



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

May/June 2019

LDVA'S NEW CAMPUS - SEPTEMBER 2020

We are excited to announce that Leonardo Da Vinci Academy has officially finalized an agreement with Villa Charities to move our school to the Columbus Centre for September 2020. LDVA will be occupying the first floor and part of the second floor and have dedicated use of a gymnasium and playgrounds. In addition to our exclusive munificent space, our school community will have access to a swimming pool, tennis courts, art gallery, assembly room, restaurants, varying educational exhibits and the other cultural and arts programmes that make up the Columbus Centre.

The New Campus is located at 901 Lawrence Avenue West just southwest of St. Charles Borromeo Church and has convenient access with plenty of parking. Before our move, we plan to renovate and update the space, a 10 month project, to prepare and modernize the facility for our students and staff. An Open House will be held once renovations are completed. In the meantime parents unfamiliar with the building and site are invited to visit the Columbus Centre at Lawrence and Dufferin to get a sense of the new campus location and exciting future home of LDVA.



ABOVE: Signing of the agreement between LDVA and Columbus Centre. Shown left to right are Marco DeVuono, CFO, Villa Charities; Sal Ritacca, Co-founder, Leonardo Da Vinci Academy; Dom Tassielli, Co-founder, Leonardo Da Vinci Academy; and Anthony DiCaita, CEO, Villa Charities

*"Principles for the Development of a Complete Mind:
Study the science of Art. Study the art of Science.
Develop your senses Realize that everything
connects to everything else."*

Leonardo da Vinci

FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA

Mrs. Barba

Each year LDVA celebrates the anniversary of Italy becoming a Republic nation - June 2, 1946. This year our celebration took place on May 31st. Thanks to all the students for their moving presentations and to all the parents who attended the ceremony. Following the assembly students enjoyed a delicious lunch of *ravioli, insalata e frutta*. A special thanks to dott. Cristina Mignatti from the Italian Consulate, shown below between Mrs. Barba and Mr. Ritacca, for being a part of the celebration. The pictures shown below are courtesy of Mr. Jewell.



INTRAMURAL SPORTS CHAMPS

Mr. Jewell



Congratulations to the *Sensazione Stallions* (shown above), who won an exciting final game seven against the *Sfumato Storm* to clinch the series and win the 2018-2019 Intramural Sports championship!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

On June 5 LDVA students spent a day at the **Kortright Centre** for a day of nature studies and fun opportunities to develop their *Thinking Like Leonardo* skills.

**LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE**

Mrs. O'Neil



This year's May Leonardo's Challenge was organized by Casa. Students were divided into mixed-aged groups and given 8 pieces of paper and 2 strips of masking tape. The students were then challenged to construct the tallest freestanding structure with the materials provided. The Casa and Scuola children were the builders in the group and the only students allowed to touch the materials. The elementary students were responsible for guiding the preschoolers and explaining how to build the tower. Elementary students were given a separate yellow piece of paper and a pencil which they could use to plan and explain their designs. Students were given 20 minutes to construct their structures. The tallest tower was 28.5 inches! This challenge incorporated a number of Da Vincian Principles which the students were able to identify including *Dimostrazione* and *Arte/Scienza*.



SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS

Signora Ricciuti

I bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori concludono la programmazione per questo anno scolastico del 2018/2019. E' stato un anno in cui i bambini hanno davvero lavorato ed appreso tanto attraverso attività, letture, e conversazioni. Ma soprattutto ricordando sempre che siamo tutti amici.

Il 23 maggio è stato un giorno molto speciale per tutti; abbiamo avuto la festa della famiglia. E' stata una celebrazione molto bella per tutti, dove i bambini hanno potuto dimostrare ancora una volta la loro bravura e la loro spontaneità; dedicando ai loro familiari, canzoncine, poesie e tanto affetto.

Venerdì 31 maggio, i bambini hanno festeggiato la festa della Repubblica cantando l'inno Nazionale italiano, colorando delle bandierine ed ascoltando una piccola spiegazione sull'Italia.

Il 5 giugno siamo andati al "Kortright Centre", dove i bambini hanno avuto l'opportunità di essere a contatto con la natura, imparando ad ascoltare i vari suoni che si possono sentire in una foresta. Hanno esplorato i diversi tipi di piante che si trovano lì, hanno seminato dei semi facendo finta di essere degli scoiattoli ed hanno cercato di costruire un habitat con dei rami per aiutare gli animali a ripararsi.

Il 21 di giugno: Ultimo giorno di scuola, con orario regolare. A fine giornata saranno consegnate le pagelle finali a tutti. Si ricorda ai genitori dei "Graduates" che in questo giorno alle 14:30 in palestra, si svolgerà anche la cerimonia di chiusura dell'anno scolastico: "Graduation". I bambini che riceveranno il diploma dovranno portare un grembiulino pulito extra, per la cerimonia. Sono invitati a partecipare solo i genitori dei bambini che riceveranno il diploma. ("Parents of Graduates only"). Quest'anno per la Scuola Materna, riceveranno il diploma: Elizabeth, Sebastian, Luca, Mia, Henry, Olivia e Alexandra.



Congratulazioni e auguri per un felicissimo futuro !

Lo Staff della Scuola Materna augura a tutti una felicissima estate!

CASA MONTESSORI NEWS

Mrs.. O'Neil

The Casa Montessori children have been busy in the final months of school. On May 23rd preschool families gathered in the gym for the Festa Della Famiglia concert. The children were very excited to perform the songs and poems they had been practicing for their families and did a wonderful job!



The Casa students enjoyed a trip to the Kortright Centre on June 5th (pictured above). The class had a great time outdoors in the Forest School and on the nature appreciation hike.



On June 21st the Casa students will be attending the graduation ceremony in the gym. Congratulations to this year's Casa graduates: Abby, Benjamin, Bianca, Christian, Mario, Merissa, Olivia, and Stefan.

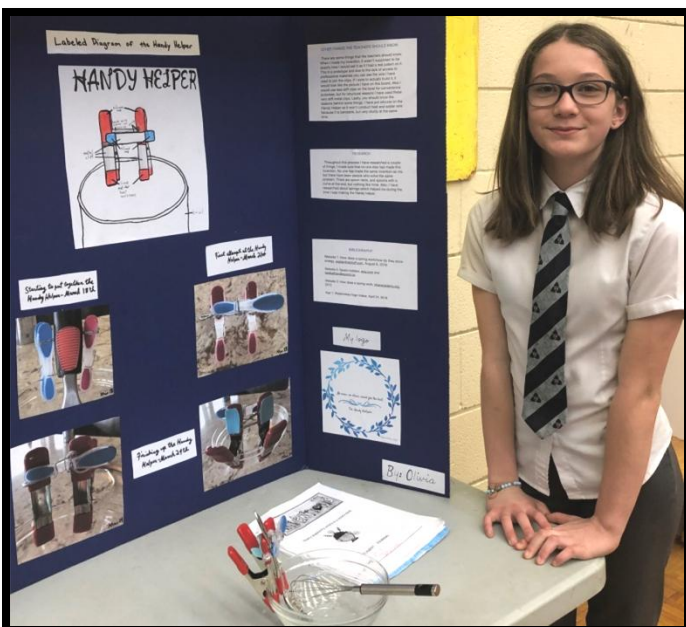
We encourage parents to support their children over the summer break by setting aside time for their child to read and cursive write. This will ensure a strong start back to school in September.

Wishing all the LDVA community a safe, productive, and enjoyable summer break !

END OF YEAR LAPA PICNIC

As the school year comes to an end, LDVA has obtained a permit to hold the annual year-end parent-student picnic at **West Deane Park**. This year the picnic will be held on Monday, June 24th. Families may arrive anytime after 10 am with their picnic lunches. The Park is located at 400 Martingrove Road (South of Eglinton, North of Rathburn) and offers a large playground, lots of field space, picnic tables, and bathrooms. As in the past, this is a LAPA sponsored event and all LDVA students and families are invited to attend the year end celebration.

LDVA INVENTION CONVENTION



SUMMERTIME LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES *Mr. Ritacca*

Summer break provides many opportunities for students to practice the Seven Da Vincian Principles. Any safe activity that puts children in touch with nature, encourages artistic or musical expression, enhances their body awareness (dance, movement or drama) or challenges them to grow is to be encouraged. The objective is to replace children's exposure to screens, addictive digital devices, and other mind-numbing or passive distractions with analog activities such as arts, sports, hikes, or anything that nurtures and stimulates their natural curiosity to learn.

During the summer holidays, many children tend to fall behind on essential academic skills - reading in particular. The following are suggestions to help your child practice, maintain or improve his/her **Reading Skills - an essential component of learning.**

Research suggests that reading six or more books during the summer helps keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the reading material, be sure that it is a good fit - not too hard and not too easy. In addition to getting advice from your child's teacher, take advantage of your **local library** and librarian when selecting books to match your child's age, interests, and abilities and for appropriateness.

As part of your daily routine be sure to encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Some examples are: ask/help your child to read road signs or billboards during your summer travels; as a daily routine read the newspaper with your child even if it is just the comics or the day's weather; encourage your child to read schedules, guides, or recipes; before bedtime have your child read to you from the book he/she is currently reading. (Re-reading a page out loud will help your child be more fluent and more able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with expression.) Reading to children is beneficial not just for developing reading skills, but it can serve to enhance the parent-child connection.

Though it's difficult to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions, the suggestions above not only fit into a busy schedule but will make reading fun while strengthening a skill that prepares your child for the upcoming challenges. Come September children who have practiced their reading over the summer (not including twitter or other digital shot forms of print) will be that much more prepared to resume from where they left off in June. They will be also be better equipped to share stories of their summer adventures with their teachers and classmates.