



## LDVA NEWS

January/February 2018

### IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

In January students at LDVA were treated to two in-house fieldtrips funded by money raised by fundraisers held in December.

Grades 3-6 participated in an introductory coding workshop presented by Hatch Canada (picture below).



Students in preschools, Grade 1 and Grade 2 enjoyed a performance of *Peter Rabbit* performed by *Little Red Theatre* (picture below).



### ASH WEDNESDAY



An *Ash Wednesday Ceremony* was held in the gym on Wednesday, February 14 at 10:50 am. As is the tradition, the ceremony concluded with Mr. Ritacca administering the symbolic ashes to students, parents, and staff who come forward while students from Grade 4 filled the air with their angelic singing voices and a hymn for the occasion.

### STUDENT REPORTS

S. Ritacca

Term 1 Reports were issued on January 26. When reviewing Reports with their children parents are reminded to focus on behaviour, attitude, and effort. Placing too much importance on grades at this stage does little for 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** necessarily a valid measure of academic 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 motivation) 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 students for future learning. See article on page 4.

### SERATA ITALIANA



On the evening of March 8, LDVA elementary students and 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". Mark your calendar !

**JANUARY'S LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE**

On January 15 students in Grades 1 to 6 were paired up seating back to back. One student was given a clip board, paper, pencil and eraser. The other had an envelope that contained a picture of a snowman (which the other student could not see). The challenge was for the student with the picture to provide instructions how to draw the image using only words for geometrical shapes (such as lines, circles, rectangles, squares and triangles), directions (up, down, sideways) and size (big, medium and small).



The Challenge reinforced speaking and listening proficiency and all 7 Da Vincian Principles - a great learning opportunity in communication skills.



Students During The Coding Workshop

**SKI TRIP**

On February 5th, elementary students visited Earl Bales Ski Centre in North York for a day of downhill skiing. As they arrived, students were tested to determine their level of skiing ability before being assigned to a programme of skiing instruction appropriate for their skill level. It was a perfect activity for students to achieve the "active participation component" of the Physical Education curriculum and to practice *Corporalità*.

**LIVE THEATRE**

On Wed. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> students in Grades 1-6 will be enjoying a performance of *The Secret Garden* at Young People's Theatre.

**MARCH BREAK**

This year March Break is from Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 23. . A Camp for children in **Sr. Casa** or **Scuola to Grade 2** is being offered during the week of March 19 (further details below).

**MARCH BREAK CAMP 2018**

*@ Leonardo Da Vinci Academy*

Monday, March 19 - Friday, March 23

**Ages: 4 (as of Dec. 31, 2017) to 8 years**

As spaces are limited, please submit registration forms to Mrs. Lee to reserve your space for this week of fun activities. See Mrs. Lee for details.

## SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS Signora Ricciuti

*Durante i mesi di gennaio e febbraio, i bambini della Scuola Materna hanno ripreso a svolgere il programma 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.*

*Il 26 gennaio i genitori hanno ricevuto le schede di valutazione. Si ricorda ai genitori, che per qualsiasi comunicazione possono mandare un email a: [scuola@ldva.in.ca](mailto:scuola@ldva.in.ca) oppure contattare l'ufficio e lasciare un messaggio. Inoltre, ricordiamo 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 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 ad esempio il Carnevale, imparando a conoscere le maschere italiane più famose e da dove provengono, ascoltando la storia di Arlecchino e presentando il proprio costume al resto della classe.*



*San Valentino è stato festeggiato scambiandosi bigliettini, facendo lavoretti ma soprattutto imparando che bisogna essere sempre gentili con gli altri ed essere amici. I*

*bambini hanno avuto l'opportunità di indossare i colori relativi a questa festa (rosso, bianco, rosa, viola) e festeggiare in allegria.*

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

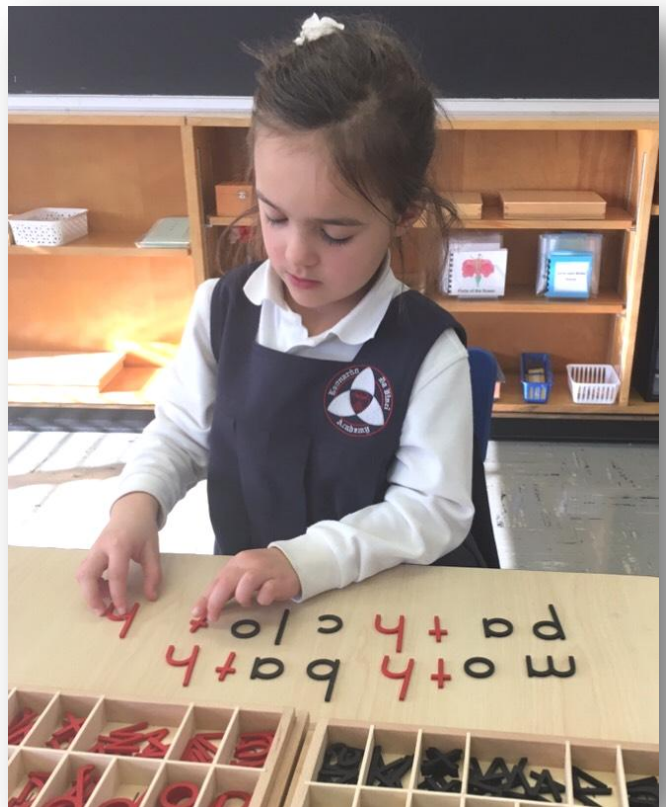
## CASA MONTESSORI NEW Ms.G. Ritacca

The Casa students and teachers started the new year refreshed and excited to continue their learning. The children have been working with the Montessori materials reinforcing and consolidating previous skills while exploring new activities.

In January, the *Little Red Theatre* came to our school to perform the *Tales of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter. Students enjoyed singing along and laughed as the puppets chased each other around the gym.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the children celebrated Valentine's Day at school. Students came to school dressed in casual pink, red, white and purple clothes. The children in Casa enjoyed both passing out and receiving Valentine's day cards. We thank parents for not sending sweets as requested.

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

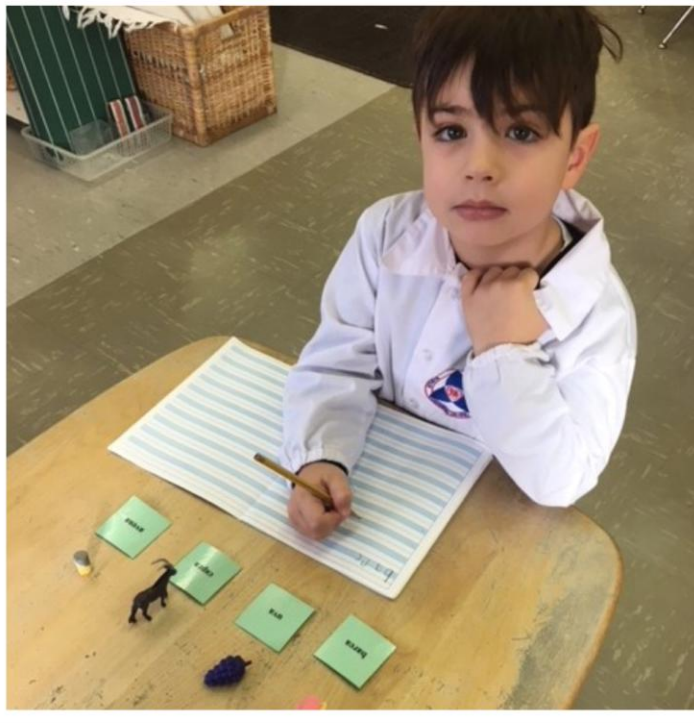


Forming words with the small moveable alphabet

## CASA STUDENTS AT WORK

RIGHT  
Drawing With  
Watercolours

BELOW  
Trinomial Cube  
Activity



Working on a language activity in the Scuola Classroom

## PARENTING FOR 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 stare at failure with unblinking honesty...give them a chance to fall down and get back up **on their own.**" Embracing failure as a normal part of the learning process is a major component of *Dimostrazione*, one of the 7 Da Vincian Principles. Helping your child develop a positive attitude toward "trial and error" and perseverance is essential for character development and 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 not 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 that cannot be solved with high test scores. The misplaced anxiety of many parents is rooted in fear or a need for control. Studies show that this has fostered a generation of worriers who will tremble 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, 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 FOR 2018-2019

Re-enrollment forms for the 2018-2019 school year have been sent home as of January 31. Parents are reminded that in order to receive the returning student discount and to reserve a space for your child, the form must be returned by **February 28** with required deposit and payments. After that date the new tuition will apply and spaces will be open to new applicants.