



Leonardo Da Vinci Academy
100 Allanhurst Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9A 4K4

Exceptional Schooling For The Formative Years
Founded 1983
www.ldva.on.ca

LDVA NEWS

February/March 2016

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LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

Our Leonardo's challenge for February was the annual "Family Challenge". LDVA families were challenged to create their own "Family Flag" which reflected their traditions and/or values as a family. These were later displayed for all to see in the hallway. Some of the wonderful creations are featured below and on the back page.



ASH WEDNESDAY

An *Ash Wednesday Ceremony* was held in the gym on Wednesday, February 10 at 10:50 am. Parents were invited to join the ceremony. As is the tradition, the observance concluded with Mr. Ritacca administering the symbolic ashes to students, parents, and staff who came forward.



SERATA ITALIANA

On the evening of Thursday, March 10, LDVA elementary students and the 2016 Scuola graduates will be presenting a concert of Italian song, music, and dance. The students and the Italian and Music teachers have been working hard preparing the Italian celebration. Parents and family members are invited to join the staff and students for an evening of Italian festivities. Be sure to join us for an entertaining *Serata Italiana* ! Performance begins at 7:00 pm.



Above: Students working in the Casa classroom

CENTENNIAL PARK SKI TRIP

On February 23, students in Grades 1 to 8 spent the day on the slopes of Centennial Park Ski Centre. Parents were also invited to join the students for an active day of skiing in the great outdoors.



Below: Casa Students Proudly Display Their Work



MARCH BREAK /EASTER HOLIDAYS

This year March Break is from Monday, March 14 to Thursday, March 24. A Camp for children aged 4 to 7 years is being offered during the week of March 21.

MARCH BREAK CAMP 2016

@ Leonardo Da Vinci Academy

Monday, March 21 - Thursday, March 24

Ages 4 to 7 years old

Please submit registration forms to Mrs. Lee to reserve your space for this week of fun. Activities include crafts, singing, outdoor play, and other special events. See Mrs. Lee for details.

This year the **Easter Holidays** immediately follow March Break. Classes resume on Tuesday, March 29.

Wishes for a pleasant March Break and a happy Easter holiday go out to all LDVA families.



A Scuola Student Learning Math the Montessori Way

"People of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things."

Leonardo da Vinci

SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS

M. Ricciutti

I bambini della Scuola Materna hanno avuto un mese di febbraio molto intenso, nel quale oltre a continuare a svolgere le varie attività montessoriane, hanno avuto la possibilità di festeggiare alcune ricorrenze parte della cultura italiana come il Carnevale. Inoltre hanno avuto la possibilità di scambiarsi i bigliettini di San Valentino e festeggiare con i propri amici indossando i colori relativi a questa festa.

Grande successo anche il "Family Challenge" dove ogni famiglia realizzando la propria bandiera ha avuto la possibilità di applicare i vari principi Leonardeschi. Complimenti a tutti!

Un benvenuto nella nostra classe va alla signora Sonia Leonzi, la quale si è unita a noi assistendo ed aiutando con le varie mansioni giornaliere i bambini. Ricordiamo a tutti di assicurarsi che i bambini arrivino sempre puntuali a scuola cosicché possano usufruire di tutto il programma giornaliero.

Per quanto riguarda il mese di marzo, ci sarà la "Serata Italiana" dove i bambini dell'ultimo anno di scuola materna parteciperanno alla serata.

Anche se saremo via per due settimane con la pausa primaverile di marzo (dal 12 al 28), i bambini si prepareranno all'arrivo della Pasqua con attività varie relative a questo evento.

**UN AUGURIO SINCERO PER UNA
SANTA PASQUA A TUTTI.**

**CASA MONTESSORI NEWS**

Grimaldi/Pinto



February was a busy month of celebrations. On Valentine's Day the Casa children were happy to exchange their Valentine cards, and were busy making their amazing family flags for the *Family Challenge*. Children who did not submit their flag can bring it in any time, since the flags will decorate our hallway for the rest of the school year!

Children have also been busy with baking Valentine cookies and decorating the classroom and the school with beautiful flower arrangements. Thank you very much for parents who have already volunteered bringing flowers to our classroom. We also re-introduced "Me in a bag" which may be familiar to returning students and very exciting for others. Each child will get a chance to take home the "bag" and bring it back with "me" in it. Please do not send toys with your child, only five items that describe your child personality and interests. This way we have a chance to get to know each other a bit more.

Please make sure your child is dressed properly for the weather. Even if it is sunny and mild outside we would like them to wear snow pants, hats, scarves and mittens every time they go out to play.

March is going to be a short month in school and children will enjoy two weeks of March break. There will be a camp in the second week, which will be offered for children between 4-7 years. Until we go for our deserved break, our graduates will be very busy practicing for our annual Italian night, the *Serata Italiana*, which will take place on the 10th of March at 7:00 pm in the gym. It will be a great way to say good-bye to the winter and welcome spring!

MORE "FAMILY FLAGS"



CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITAL AGE

S. Ritacca

The Digital Age continues to pose new and daunting **challenges for parents** who are concerned about the negative effects rising and new technology is having on their children's mental and physical health. Children are especially easy prey for developers of apps and games whose primary objective is to get them addicted to their products with little, if any, concern for their development and well-being.

Mental health experts continue to warn how excessive internet use is creating major shifts in our children's personalities and mental health. In addition to related physical disorders, the digital age child is susceptible to internet addiction and a constant state of anxiety labeled "*reward anticipation*". Dopamine driven habits developed in early childhood through computer games, or apps have been found to lead to more serious problems later. 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 ever increasing 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 balance the negative effect of the dehumanizing technological onslaught.

Below are more suggestions to help parents navigate the digital storm:

1. **Limit screen time**, (it can affect language development, attention spans, creativity, and social skills) especially for preschoolers.
2. Don't let screen time and gaming compromise socializing, playing outside, and sleeping. **Virtual reality is not the real world.**
3. **Offer analog alternatives** to screen-based entertainment.
4. **Choose apps that are about creating something from scratch** rather than just rewarding practice or "motor skills".
5. **Teach your child to self-regulate screen-time** (like junk-food).
6. **Don't be an enabler.** Model the behaviour you wish to instill in your child. (Treat cell phones more like tools not toys.).
7. **When you are spending "quality time" with your child turn off your cell phone.**