



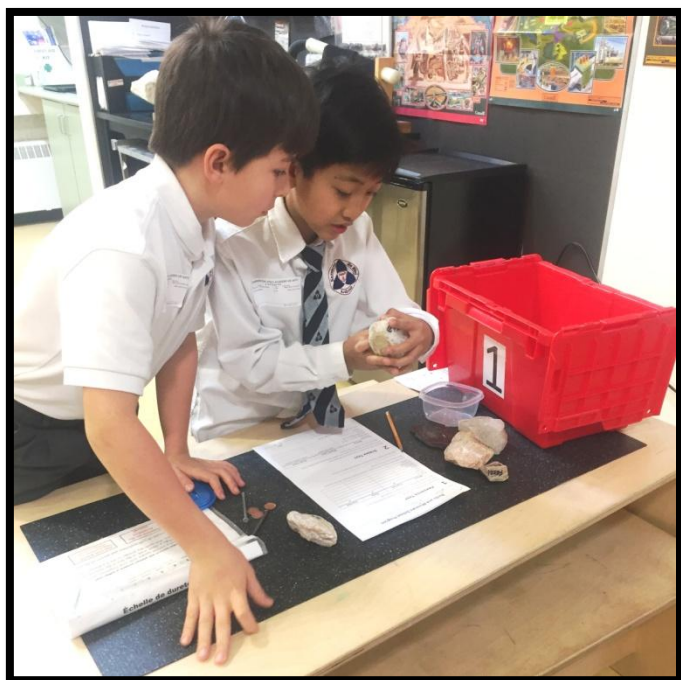
LDVA NEWS

January/February 2017

ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE



In January our elementary students visited the Ontario Science Centre. All of the students were treated to a viewing of the exciting IMAX film "A Beautiful Planet". Following the film, students were engaged in grade appropriate workshops. Grades 4-8 students studied "Rocks and Minerals" while the Lower Elementary class practiced building various structures.



Students engaged in a workshop at the Ontario Science Centre
More pictures on page 2.

ASH WEDNESDAY



An *Ash Wednesday Ceremony* will be held in the gym on Wednesday, March 1 at 10:50 am. Parents are welcome to attend.

As in the past, at the end of the ceremony Mr. Ritacca will administer the symbolic ashes to students, parents, and staff who come forward.

STUDENT REPORTS

S. Ritacca

Term 1 Reports were issued on January 27. Parents are reminded to emphasize behaviour, attitude, and effort when discussing these with their children. Focusing only on marks at this stage could impact negatively on self-esteem and may promote short-term thinking and negative behaviour. Instead parents are encouraged to engage their child in a self-evaluation of their progress and achievements. Reports are useful if they help parents and children identify areas of strength and weakness; help students learn from mistakes; foster strategies for learning; and promote self-confidence. They are NOT a valid measure of worth or intelligence.

During the formative years, Student Reports should be viewed mainly as an evaluation of the learning process. If used exclusively as a measure of student ability, Reports can actually be detrimental to learning. Using marks to motivate students is extrinsic motivation which is counter-productive to the kind of lifelong learning promoted by LDVA. The old carrot-and-stick idea of external rewards (extrinsic motivation) does not promote the development of creative and analytic skills. The best motivation for lifelong learning comes from within (intrinsic) and has three elements: **autonomy, mastery and purpose**. These are key elements of Montessori philosophy and LDVA's Da Vincian Principles. Placing the focus on learning rather than on marks helps to nurture children's intrinsic motivation and best prepares them for the future. Please see article on page 4.

SERATA ITALIANA



On the evening of March 9, LDVA elementary students and the Italian and Music teachers will present a concert of Italian song, music, and dance. Parents and family members are invited to join the staff and students for an evening of "Italian Festivities".

FAMILY DAY CHALLENGE 2017

Again this year, February's Leonardo's Challenge will be a **family** challenge. We are asking that each child bring in a family photo (5x7 please). Each class will assemble the photos and display them on a poster board. We will then take each poster board and make a mural on our hallway wall for all to enjoy!

JANUARY'S LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

On January 25 the Elementary students took part in a Leonardo's challenge hosted by Mrs. Barba. The students were organized in small groups and each group was challenged to write as many words as they could in **Italian, English** and **French** containing all the letters: a, e, m, n and p. All participants eagerly contributed words which were recorded by the group leader. It was a fun activity with surprising results. The group with the greatest number of words, lead by Joseph from Grade 6, came up with more French and Italian words than any other group.

After the challenge, the students discussed how each of the 7 Da Vinci Principles were applied in meeting the challenge. See pictures below.



MARCH BREAK

This year March Break is from Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 24. A Camp for 4 to 8 year old children is being offered at LDVA during the week of March 20.

MARCH BREAK CAMP 2017

@ Leonardo Da Vinci Academy

Monday, March 20 - Friday, March 24

Ages: 4 (as of Dec. 2016) to 8 years

As spaces are limited, please submit registration forms to Mrs. Lee by **February 28** to reserve your space for this week of fun activities. There are 20 spaces available. See Mrs. Lee for details.

LDVA AT THE ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE



SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS

Signora Ricciuti

I bambini della Scuola Materna hanno completato e assimilato il programma svolto nel mesi di gennaio e di febbraio continuando ad esplorare le varie aree Montessoriane arricchendo sempre più la loro conoscenza. Inoltre hanno avuto l'opportunità di approfondire l'apprendimento linguistico e culturale.

In gennaio i genitori hanno ricevuto la pagella dei figli. Si prega i genitori, che per qualsiasi comunicazione possono mandare un "email" a: scuola@ldva.in.ca oppure contattare l'ufficio e lasciare un messaggio.

Si ricorda ai genitori di vestire i propri figli in modo appropriato per la fredda stagione, e quindi : giacca, pantaloni per la neve, stivali, guanti, cappello e sciarpa.

I bambini della Scuola Materna hanno un mese di **febbraio** molto intenso. Oltre a continuare a svolgere le varie attività Montessoriane avranno la possibilità di festeggiare alcune ricorrenze parte della cultura italiana, come ad esempio il Carnevale ; e scambiandosi i bigliettini di San Valentino. Hanno festeggiato con i propri amici indossando i colori relativi a questa festa (rosso, bianco, rosa, viola) e svolgendo diversi lavoretti. Ricordiamo inoltre che il 20 febbraio sarà vacanza dato che è la giornata dedicata alla famiglia. Martedì 21 febbraio ci sarà il "Family Challenge". Per quanto riguarda il Carnevale i bambini potranno venire a scuola indossando il loro costume e si divertiranno molto a sfilare per i loro amici avendo l'opportunità di presentare il loro costume al resto della classe.

Ricordiamo a tutti di assicurarsi che i bambini arrivino sempre puntuali a scuola cosicché possano usufruire di tutto il programma giornaliero.



Ilaria che Compone Parole da Sola

CASA MONTESSORI NEW

Mrs. Eva Grimaldi



The Casa children have been enjoying the snow ! They are always very excited to play outside in the snow; this is why it is very important to dress them properly for the cold weather. Please make sure that they always have their snow pants and other winter accessories when they arrive to school.

The children have settled down quickly after the Christmas break, they have been working enthusiastically with the materials and are eager to learn new things every day. Students in Junior Casa have been learning about the months of the year and recently a new topic was introduced to them; we have been talking about nutritious and healthy food and they are learning about the different food groups. In the near future we will discuss every meal we serve in our classroom for snacks and lunch.

We would like to thank the parents of Junior Casa who have been participating in our new Story time activity, the children really enjoy having their families in the classroom and the time we share with the parents is very special to them. We are looking forward to have more story tellers in our classroom.

The children were also very excited to celebrate Valentine's Day together in our classroom. They loved not only to receive but also to give away their cards to their friends. Thank you very much for not sending candy as requested !



Senior Casa student working with numerals and counters



Scuola Children With Their "Pupazzo di Neve"



Junior Casa Children In Their Classroom

PARENTING FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

S. Ritacca

In his book, *"How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character"*, author Paul Tough advises, "If we really want children to succeed we need to let them fail so they can learn to manage it....Help them (children) stare at failure with unblinking honesty...give them a chance to fall down and get back up **on their own.**" Helping your child deal with failure in a positive manner is an essential skill for character development and for nurturing success.

Focusing just on test scores, diverts many well-meaning parents from parenting children for success. Preparing children for future challenges involves much more than just high grades. Making grades a priority risks generating anxiety, breeds low self-esteem and does little to foster the development of the child's true potential. Also children whose success is solely defined by 'test scores' will be at a disadvantage in a future that awaits them with real world challenges. The misplaced anxiety of many parents is rooted in fear and a need for control. Studies show that this has fostered a generation of worriers who will tremble like lab mice at the first sign of hardship. According to parenting coach Jennifer Kolari "If you look at the generation of children who've been raised this way, their anxiety is off the scale... They are a mess."

Most experts agree that nurturing character development and independence, as opposed to simply focusing on high grades, ultimately leads to better education and more socially fulfilling lives. A focus on developing skills like perseverance, curiosity, independence, learning from mistakes, delayed gratification, and personal responsibility (elements of our school's "Thinking Like Leonardo" approach to learning) are key to nurturing future success.

RE-ENROLLMENT FORMS FOR 2017-2018

Re-enrollment forms for the 2017-2018 school year have been sent home as of January 25. Parents are reminded that in order to receive the returning student discount, and/or to insure that a space is reserved for your child, the form must be returned by **February 24** with required deposit and payments. After that date the new tuition will apply and the space will be open to new applicants. Please note that re-enrollment data directly impacts on staffing and programme offerings for the upcoming year. .