be addictive, particularly for young children, as of May 2013, the American Psychiatric Association added "*internet use disorder*" (IUD) to its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders*. In some jurisdictions health regulations suggest children under two years get no screen time at all (including television) and children under five years less than one hour a day.

To balance the high-speed digital onslaught parents are advised to encourage children to spend more time in nature, limit screen time, and engage children in activities that involve movement and arts (eg. dance, sports, drama, music). Einstein has been quoted as saying: "*I fear the day when the technology overlaps with our humanity. The world will only have a generation of idiots.*". Allowing children down time for daydreaming and quiet meditation will help lessen the negative effect of the technological onslaught. Below are some specific guidelines to help parents navigate the digital storm:

- **Limit screen time**, especially with preschoolers, since it can affect language development, attention spans, creativity, and social skills
- **Don't let screen time and gaming compromise** socializing, playing outside, and sleeping. Virtual reality is **not the real world**.
- **Offer analog alternatives** to screen-based entertainment.
- **Choose apps that are about creating something from scratch** rather than just rewarding practice.
- **Teach your child to self-regulate screen-time** like junk-food
- **Don't be an enabler. Model the behaviour you wish to instill in your child.**



"Montessori environments push the edge of learning for children, keeping the brain challenged, and thus growing."  
*Neuro-psychologist Dr. Steven Hughes*

Madame Golgota during the *Stations of the Cross* Assembly