



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

Exceptional Schooling For The Formative Years  
Founded 1983 [www.ldva.on.ca](http://www.ldva.on.ca)

## LDVA NEWS

May/June 2017

Vol 31 No 6

### LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

Mrs.E. Grimaldi



May's Leonardo's Challenge was hosted by Junior Casa teachers and included all the preschool children. As usual the students worked in mixed age groups. Each group was shown a picture of twenty famous people on a poster. These included scientists, politicians, musicians and some cartoon characters (that served as role models for the younger children). Each group had 45 seconds to look at the poster, then 5 minutes to write the names on a piece of paper of all the people they recognized and remembered. A discussion of the people listed followed along with a review of the Da Vincian principles employed in meeting the challenge.



Students playing cards during their visit with Seniors

### FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA



On June 1, LDVA celebrated the Italian National "Republic Day" with our traditional school banquet. Thanks to all the parents who helped out with the ``Festa`` preparations and for providing the delicious homemade Italian dishes for all to enjoy.



Special guest Maria Cristina Mignatti (centre), Education Advisor from the Italian Consulate, at LDVA's *Festa Della Repubblica* celebration.

**Leonardo Da Vinci describing the principles of Arte/Science, Sensazione and Connessione:**

*"Principles for the Development of a Complete Mind:  
Study the science of art. Study the art of Science.  
Develop your senses - especially learn how to see.  
Realize that everything connects to everything else."*

*Leonardo Da Vinci*



**INTRAMURAL SPORTS***Mr. Jewell*

Congratulations to the *Sfumato Squids*, winners of the Tim Brown Memorial Trophy for the 2016-2017 season! The *Squids* claimed their title as deserved champions of the LDVA Intramural Sports program. As the top seed after the regular season, the *Squids* initially faced the fourth place *Sensazione Spiders* in a best-of-seven semi-final series incorporating many of the sports played during the regular season. The *Squids* lived up to their billing as top seeds, easily outmatching their arachnid archrivals 4 games to 1. Meanwhile, in a tightly contested semi-final battle of 2nd and 3rd seeds, the *Corporalità Cobras* sent the *Connessione Crabs* back to the beach as they upset the anti-climactic arthropods also by a margin of 4 games to 1.

In the best-of-seven final series, both the *Squids* and the *Cobras* fought ferociously to extend the series to the full seven exciting games. The *Squids* opened with a big win in a closely contested flag football game, but the *Cobras* countered with a come from behind basketball victory. The *Squids* surged ahead by squeaking out a close win in ball hockey, only to be shut down by a *Cobra* dominated European handball contest. For a third time the *Squids* took the lead, earning a huge overtime lacrosse win to go up by 3 games to 2. However, the resilient and crafty *Cobras* fought back with a nail-biting dramatic ball hockey win in game 6 to tie the series and send it to seven games. In game 7 the sagacious *Squids* chose soccer as their final sport in their attempt to conquer the elusive *Cobras*. The game was tied 0-0 with about 5 minutes remaining to be played when the *Squids* exploded for three quick strikes to claim their rightful spot at the top of the LDVA Intramural Sports food chain. This series featured spectacular play, exhilarating victories, heartbreaking defeats, and raised the playoffs to a whole new level of intensity and exciting action all the way to its conclusion. Great effort by both teams! Well done by all.



The Tim Brown Memorial Trophy as well as the Championship medals, will be awarded to the victorious *Squids* (above) on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE***Mrs. Lee*

Students in Grades 1-8 recently visited *The Woodland Cultural Centre* where they toured the museum and participated in workshops. The students learned about the history of the Woodland people, specifically the Six Nations (Onondaga, Mohawk, Cayuga, Oneida, Seneca, and Tuscarora), from about 600 years ago up to the present day. There were many new stories and artifacts to experience during the tour which led to interesting discussions along the way.

The Grade 4-8 students were given a virtual tour of the former Mohawk Institute Residential School, which gives the history of the school from when it opened in 1831 until it closed in 1970. In the meantime, the LEM students enjoyed making clay bead necklaces. It was a great excursion for inspiring students to practice the seven *Da Vincian Principles*.



LDVA students at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford

**SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS**

M. Ricciuti

*Dopo aver svolto il programma per il mese di maggio, i bambini della Scuola Materna concludono la programmazione educativa-didattica annuale esplorando la natura e le piante arricchendo così attività all'aperto, studiando fiori e animali dello zoo e della fattoria, tenendo sempre presente i principi Da Vinciani e il metodo Montessoriano.*

*Il 19 maggio siamo andati in biblioteca. I bambini si divertono sempre molto ad ascoltare storie e cantare ma soprattutto a trovare dei libri da portare a casa con loro da leggere insieme ai propri genitori.*

*Il 25 di maggio: "Festa della famiglia"; è stata una festa emozionante per tutti, dove i bambini hanno dimostrato ancora una volta la loro bravura e la loro spontaneità, dedicando a loro canzoncine, poesie e tanto amore.*

*Il 30 maggio siamo andati tutti al "Famous People Player" dove hanno assistito ad un programma in onore del 150esimo compleanno del Canada.*

*Il 23 di giugno: Ultimo giorno di scuola, con l'orario regolare. Si ricorda ai genitori che in questo giorno alle 2:30 pm si svolgerà anche la cerimonia di chiusura dell'anno scolastico ("Graduation"). I bambini che prenderanno il diploma devono avere un **grembiulino** pulito extra, per la cerimonia. Inoltre saranno consegnate le pagelle finali.*

*Il 27 di giugno: "Pic-nic" di fine anno.*

*Quest'anno per la Scuola Materna riceveranno il diploma: Ella, KB, Domenic, Ilaria, Evangelia, e Simona. **Congratulazioni e auguri!***



*Lo Staff della Scuola Materna Montessori augura a tutti una felicissima estate!*

**CASA MONTESSORI NEWS**

E. Grimaldi

Thanks to the warm weather, the children in Casa were able to spend more time outside this month. Junior Casa usually starts and finishes the day in our courtyard, where they enjoy playing with the Hoola Hoops.

Casa students were very busy in the past couple of months practising for "Festa Della Famiglia", which took place on the 25th of May.

The children were very excited about the "Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see?" play, which was adapted from the book by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carl. Senior Casa students wore amazing costumes representing all the animals in the book, and the Grades 4 and 5 students worked hard to create a wonderful stage background for the play. We would like to thank all of them and their art teacher Ms. Barba for the amazing art!

At the end of May the whole school visited the "Famous People's Players", which the children really enjoyed.

Unfortunately our field trip to the Zoo was cancelled due to the workers' strike, but there is still a lot to look forward to in the last week in June. An ice cream truck will visit our school on Friday afternoon, and the families of LDVA will celebrate the beginning of summer at the annual LAPA picnic on the 27th of June.

We wish all LDVA families a safe and happy summer holiday. See you in September!



**Above: Senior Casa Graduates**

**Below: Junior Casa children working and exploring**





## LAPA NEWS



Parents helping out with the "Festa Della Repubblica" luncheon celebration

## END OF YEAR LAPA PICNIC

This year the year-end picnic will be held on Tuesday, June 27, from 11 am - 2 pm at WEST DEANE PARK (400 Martingrove Rd. – South of Eglinton & North of Rathburn). All students and families are invited. There is a large playground, lots of field space, picnic tables and bathrooms at the park. Similar to last year, families are asked to bring their own picnic lunch, though LAPA will be providing pizza for all to enjoy.



Above and Right: Preschool children from Scuola and Junior Casa engaged in various classroom activities

## AVOIDING "SUMMER SLIDE"

Mrs. Lee & Mr. Ritacca

Summer break provides many opportunities for students to practice the Seven Da Vincian Principles. Any safe activity that puts students in touch with nature, encourages artistic or musical expression, or challenges their body awareness (dance, movement or drama) is to be encouraged. The objective is to replace children's exposure to screens, addictive digital devices, and other mind or body numbing distractions with stimulating analog activities including arts, sports, hikes, or anything that nurtures their natural curiosity to learn.

It is also a given that during the summer holidays, many children tend to fall behind on academic skills like Reading. Below are three strategies that will help your child practice and improve his/her all important **Reading Skills**:

Research shows that reading just six books during the summer helps keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are a good fit - not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your **local library** in selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities.

Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read throughout the day: Below are some simple examples:

- Reading the newspaper, even if it is just the comics or today's weather can become a daily routine.
- Reading schedules, guides, or recipes. (For example, if your daughter likes the food channel, look for a recipe in a book or online and then cook it together);
- Before bedtime have your child read to you from the book he is currently reading (Have him rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading it to you). Re-reading will help him be more fluent and more able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with expression;
- Reading to children is beneficial not only for those who need to develop their Reading skills, but it can help the parent-child connection. (One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.)

It is hard to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions. However, the above suggestions will not only fit into a busy schedule but will make reading fun while strengthening an essential skill and prepare for the challenges that they will face in the upcoming school year !

