



Leonardo Da Vinci Academy

100 Allanhurst Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9A 4K4

Exceptional Schooling For The Formative Years
Founded 1983

www.ldva.on.ca

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LDVA NEWS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

Signora M. Ricciuti

A Leonardo's Family Challenge was hosted by Scuola on October 19. Students and their families were challenged to decorate their own Halloween Pumpkin while applying as many of the *Seven Da Vincian Principles* as possible. Using their imagination and creativity, students were challenged to transform this orange fruit into a work of art without carving. The completed projects were brought to school and displayed in the gym for parents to admire. Students had a lot of fun showing their works and explaining which *Da Vincian Principles* they applied. Below are a few examples of the creations.



To see more of the beautiful works of art please visit the Leonardo Da Vinci Academy of Arts & Sciences Facebook page and view the short video courtesy of Mr. Jewell.

TERRY FOX RUN UPDATE

Mr. T. Jewell

This year's Terry Fox Run marked our thirteenth year of taking part in this extremely important event and we are very proud of our accomplishments, raising over \$34,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation during our first twelve runs.

This year students eagerly accepted a challenge to raise **\$6,605** for the Foundation, and we are happy to report that we reached our goal, eclipsing last year's total by a slight margin. We would like to thank all students, families, and friends of LDVA for their overwhelming support and commitment to achieving such an impressive total. As a celebration and reward for our accomplishment, we will be holding a "Wacky Hair Day" on Thursday, November 16th, where students and staff will be free to add a splash of colour, spike it up, or just wig out!

*"Don't worry that your children never listen to you.
Instead, worry that **they are always watching you.**"*

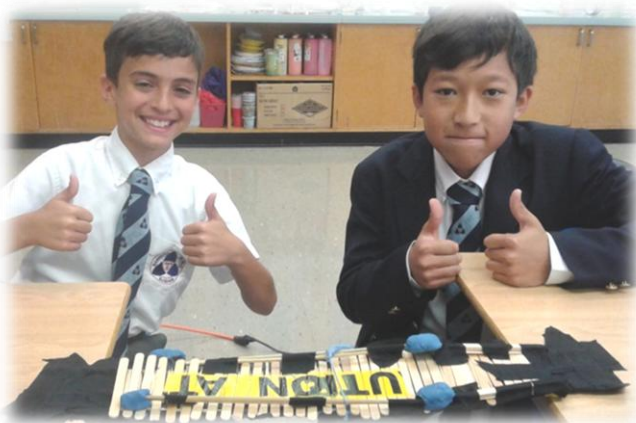
Robert Fulghum on "Being a Role Model for Your Children"

MID-TERM REPORTS and PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Mid-Term Reports were issued on November 3. *Parent-Teacher Interviews* will be held on the evening of November 16 and during the day on November 17. **No classes are scheduled on November 17.** Parents were invited to schedule their interviews on the sign-up sheets in the gym on November 10. Parents unable to come at these times were asked to contact Mrs. Lee to make alternate arrangements.

Parent-Teacher Interviews are an occasion for parents and teachers to review objectives, share information, and to focus on the strategies for continued progress.

BELOW: Pictures of students in Mr. Jewell's Science Class working on their "Design Projects"



INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Mr. T. Jewell

The LDVA Sports program is once again in full swing as four teams compete for the coveted Tim Brown Memorial Trophy. Last year the trophy was won by the *Sfumato Squids*, whose names were engraved on the trophy to go along with those of all previous championship teams. At the start of this school year, the team captains (in grades 5 and 6) drafted new squads comprised of enthusiastic student athletes. This season has already seen four weeks of superb soccer action, followed by some fantastic flag football, and we are currently entering the basketball component of the program.

From the start the *Dimostrazione Destroyers* and *Arte/Scienza Eagles* established an intriguing rivalry, both doing their utmost to achieve domination of the standings. The *Destroyers* are currently sailing on a wave of success, having bombarded the league with their impressive firepower, and ability to strategically eliminate most opposition. Not to be outdone, the *Eagles* are flying high with their mix of young talent and good leadership. They have their eagle eyes fixed firmly on the trophy, which they aim to take back to their nest after ruling the skies and sinking their dangerous nautical rivals.

Meanwhile the *Sfumato Stingrays* are starting to emerge from the depths as they navigate their way through murky water. They had a slow start, but seem to be swimming more aggressively in the right direction as they look to ascend to the top of the marine food chain. Also lurking in the shadows for the first part of the season, the *Sensazione Scorpions* seem to be in a state of early hibernation, and will need to inject more venom into their attack if they hope to sting some of their opponents. They hope to come to their senses and lead an arthropod assault while crawling back into contention. This should be an interesting and entertaining battle all season long!

Current standings (as of November 12th) are as follows:

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
<i>Dimostrazione Destroyers</i>	10	3	8	28
<i>Arte/Scienza Eagles</i>	10	5	7	27
<i>Sfumato Stingrays</i>	6	8	7	19
<i>Sensazione Scorpions</i>	3	13	6	12

Note: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for a tie



REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

On November 10, Remembrance Day was celebrated in the gym. As in past years, the assembly included wreaths, presentations, and recitals from students. Parents were also invited to join the celebration.

HUMBER ARBORETUM EXCURSION



On Monday, October 30th students in grades 1-6 visited The Humber Arboretum. Students in grades 1-3 were involved in an Art & Ecology workshop, while grades 4-6 played a number of survival games and explored the Humber River Ecosystem.

Our next fieldtrip will take place on Monday, Nov. 20th when grades 1-6 will visit the Ontario Science Centre.



Above: Preschool students at the Toronto Zoo on October 23.

SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS Signora M. Ricciuti

I bambini della Scuola Materna, con il materiale Montessoriano, scoprendo e imparando le nuove attività, continuano a lavorare sotto la guida delle insegnanti, che aiutano il bambino nella scelta del materiale, sviluppando così un processo di autoeducazione e di autocontrollo.

Ringraziamo i genitori per la fruttuosa collaborazione nel donare il cibo per Thanksgiving e per la generosità nella partecipazione alla corsa di Terry Fox.

Il 23 ottobre: visita allo zoo dove i bambini hanno avuto l'opportunità di osservare alcuni degli animali dei quali abbiamo parlato in classe e vedere il loro habitat.



Il 31 ottobre: i bambini hanno indossato il costume per la festa di "Halloween". Un gran divertimento tra canzoni e lavoretti.

Il 3 novembre: i genitori hanno ricevuto le schede di valutazione ("Mid-term Reports") dove possono avere un'idea sull'apprendimento ma soprattutto sull'inserimento dei loro bambini nell'ambiente scolastico.

Il 10 novembre ("Remembrance Day"), si è svolta un'assemblea in palestra alle ore 10:50, dove abbiamo ricordato i soldati caduti in guerra.

Il 16 novembre: colloqui e incontri tra genitori e docenti si terranno nell'aula della Scuola Materna durante le ore serali.

Il 17 novembre: ancora colloqui con i genitori durante il giorno, quindi non ci sarà scuola per i bambini.

Il 23 novembre: "Open House", un giorno dove le famiglie nuove potranno visitare la scuola.

Si ricorda ai genitori, che lunedì è dedicato a "Show and Tell", questo per fare in modo che il bambino possa esprimersi meglio nella lingua italiana e rafforzare la confidenza in se stesso. Si prega di consultare il calendario mensile.

L'inverno sta arrivando, e con l'inverno arrivano anche raffreddori ed influenze, come fare? Vestire il bambino in modo appropriato, e se si nota che il bambino non sta bene tenerlo a casa e curarlo, evitando così di contagiare il resto della classe.

Verso la fine di novembre i bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori si accingono alla preparazione del Concerto di Natale, quindi è necessario arrivare in orario a scuola la mattina (tra le 8:30 e le 8:45).

CASA MONTESSORI NEWS Ms. G. Ritacca

October and November have been busy months for the children in Junior and Senior Casa. We would like to thank the parents who contributed to the Terry Fox Run and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Both were a big success!

Our first Leonardo's Challenge was hosted by Scuola. The children enjoyed sharing their decorated pumpkins with their classmates. On October 23rd Casa and Scuola went to the Toronto Zoo and had a great time walking around and visiting with all the animals. On October 31st, the children were very excited to come to school in their Halloween costumes. On November 10th the children joined the rest of the school in the gym for our annual Remembrance Day ceremony.

With the weather changing please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately to go outside for recess. All outdoor clothing including hats, scarves, mittens, boots, snow pants and jackets need to be labeled with your child's initials. Parents are also reminded to update the change of clothes in their child's cubby as many children still have shorts and short-sleeved shirts to change into. Please ensure that the change of clothes are in uniform colours.

In preparation for the Christmas concert, the children have been working hard practicing their Christmas songs. To facilitate this, it is especially important that children arrive at school on time (between 8:30 am – 8:45 am) so they do not miss music class.

CASA STUDENTS BUSY AT WORK IN THE SENIOR CASA CLASSROOM

Below:
The Stamp Game



Above:
Washing Linens



LAPA NEWS

THANKS to all the parents for helping to make our school a great place to learn. Co-operation and parent support is essential for building a healthy and productive learning environment. The best support is the kind that reinforces school procedures, philosophy, and team spirit. Full co-operation with the school's uniform policy and arrival/dismissal procedures goes a long way to fostering a safe, efficient, and successful school experience for all.



Junior Casa "buddies" at the Toronto Zoo



As a fundraiser for LAPA, we are holding a "Bag2School" collection!

Everyone is asked to donate unwanted used clothing, clean clothes, soft toys, bedding, drapes, belts, purses and shoes (tied together). Items can be brought in any type of bag and dropped off in the gym on Thursday, December 7 or the morning of December 8.



Hard at work in the Scuola Materna classroom

CORRECTING CHILD MISBEHAVIOUR - S. Ritacca

It can be argued that "misbehaviour" is a subjective term as it is subject to personal interpretation. Nonetheless, when a child behaves in a manner that is dangerous, harmful to others, disruptive, or chooses not to follow established procedures, this is counter productive and unacceptable. Most parents appreciate the necessity to correct such behaviour in the interest of safety and healthy social adjustment.

To correct this type of behaviour it is essential that the parent and the teacher are on the same page and that both focus on what needs correcting and that children receive the same message from the home and the school regarding their behaviour. If conversations with children about their misbehaviour are not consistent and reinforced by both parent and teacher the problem will likely escalate.

Some parents tend to make excuses for their child's misbehaviour or try to rationalize it with comments like "she had a bad night", "it was triggered by", "he's just tired", or "he was just being playful". Though it is important to explore reasons for the misbehaviour, being dismissive or blaming the school or other students for repeated bad behaviour only re-inforces the same misbehaviour. Regardless of the reason, the child must learn as soon as possible that such behaviour is not in her/his best interest. The sooner the child learns this important lesson the sooner he/she will become self-regulating and mature. By teaching children to be responsible for the choices they make we are empowering them with the autonomy and self-discipline essential to a healthy development and positive self-esteem.

Though it is a parent's duty to be an advocate for their child, it is even more important that a parent nurture responsible behaviour and not undermine their child's autonomy by "rescuing him from himself". Assuming there are no serious physiological or other medical issues, this can only be accomplished by holding each child accountable for poor decisions, bad choices, or inappropriate actions. If we are not allowed to learn from our mistakes we are doomed to repeat them. This is a normal part of growing up. Constantly "protecting" children from consequences of their behaviour will not only delay their social development but will ultimately fuel a low self-esteem. Exploring reasons for a child's misbehaviour is most productive when this can be used to help correct it and not simply used to justify it.

Parents in denial or dismissive of a child's wrong behaviour impede the child's ability to self-regulate which is counter-productive. Making children properly accountable for their behaviour will not only help foster their growth into socially mature and responsible individuals, but will help to nurture confidence and high self-esteem.