



*Leonardo Da Vinci Academy*

100 Allanhurst Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9A 4K4

## LDVA NEWS

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

#### LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE



This year's first Leonardo's challenge was hosted by Mrs. Barba on October 25. It was a fun activity appropriate for the time of the year and all students from preschool to Grade 7 participated. Each elementary student was asked to decorate a paper Halloween pumpkin with materials brought from home. Casa and Scuola students were provided materials by the teachers and worked in groups. The students worked hard to create works of "Pumpkin Art" using a variety of materials. The one shown above is the collective creation of the Casa preschool class. After the challenge, the students discussed with enthusiasm which of the seven Da Vincian Principles they used to arrive at their creations: *Dimostrazione, Sfumato, Sensazione, Connessione, Curiosità, Arte/Scienza, & Corporalità*.

#### MID-TERM REPORTS and PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

*Mid-Term Reports* were issued on November 8. *Parent-Teacher Interviews* will be held on the evening of November 14 and during the day on November 15. To allow for the interviews there will be **no classes on November 15**. Parent-Teacher Interviews are a perfect opportunity for parents and teachers to review objectives, share information, and to focus on the strategies for continued progress.

Don't worry that your children don't always listen to you.  
"Instead, worry that **they are always watching you.**"  
Robert Fulghum on "*Being a Role Model for Your Children*"

#### Thanksgiving - Bianca Vella, Grade 6

Thank you Lord my God I pray  
on this wonderful thanksgiving day  
for creating your son Jesus Christ,  
as well as me and my life.

Thank you for my mom and dad  
and letting them teach me what's good and bad.  
Thank you for my dog Lucca too  
I love them all as I love you.

Thank you for my family.  
For my life, my sight, & what I see.  
Thank you for the health of everyone I love,  
for the holy spirit from up above.

Thank you for making all things fair  
and thank you for always being there.  
Thank you for the teachers that help us learn  
teaching us their ways, giving us what we earn.

Thank you for giving me an amazing life  
guiding me to what's wrong and right.  
Thank you God for all you do.  
I especially want to thank you!

Exceptional Schooling For The Formative Years  
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LDVA students at the McMichael Canadian Gallery in Kleinburg

#### McMICHAEL CANADIAN ART GALLERY

On October 21 elementary students took a trip to Kleinburg to visit the McMichael Art Gallery located on the original lands of the Ojibwe Anishinaabe People. Students had a wonderful hands-on opportunity to experience Canadian and Native art.



Above: Art by LEM students inspired by their visit to McMichael Art Gallery

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY



On November 11, Remembrance Day was celebrated in the gym. As in past years, the celebration included class wreaths and student presentations and recitals. Parents were also invited to join the assembly.

#### Thankful - Sofia Crisanti, Grade 6

I'm thankful for love and for God up above.  
I'm thankful for my friends and for fun that never ends.  
I'm thankful for school and for my family that is so cool.  
I'm thankful for my part in welcoming God in my heart.  
I'm thankful for my big brother  
And the meals made by my dad and mother.  
I'm thankful for the birds that sing  
I'm just so thankful for everything.



Casa Montessori in costume

## INTRAMURAL SPORTS UPDATE

### "Sensational Sports" by Olivia, Grade 7

This year, we have two captains per team and everyone has been playing hard. We kicked off the season with soccer in September, then we played flag football in October. In November, these terrific teams began battling in basketball. It's too close to call now, but one thing is for sure, it's shaping up to be a very interesting race for the Tim Brown Memorial Trophy.

In the top spot, the *Sensazione Tsunami* is washing out the competition. In soccer the team won games here and there, but didn't leave the opposition lost in the undertow. This natural disaster tore through football like a seismic wave causing other teams to evacuate, with only two losses. Now entering basketball, the *Tsunami* hope to flood the other teams with an unsurpassable lead, and leave them to drown.

Following closely in second are the *Connessione Killer Whales*, swimming right behind the *Tsunami* only trailing by two points. In soccer this pod packed a punch as they did very well. They tried to hold onto the ball in football, but their slippery fins made it hard to do so. They didn't drown though, and kept a close race between themselves and the *Tsunami*. Could basketball be the wave they need to ride into first place? Will there be some rough waters ahead? We'll have to wait and see!

In third place we have the *Dimostrazione Diamondbacks*, who did well in soccer. They didn't catch much prey in football though. With the basketball portion of the season starting now, these determined *Diamondbacks* are hoping to bite back against the competition, with a venomous attack, and to slither their way up the standings.

The *Sfumato Ninjas*, though strong in will, have yet to pull out their swords and slice the opposition. Rather they have pinned themselves with their throwing stars in fourth place with eight points. Instead of karate chopping the other teams like Bruce Lee in soccer, they only won one game. During football they made some amazing catches and started swiftly going through the obstacles the other teams put in front of them. The *Ninjas* are now hoping to kick into high gear and pull out their black belt skills in basketball. We still have many sports to play and ample opportunities for teams to reach the top. As we continue through the year, we look forward to sweet sportsmanship and challenging competition. Good luck to all the teams and have a great season!

Current standings (as of November 8<sup>th</sup>) are as follows:

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
<i>Sensazione Tsunami</i>	15	6	2	32
<i>Connessione Killer Whales</i>	14	7	2	30
<i>Dimostrazione Diamondbacks</i>	10	11	2	22
<i>Sfumato Ninjas</i>	3	18	2	8

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



## SOCK DRIVE

Mrs. Lee

As we approach the season for giving and colder weather, LDVA would like to make a difference in the lives of homeless people by having a *Sock Drive*. Beginning Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> until Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> we are asking that each child bring in a package of **new adult socks**. Once we have finished our *Sock Drive*, *Socks 4 Souls* will pick up our donation and distribute them to our local shelters. Let's spread some warmth and joy to those that are less fortunate this season.

## "Orange Shirt Day Art" and Halloween Activities - Grades 6 & 7 students



## TERRY FOX RUN - UPDATE

Mr. T. Jewell

This September, LDVA participated in our 15th annual Terry Fox Run to raise money for cancer research. This year students accepted a challenge to raise **\$5,000** for the Terry Fox Foundation, and we are so proud that we reached our goal, pushing our cumulative school total over the \$50,000 mark. We would like to thank the LDVA Community of families and friends for the overwhelming support and commitment to achieving such an impressive total over the years. To celebrate our accomplishment, a special "Casual Dress Day" is planned for November.



Preschool children enjoying a Puppet Making Workshop



**SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS** Signora M. Ricciuti

*Lo staff della Scuola Materna ringrazia i genitori per la fruttuosa collaborazione nel donare il cibo per Thanksgiving e per la generosità nella partecipazione alla corsa di Terry Fox.*

*Il 21 ottobre : visita a "Downey's Farm", dove i bambini hanno avuto l'opportunità di osservare la natura e il campo di zucche. Ha partecipato ad una piccola presentazione sui diversi tipi di zucca e le parti che la compongono. Poi si sono divertiti molto durante il giro sul trattore osservando le varie decorazioni sparse per i campi, ma la parte preferita è stata la visita alla "stalla stregata".*

*Il 31 ottobre tutti i bambini hanno indossato il costume per la festa di Halloween. Ognuno ha avuto l'opportunità di presentare il suo costume ai suoi compagni di scuola. E' stato un gran divertimento tra canzoni e lavoretti.*

*Il 6 novembre abbiamo avuto degli ospiti nella nostra scuola, "Puppets Cool". I bambini si sono divertiti molto a creare dei burattini.*

*L'8 novembre: i genitori hanno ricevuto le schede di valutazione ( Mid-term Reports). Dove possono avere un'idea più chiara, sull'apprendimento ma soprattutto sul rinserimento dei loro bambini nell'ambiente scolastico.*

*L'11 novembre ( Remembrance Day ) ,si e' svolta un' assemblea in palestra alle ore 10:50 am, dove abbiamo ricordato i soldati caduti in guerra.*

*Il 14 novembre : colloqui e incontri tra genitori e docenti , questi si terranno nell'aula della Scuola Materna durante le ore serali. Il 15 novembre: ancora colloqui con i genitori durante il giorno, quindi non ci sarà scuola per i bambini.*

*Si ricorda ai genitori , che ogni lunedì e' dedicato a Mostra e Racconta(**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 è arrivato, e con l'inverno arrivano 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.*



*"Per insegnare bisogna emozionare. Molti però pensano ancora che se ti diverti non impari." - Maria Montessori*

**CASA MONTESSORI NEWS** Mrs. G. O'Neil

October and November have been busy months for the children in Casa. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Terry Fox Run and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Both were a big success! On October 21st Casa and Scuola visited Downey's Farm. The children learned about the parts of a pumpkin and were each given a pumpkin to take home. The whole class enjoyed the wagon ride through the farm and visiting the farm animals. Our first Leonardo's Challenge this year was hosted by Mrs. Barba. Students were asked to think like Leonardo and used various materials to decorate a large paper pumpkin which we hung on our classroom door for Halloween. On October 31st, the children were very excited to spend the day in their Halloween costumes and carve our classroom pumpkin! Casa and Scuola had an in-school field trip on November 6th with *Puppets, Cool!*. It was a fun and creative workshop where the children learned about puppets and make their very own puppet out of a sock, buttons and pipe cleaners. On November 11th Casa joined the rest of the school in the gym for our annual Remembrance Day ceremony. A reminder that Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on the evening of November 14th and during the day on November 15th (there will be no classes held on November 15th).

With the weather changing please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately to go outside for recess. This includes snow pants and waterproof gloves or mittens so that your child can comfortably play in the snow. All outdoor clothing should be labeled with your child's initials. Parents are also reminded to update the change of clothes (in uniform colours) in their child's cubby as many children still have shorts and short-sleeved shirts to change into.



*Arranging Flowers activity in the Casa classroom*

## LAPA NEWS - New Campus

Parent cooperation and support is essential for building the kind of safe and exceptional learning environment the Academy is known for. Thanks to all the parents for helping make our school a great place to learn and grow. This year we are asking for parent support to help make a smooth transition to our new campus at the Columbus



Centre (see pictures). Toward this end Mrs. Susan Lee will be coordinating a parent *Capital Campaign Committee*. The main objective will be to raise funds for the needed renovations and marketing while keeping the tuition

affordable. A letter has been sent home inviting parent participation and support. In the meantime we ask all parents to continue to spread the word about LDVA and its unique and valuable status as a special educational institution within our community. (Please see article right).



Parents who have questions or concerns about transportation to the new location are asked to please contact Mrs. Lee to discuss the possible options for arranging bussing service.



*Casa Montessori at Downey's Farm*

## WHAT MAKES LDVA SPECIAL ?

S. Ritacca

Since 1984 LDVA has been described as a "valuable Canadian educational resource" and "an educational gem". When former graduates return for a visit they always express deep fondness for the school and describe its role in shaping their future. Whenever I am asked what makes LDVA so special, the following thoughts come to mind.

The "Thinking Like Leonardo" educational approach to life long learning is one aspect unique to LDVA that stands out. Children immersed in this philosophy develop a confidence and love of learning that goes beyond curriculum. They are set on a path where whole brain thinking, creativity, curiosity, and perseverance serve as stepping stones to personal growth. They learn to embrace ambiguity, make connections, and appreciate their physical nature. These skills and attitudes are an invaluable foundation of their formative years.

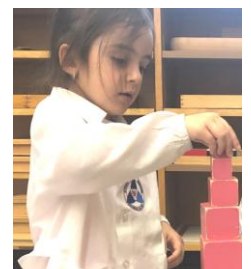
Learning at LDVA is further enhanced by the intimate size of the classrooms which allows for more individualized attention and programming. At the same time and in the spirit of Montessori, children are encouraged to believe in themselves and given freedom to explore and develop as nature intended.

LDVA is a safe and healthy learning environment that promotes respect, family values, and character.

At LDVA the student's safety and best interest are top priority. This dedication of staff is another aspect of LDVA that makes it so special. The selection of teachers is based on their character as much as it is on their qualifications. The school community is like an extended family and politics are displaced by honest communication. The common goal for parents and staff is to work together for the betterment of our children.

The study of the Italian language and culture is another feature of LDVA that stands out. Children are immersed in the rich Italian culture in a manner that is exceptional and more than any other elementary school I know of in Canada. The value of learning another language at a young age has been well documented and proven to be of great advantage.

The purpose of formal education, especially during the formative years, is to nurture a child's potential, promote self-esteem and self-discipline, and develop healthy learning skills and habits. With this in mind, it is obvious why LDVA is such a special school. Not only are students of LDVA treated as responsible individuals but they are part of a learning environment that encourages best effort and a love of learning. This should be the goal of every school.



*Trinomial Cube and Pink Tower activities*