



*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

March/April 2019

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### LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE *T. Jewell & B. Lobo*



April 15<sup>th</sup> was a timely day for a Leonardo's challenge as we observed Leonardo Da Vinci's birthday. The challenge itself was a celebration of Easter which also incorporated seven of Leonardo's beautiful works of art. Elementary students were divided into seven groups and sent on an Easter egg hunt in the schoolyard. Plastic eggs were colour coded for each group and every egg contained several pieces of a Da Vinci painting. Once all the eggs were found, students "got cracking" with the more difficult aspect of the challenge – putting together the pieces to reform the masterpieces. Groups worked really effectively to unscramble and glue the artwork, as well as the title of each piece, onto cardstock which is on display in our hallway. Many of Leonardo's paintings had religious themes such as the iconic "Last Supper", very appropriate for Easter weekend. Students incorporated all seven of the Da Vincian principles in completing this challenge; most notably, students identified *Corporalità*, *Arte/Scienza*, and *Connessione*.

### Students Displaying Artwork From Leonardo's Challenge



### **SPRING CONCERT**

On Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 pm Mr. Gillogly, the Academy's music teacher, will be featuring his elementary students in an evening of music and song. This year's theme: ***Around the World in 15 Songs*** will be an opportunity for LDVA students to show off their musical talents. Parents are invited to come out and support our promising musicians.

### INVENTION CONVENTION

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, LDVA will be holding its INVENTION CONVENTION in the gymnasium from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Students were challenged to come up with an original invention that could be used to solve a problem. Inventors were also asked to identify and explain the Da Vincian Principles used in the process. We look forward to seeing what our young inventors have created. Parents of students in Grades 1-7 are invited to attend.



**CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT**

T. Jewell



Students in Grades 4-7 participated in a Chess Club that ran from November to March, and culminated with a Championship match just before March Break. There were fourteen enthusiastic participants, some of whom were chess “rook”-ies. After learning the basic rules of the game, students played a round-robin against each other, and then advanced to a bracket style knockout round. Competition was fierce among the top eight players, and Luca (gr. 4) emerged as our Chess Champion for 2018-2019. The Club was a great opportunity for students to sharpen their logic and reasoning skills; Luca had never played before this year, but demonstrated amazing *Dimostrazione* by practicing daily in order to defeat all other challengers. Excellent effort on the part of all players involved in the Chess Club!



Luca (left) - Winner of the Championship Match

**LDVA SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS**

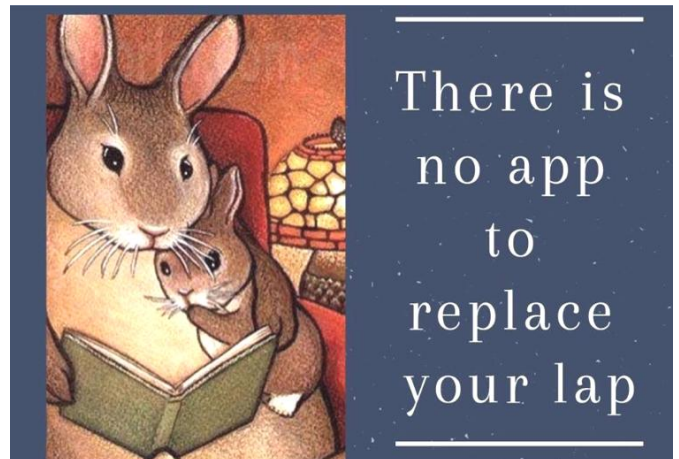
Orders for school uniforms will be taken May 13 to May 18 from 9 pm to 4 pm in the office. Please contact Mrs. Gravina for details. A reminder will be sent home closer to the date.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The *Stations of the Cross* assembly took place on Holy Thursday. As in past years, the assembly featured a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross by the Grade 2 class led by Mrs. Barba.



Preschool Children Enjoying Springtime Recess



A Friendly Reminder For Parents to Read to Their Children



**SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS**

M. Ricciuti

*I bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori, dopo la pausa del "March Break", sono tornati più riposati e pronti per ricominciare con le loro attività giornaliere. Infatti hanno continuato ad impegnarsi nello svolgimento del programma cercando di completare le varie attività a loro presentate. A questo riguardo, vorrei ricordare a tutti, quanto sia importante che i bambini vengano a scuola ben riposati, ciò favorisce un miglior apprendimento e partecipazione durante la giornata scolastica.*

*Anche se l'arrivo della primavera quest'anno si fa un pò desiderare, nella nostra classe uno degli argomenti che abbiamo trattato è stato il cambiamento della natura, facendo così uso dei cinque sensi che promuovono lo sviluppo intellettuale.*

*Durante il mese di aprile abbiamo parlato della Santa Pasqua, ascoltando storie ed avendo delle conversazioni, ma soprattutto di quanto sia semplice fare un'opera di bene nella nostra vita quotidiana, con un semplice gesto gentile verso un'altra persona. I bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori si sono impegnati nello sviluppo di lavori artistici sul tema, cercando di creare così un'atmosfera d'armonia e di pace.*

*Eventi per i mesi di marzo e aprile:*

*6 marzo: mercoledì delle Ceneri*

*11-22 marzo: pausa primaverile*

*18 aprile: la Via Crucis*



**Scuola Children Working With the Roman Arch**

**CASA MONTESSORI NEWS**

G. O'Neil



**Casa Student Creating a Flower Arrangement**

The Casa students returned from March Break well rested and eager to continue learning!



For Easter, the children in Casa enjoyed making their own sock rabbits to celebrate the holiday. Children filled a sock with rice which they shaped into a rabbit. They then cut out ears and used a marker to draw the rabbit's face.

Students also enjoyed sharing and discussing their favourite Easter traditions with each other.

The students in Casa have been busy practicing poems and songs for the upcoming *Festa Della Famiglia* concert. The concert will be held in the gym on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please save the date!

With warmer weather approaching, the Casa class is looking forward to spending more time outside for extended recesses and nature walks around the neighbourhood. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately to enjoy the beautiful spring weather.



**Casa Class Wearing their Carnevale Masks**





Above: Scuola Class Making Fruit Salad



Addition and Subtraction Using the Small Bead Frame in Casa

### **LIMITING SCREEN TIME IS ESSENTIAL TO A CHILD'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT** S. Ritacca

*There is increasing evidence that children who spend excessive time with televisions, digital screens, smartphones and other digital devices are developmentally delayed. Studies show that higher levels of screen time are not only associated with poor developmental performance like communication skills, motor skills, and problem-solving skills, but are linked to unhealthy body weight, sleep deprivation and poor emotional development. Older children who are given unlimited use of smartphones face additional dangers including poor posture, eye problems, addiction to their device and constant distraction from the real world. Excessive screen time also cuts into time that could otherwise be spent on mastering motor or creative problem-solving skills. It also negatively impacts on social and other personal skills.*

*Research by the University of Guelph has found certain parenting behaviour and habits that help to reduce kids' screen time. The greatest of these is for parents to limit their own use of screens and devices around the children. Other effective recommendations include: making meal times screen free (for everyone); not using screens to reward or punish, modeling the desired behaviour and avoid giving their child their own smartphone.*

*To balance the digital bombardment and facilitate a healthy development, parents are encouraged to expose their children to more analogue or creative activities including time in nature, sports, music, dance, and other screen-free activities. In addition to limiting screen time, other key factors for parents to employ that have proven to facilitate the preparation of young children for adulthood include: a proper sleep routine, good nutrition, reading books together, knowing when to say 'no', and not enabling inappropriate behaviour.*

*An hour spent drawing pictures, doing cursive writing, reading a book, sleeping, playing tag, or going for a walk are not only time well spent but are not detrimental like staring at a screen.*

“ LIFE WITHOUT LOVE,  
IS NO LIFE AT ALL ”

Leonardo da Vinci