



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

January/February 2019

LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

Mrs. Zejn



On January 14th students from grade 1 to grade 7 participated in a Leonardo's Challenge to highlight the Da Vincian principle of *Corporalità*. This "Fitness Challenge" was designed to test each student's strength, agility, endurance and flexibility. The students enjoyed completing many tasks individually and as a group. At the end each group was given an opportunity to create and demonstrate their own "Fitness Challenge" to their peers.



STUDENT REPORTS

S. Ritacca

Term 1 Reports were issued on January 25. When reviewing these with children parents are reminded to focus on effort, behaviour, and attitude. Focusing on grades at this age does little for self-esteem and may distract from the bigger picture i.e. learning how to learn. Placing the emphasis on grades promotes short-term thinking and could foster negative behaviour and the wrong learning skills. It's more productive for parents to engage their child in a self-evaluation of their progress and achievements while offering as much support and guidance as possible.

During the formative years, Student Reports should be viewed mainly as an evaluation of the learning process. Reports are most useful when 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.

If used exclusively as a measure of student ability, Reports can actually be detrimental to learning. Using marks to motivate students is *extrinsic motivation*, the old carrot-and-stick idea of external rewards, and discourages the development of creative and analytic skills. This is counter-productive to the kind of lifelong learning promoted by LDVA. The best kind of motivation for lifelong learning comes from within (intrinsic) and has three elements: **autonomy**, **mastery** and **purpose**. These are key elements of Montessori 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 future learning.

SERATA ITALIANA



On the evening of March 7, 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*. Mark your calendar !

ASH WEDNESDAY



An *Ash Wednesday Ceremony* will be held in the gym on Wednesday, March 6 at 10:50 am.

As is the tradition, the ceremony will conclude with Mr. Ritacca administering the symbolic ashes to students, parents, and staff who come forward. Parents are welcome to join us in this celebration of the first day of Lent.

LDVA INTRAMURAL SPORTS UPDATE*by Isabella, Grade 6*

This chilly winter year has not frozen the spirits of our LDVA Intramural Sports teams. Four teams have been through four sports; stupendous soccer, fantastic flag football, breathtaking basketball, and extraordinary European handball. Currently, we are in the lacrosse season, and will be moving on to ball hockey soon.

The *Sfumato Storm* are gone with the wind, as they are blowing down the competition. They might lack size, but good things come in small packages! They impress everyone with their determination and skill, and have a good chance of winning the Tim Brown Memorial Trophy.

The *Sensazione Stallions* do not horse around; these eerie equestrians are galloping ahead of the high-flying third-place team, *Dimostrazione Jets*. Like any wild horses, they are restless and ready to trot towards the eye of the *Storm*.

The *Dimostrazione Jets* are having a few flight technicalities. They will be flying high soon enough, with a goal of ruffling the hair of the *Stallions'* manes, but they must first overcome the turbulence that lies ahead.

The *Arte/Scienza Olympians* were forced down to the bottom of Mt. Olympus, and need to venture back to their rightful home atop the mountain. This team is in fourth place, but its own Odyssey might happen, and hopefully it will not take nine years! Also, Zeus might harness the *Storm* ahead as there are still three sports left, and **anything** can happen in the playoffs!

Below are the standings as of February 7 - two points are awarded for each win and one point for each tie.

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
<i>Sfumato Storm</i>	29	5	5	63
<i>Sensazione Stallions</i>	21	13	5	47
<i>Dimostrazione Jets</i>	12	22	5	29
<i>Arte/Scienza Olympians</i>	6	28	5	17

MARCH BREAK - March 11 to March 22

This year our March Break Camp runs from Monday, March 18 to Friday, March 22, the second week of the March Break.

MARCH BREAK CAMP 2019*@ Leonardo Da Vinci Academy*

Monday, March 18 - Friday, March 22

Ages: 4 (as of Dec. 31, 2018) to 8 years

Spaces are limited. Please submit registration forms to Mrs. Lee to reserve your space for this week of fun activities. Contact Mrs. Lee for details.

HARBOURFRONT TRIP

On January 16, LDVA elementary students spent a day at the Harbourfront Centre near Lake Ontario where they enjoyed a day of fun and creativity while engaged in exciting art workshops.

SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS

Signora Ricciuti

Dopo il rientro dalle vacanze natalizie, durante il mese di gennaio, i bambini della Scuola Materna hanno ripreso a svolgere il programma scolastico continuando ad esplorare le varie aree montessoriane; arricchendo sempre più la loro conoscenza ed imparando nuovi vocaboli sul tema dell'inverno.

Il 25 gennaio i genitori hanno ricevuto le schede di valutazione dove hanno potuto avere un'idea sul progresso dei loro figli in modo più dettagliato in base alle varie aree montessoriane.

Si ricorda ai genitori, che per qualsiasi comunicazione possono mandare un email a: scuola@ldva.on.ca oppure contattare l'ufficio e lasciare un messaggio. Inoltre con la fredda stagione, si ricorda a tutti di vestire in modo appropriato i bambini cosicché possano divertirsi a giocare fuori durante la ricreazione.

Durante il mese di febbraio, con l'arrivo di San Valentino, si è rafforzato il fatto che nella Scuola Materna siamo tutti amici; quindi di essere sempre cordiali con gli amici, aiutare i più piccoli e trovare un compromesso nelle situazioni difficili. Questa festa sarà celebrata con lavoretti, scambio di cartoline ed indossando i colori rosso, rosa, bianco e viola.

Si ricorda che il 18 febbraio sarà vacanza, dato che è la giornata dedicata alla famiglia.

E' molto importante che i bambini siano ben riposati quando arrivano a scuola cosicché sono in grado di affrontare la giornata scolastica con entusiasmo ed interesse facilitando l'apprendimento e riuscendo a seguire la routine giornaliera.

"Una prova della correttezza del nostro agire educativo è la felicità del bambino." - Maria .Montessori

**CASA MONTESSORI NEWS**

Mrs. G. O'Neil

The Casa students and teachers began their new year back at school excited and ready to resume their classroom routines. The children have been busy working with the Montessori materials by consolidating previous skills and exploring new activities.

We look forward to seeing everyone dressed in their Valentine's Day colours on February 14th. On Valentine's Day, the children in Casa will be passing out and receiving cards from their classmates. Some upcoming events to note: Valentine's casual dress day on February 14th, Family Day holiday on February 18th, and Leonardo's Family Challenge.

We wish to thank the parents who have been sending in flowers for the "Arranging Flowers" activity. Arranging Flowers is an activity in the Practical Life area that allows the child to embellish the environment. This activity requires the child to follow a logical sequencing of steps which promotes critical thinking and reasoning. The students have really enjoyed decorating the classroom with beautiful arrangements and learning how to care for their flowers.



Working with the Stamp Game in the Casa Classroom



Casa Student Practicing Cursive Writing



Scuola Students Enjoying Wintertime Recess



Students at Harbourfront Centre Art Workshop

"You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over." - Richard Branson

DIMOSTRAZIONE

S. Ritacca

In order to learn we must not be afraid of making mistakes. Teaching children that an honest mistake is nothing to be ashamed of but part of life experience is essential to developing confidence and the kind approach to life long learning promoted by LDVA. Since experience is the best teacher, children need to be encouraged to view mistakes or failure as a positive learning opportunity and to not be afraid to try as long as they are prepared to learn from it. The Da Vincian Principle of Dimostrazione, (a commitment to test knowledge through experience, persistence, and willingness to learn from mistakes) is a key element of the "Thinking Like Leonardo" approach to learning. Below are quotes from other successful individuals that speak to their view on failure:

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing." - Henry Ford

"Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement." - C.S. Lewis

"Failure is so important. We speak about success all the time. It is the ability to [embrace] failure that often leads to greater success. I've met people who don't want to try for fear of failing." - J.K. Rowling

"Mistakes are the portals of discovery." - James Joyce



Harbourfront Art Trip Workshop - Making Dinosaurs

RE-ENROLLMENT FORMS FOR 2019-2020

Re-enrollment forms for the 2019-2020 school year have been sent home. Parents are reminded that in order to receive the returning student discount, and to insure that a space is reserved 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. Please note that re-enrollment data directly impacts on staffing and programme offerings for the upcoming year.