



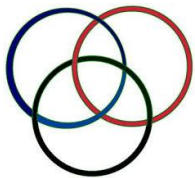
Leonardo Da Vinci Academy
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Exceptional Schooling For The Formative Years
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LDVA NEWS

March/April 2017



LDVA MATH FAIR *Mrs. Lee*

On the afternoon of April 20, LDVA hosted its first Math Fair from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The fair, a Math Quest challenge, was hosted by various teachers and students in different rooms. These included: *Montessori Mania*, hosted by LEM; *The Crypt*, hosted by Grades 4 & 5; *Mathematician Hall of Fame*, hosted by Grades 6 & 8 and *Ritacca's Challenge*, hosted by Mr. Ritacca (see page 4). In each room parents were challenged to solve problems and "Think Like Leonardo". Parents who participated not only had a chance to exercise their mathematical thinking skills as students, but had a fun opportunity to experience their children's excitement for learning and teaching. See pictures below and on back page.



LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE *Mrs. Ricciuti*

March's Leonardo's Challenge, hosted by Scuola Materna teachers, incorporated all seven of the Da Vinci Principles. The students were required to work



in groups. Each group had two pails: one had strings attached all around the top of it, (one string for each member of the group), and the other pail was on the

floor. Students had to transfer tennis balls **one by one** from one pail to another by holding it and lifting it using only the strings. If more than one tennis ball fell in at once they had to start over. This exercise was engaging and promoted team work. After the challenge, the students discussed how each of the Da Vincian Principles was applied. Good work everyone!

ROCKS & RINGS

Shown Below: LDVA students are introduced to the Canadian sport of Curling in the school gym.



INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Mr. Jewell

The Spring weather has been about as unpredictable as the fortunes of the teams participating in the LDVA Senior Sports program. Student athletes are currently competing in the volleyball component of the schedule, after learning about a variety of sports including soccer, flag football, basketball, European handball, lacrosse, and floor hockey. Only one sport, Ultimate Frisbee, remains to be played before playoffs start in May, and the *Sfumato Squids* are still floating at the top of the standings after withstanding a furious assault from their aquatic rivals, the *Conessione Crabs*. At one point, this desperate marine struggle was too close to call, but the *Squids* are a well balanced team with the ability to adapt to any sport; which has allowed them to wrap their tentacles firmly around the top spot. Although known for being bottom dwellers in nature, the *Crabs* elevated their play during the lacrosse and hockey units, pinching their way to a firm position near the surface of the standings. Unfortunately these athletic arthropods have floundered during the volleyball unit, allowing their closest rivals, the *Corporalita King Cobras*, to assert themselves and gain a good chance to strike for a top spot. The *Cobras* are ascending the standings with a venomous attack and mesmerizing passing skills -- they are on the rise and ready to paralyze; other teams will need to be wary of their dangerous dance. Meanwhile the *Sensazione Spiders* looked for a while like they were weaving a tangled web of unfortunate results and lost opportunities. They stumbled their way through the hockey and lacrosse units, at times looking more like clumsy daddy-long-legs than the stealthy arachnids they aimed to emulate. However, the *Spiders* have regained their composure during the volleyball unit, showing poise and prowess in surprising some of their rivals. They will look to build on this momentum, spinning into position for a surprise attack on any unsuspecting opponent trapped in their web.

Below is a summary of the standings as of April 18th. 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 Squids</i>	31	18	5	67
<i>Conessione Crabs</i>	25	24	6	56
<i>Corporalita King Cobras</i>	24	24	6	54
<i>Sensazione Spiders</i>	18	32	5	41

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mrs. Barba



On Holy Thursday, April 13, LDVA celebrated the start of the **Easter Season** with our traditional "Stations of the Cross" assembly featuring performances by students from the Grade 2 class (picture above).

SPRING CONCERTS

This year's LDVA Elementary grades Spring Concert production will take place on May 18 at 7:00 pm in the gym. The students and Mr. Moljgun have been working hard on their performances featuring music by the BEATLES. It promises to be an evening of fun and entertainment. A Preschool Concert is planned for May 25 at 2:30 pm. Mark your calendar !.

SOCIAL STUDIES : TOTEMS & TARTS

Below: Mr. Jewell's class prepares and enjoys a Habitant lunch as part of their studies of New France



SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS*Signora Ricciuti*

I bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori, dopo la pausa del "March Break", sono tornati tutti entusiasti e pronti per imparare qualcosa di nuovo. Infatti, continuano ad impegnarsi allo svolgimento del

programma per il mese di aprile. Con l'arrivo della primavera, scopriranno il cambiamento della natura, facendo così uso dei cinque sensi che promuovono lo sviluppo intellettuale.

Durante il mese di aprile abbiamo lavorato inizialmente sulla Santa Pasqua.. I bambini della Scuola Materna si sono impegnati nello sviluppo di lavori artistici sul tema, creando così un'atmosfera d'armonia e di pace.

In riguardo a questo è stato rinforzato più volte in classe con tutti i bambini, che la scuola materna è un luogo dove si viene per imparare e scoprire nuove attività semplici e complicate che li aiuti ad uno sviluppo accademico e completo. Si cerca di evitare di portare in classe situazioni non piacevoli che avvengono fuori dall'orario scolastico e che poi causano troppe distrazioni nell'andamento scolastico rallentando i tempi per lo svolgimento del programma.

Gli eventi per il mese di aprile:

13 aprile : la Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross)

21 aprile : "Earth Day", giorno dedicato alla terra.

25 aprile: gita alla "Toronto Symphony Orchestra"

Lo Staff della Scuola Materna vuole ricordare ai genitori che i bambini ai primi sintomi di influenza dovrebbero essere controllati e curati, e al limite tenuti a casa in modo che l'infezione e il contagio abbiano fatto il corso e si è in fase di guarigione. Si consiglia di riguardare accuratamente il "Parents Manual" alla voce "Health Regulations".

CASA MONTESSORI NEWS*Ms. Ritacca*

The Casa students returned from March Break, rested and eager to continue learning! In March, "Rocks and Rings" visited our school to teach us about curling. Senior Casa students participated in a number of curling drills and relays. We participated in the March Leonardo's Challenge hosted by Scuola Materna.

For Easter, the students in Senior Casa enjoyed painting their salt-dough Easter eggs and sharing their Easter family traditions (pictured below).



In April for "Earth Day" we went for a walk around our neighbourhood and discussed what it means to be environmentally friendly. The Senior Casa students also attended the Toronto Symphony Orchestra for the presentation of "The Hockey Sweater".

Both Junior and Senior Casa children have been practicing for *Festa Della Famiglia* which will take place on May 25th at 2:30 pm in the gym.

We wish to thank the parents who have been bringing in flowers for the *Arranging Flowers* activity. The children have been busy decorating the classrooms with beautiful flower arrangements.



Casa Children working with the Decanomial Square (left) and engaged in Washing Linens activity (right)

"Montessori environments push the edge of learning for children, keeping the brain challenged, and thus growing."

Neuro-psychologist Dr. Steven Hughes

JUNIOR CASA STUDENTS WORKING



LDVA'S MATH FAIR



Students Teaching Mathematics to Parents

RITACCA'S MATH CHALLENGE

Mr. Ritacca

Borromean Rings (depicted in the window of the picture below) have been part of civilization since recorded history. In 15th century Italy, the mighty Borromi family (hence the name) used this pattern of three *intertwining* rings for their family crest, the rings being depicted in such a way so that if one of the rings were cut, all three would separate, implying greater strength through unity. The pattern is a perfect representation of the interconnectedness of body, mind, and spirit, reminding us that all three of these aspects of ourselves are interdependent and must be addressed that way for optimum health. True interwoven Borromean rings have been discovered to occur at the molecular level in DNA and other Nanotechnology research - a reminder that Geometry is an underlying organizational structure for all matter and all life. Rings or circles are a symbol of wholeness and unity. They have no beginning and no end. Three intersecting circles form the basic unit generally known as the "Tripod of Life" held sacred by many cultures as a symbol of the creative Universal force. Known as *vessica piscis* the shape formed by the three intersecting circles is the main component of the LDVA logo. Throughout history, this symbol of three intersecting circles has been used to represent everything from the Holy Trinity to the Ontario Science Centre. Leonardo Da Vinci Academy incorporates these as part of its logo and school crest. A property of the Borromean Rings is that it is possible to trace the rings (shown above) without lifting your pencil, without retracing any line, and without crossing over any line at an intersection point. This was one of my Math Quest Challenges at LDVA's recent Math Fair event. Congratulations to the three parents who met the challenge !



Mr. Ritacca explaining his "Borromean Rings" Challenge