



*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

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#### LDVA STAFF

Mrs. A. Barba, Italian, Art, Religion, After Hours  
Mr. J. De Jesus, Grades 4/5, Religion, LEM Phys. Ed.  
Mr. M. Gillogly, Music Director  
Mrs. S. Gravina, Admissions, School Secretary  
Mrs. M. Golgota, French  
Mr. T. Jewell, Grades 6/7, Phys. Ed.  
Mrs. S. Lee, Academic Head, Grades 4/5  
Mrs. B. Lobo, Lower Elementary Montessori Directress  
Ms. C. Marcuz, Italian, Scuola Materna Assistant  
Mrs. G. O'Neil, Casa Montessori Directress  
Mrs. M. Ricciuti, Scuola Materna Directress  
Ms. J. H. Yeo, LEM and Casa Assistant

BURSAR: Mr. J. Cap

FOUNDERS: Mr. S. Ritacca, Mr. D. Tassielli

#### ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

LDVA's 35th year is off to a great start! For security reasons, we ask that parents follow the established morning drop off routines as in past years. In the interest of safety parents are discouraged from entering the school without an appointment. Students not enrolled in "Extended-Hours" should arrive no sooner than 8:20 am. The morning bell will ring at 8:40 am to signal the start of the day. For safety reasons doors will be locked after the bell. Children arriving after 8:45 am should be brought to the office and a staff member will escort them to class. For security reasons, students have been instructed not to open doors to anyone. Parents are requested to comply with established routines and keep our school safe and secure.

Since parents will not be accompanying their children into the classroom, preschool children especially will need help adjusting to this routine. We have had our usual "First Day of School" tears from some of the preschool children, but most have easily adapted to the new routine. It is great to see how independent and responsible our students can be as they come into school on their own. Our afternoon dismissal also appears to be running smoothly. The support of parents in implementing these procedures is greatly appreciated.

Parents who wish to speak to a teacher on a given day are invited to write in their elementary student's agenda or email the teacher. Teachers have provided parents their email addresses. This can serve as an effective way to communicate with the teachers without distracting their attention from the students under their care during arrival and dismissal times.

#### LEONARDO'S CHALLENGES

The *Leonardo's Challenges* are a series of school-wide activities to encourage students to "*Think Like Leonardo*" and practice the seven *Da Vincian Principles*. (Details can be found on the LDVA website or Student Handbook). Throughout the year, students at all levels are encouraged to think outside the box by teachers presenting them with a challenge designed to highlight and cultivate one or more of the *Da Vincian Principles*. The first challenge of the year will take place on October 25. Please refer to this year's school *Events Calendar* for the other dates scheduled for our *Leonardo's Challenges* activities.

#### CURRICULUM NIGHT

On September 19th parents had an opportunity to meet the 2019-2020 LDVA staff and familiarize themselves with the curriculum. This year, parents were also invited into the gym to meet with the founders and learn more about next year's move to the new campus and exciting partnership with the Columbus Centre.

Parents were provided with Elementary Course Outlines or Preschool Parent Manuals and were given an overview of the curriculum. Parents who were unable to attend may pick up the handouts from the office at their convenience.

#### TERRY FOX RUN

On September 26th at 11 am, students of LDVA will once again pay tribute to Canadian Hero Terry Fox and his annual *Marathon of Hope* by running or walking for cancer research. As in past years, Mr. Jewell will be coordinating the run and pledge forms. Funds raised are donated in memory of former LDVA community members and in particular former LDVA teacher Mr. Tim Brown, parent Mrs. Angela Scauzillo and student Nicole Nardi whose lives were prematurely ended by cancer. Parents are asked to support their children in this Canadian tradition which LDVA has been proud to be a part of for many years.



#### Seasons are Forever by Nicole Nardi (May 1, 1980 - August 8, 1999)

*Spring was around*

*She came from nowhere to fight mean Jack Frost*

*To beat him with the beauty of her flowers and trees*

*And to let kids play with no worry of dropping a hat or a mitt*

*She stayed for a while*

*Her flowers ... smelled like heaven*

*Her trees ... gave fresh, cool fruit*

*But she had to leave when time was up. Her time will come again.*

Nicole, who died from a cancer related illness in 1999, wrote this poem as a Grade 6 student of LDVA seven years earlier.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

On most days, the period from 3:20 pm to 4:00 pm offers a variety of opportunities for elementary grade students to participate in selected activities or receive extra help. This year, lunchtime and afterschool activities include: Band, Sports, Chess and Study Hall. Students in grades 3 to 7 also have an opportunity to participate in LDVA's popular Intramural Sports program led by Mr. Jewell.

Extra-curricular activities are a privilege extended to students meeting their responsibilities. Detentions to meet academic or other school requirements take priority over extra-curricular activities. The support from parents such as picking up their children promptly is much appreciated and helps make these offerings possible. Parents are reminded that students not scheduled in an after school activity should be picked up promptly upon dismissal unless other arrangements have been made (such as Extended Hours). On Staff Meeting days students not enrolled in Extended Hours must be picked up by **3:20 pm** - refer to the School Calendar for Staff Meeting dates.

## SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Parents are reminded that October 15th is LDVA Photo Day. On that day students are to be in complete **official school uniform**. Please refer to the "School Clothing Requirements" form for specifics.



## LIBRARY TRIPS

To promote Reading, students will be visiting the local library at different times throughout the year. The first trip is on October 18. The dates of all the scheduled library visits for the year are listed on the LDVA School Calendar. Students and parents wishing to renew borrowed library books may do so online at <http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/>. Please note that your child's library card number will be required to renew books on line. Students are advised to write their library card number in their planner. Students are responsible to turn in their library books as they enter the library during each visit. See Mrs. Lee for details.



Mr. De Jesus during Lower Elementary Gym class

## MUSIC

Few areas of the curriculum promote *Arte/Scienza* or "whole brain thinking" as does Music. The study of Music provides an excellent way to develop the balance between art, logic, and imagination - a core aspect of "Thinking Like Leonardo". For this reason music education is given a high priority at LDVA. Music classes are scheduled throughout the week for all students, including preschools. At the higher grades the Music curriculum encompasses theory, performance, and music appreciation.

Mr. Mark Gillogly, the Academy's Music teacher, a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, has served as the Musical Director for various congregations. Mark has been a mentor to numerous young singers and musicians and has served as a vocal coach and as a guitar and piano teacher. Under Mr. Gillogly's direction, the LDVA Music Program continues to inspire a love and appreciation for Music as a unique and joyful form of human expression.



**BAND** is compulsory for students in Grades 4 to 7. In addition to their scheduled periods, the **Grades 4 and 5 Band** meets on Tuesdays and the **Full Band** (Grades 4-7) meets on Thursdays from 3:20 pm to 4 pm.



**CHOIR** for students in Lower Elementary is scheduled each week as part of their weekly schedule.



**SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS** Signora M. Ricciuti

*Un bentornato a tutti i bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori. L'inizio dell'anno scolastico è sempre un periodo di transizione, ed è per questo motivo che invitiamo i genitori a cercare di mantenere una determinata 'routine', cosicché i bambini possano venire a scuola riposati e pronti per apprendere attività nuove.*

*Nella Scuola Materna, si continua a guidare i bambini alla conoscenza e alla scoperta del metodo Montessoriano, dove il bambino è il protagonista della propria educazione. Ma soprattutto ad esporli alla lingua italiana che gradualmente imparano attraverso canzoni, poesie e varie conversazioni.*

*Ricordiamo, inoltre, che per un perfetto e completo svolgimento del programma, l'orario d'entrata è alle ore 8:20, e quello d'uscita alle 15:25; a meno che non si abbia un permesso rilasciato dall'ufficio per "extended hours". E' molto importante vestire i bambini in modo appropriato, cosicché possano essere indipendenti ai servizi igienici, inoltre mettere sempre il nome sui grembiulini, sulle giacche e scarpe. Vorrei rinforzare che è molto importante per i bambini venire a scuola con la loro uniforme (nel nostro caso il grembiule), perché indossare l'uniforme trasmette al bambino un senso di ordine e routine scolastica.*

*Si informa i genitori che lunedì il 28 di ottobre ci sarà il primo "Mostra e Racconta" (Show & Tell) quest'attività, che sarà sempre di lunedì permette al bambino di acquisire padronanza e spontaneità d'espressione nell'apprendimento della lingua italiana. Inizieremo con la prima lettera dell'alfabeto la A,a; e ricordiamo che l'oggetto che si sceglie da portare deve iniziare con questa lettera ma in italiano (es. A, aereo). Inoltre includeremo anche le lettere straniere (j,k,x,w e y) con queste i bambini se non riescono a trovare nulla in italiano allora potranno portare qualcosa che inizia con quella lettera in inglese dato che nell'alfabeto italiano queste lettere sono incluse come lettere straniere.*

**Un augurio a tutti per un felice anno scolastico!**

"L'educazione comincia dalla nascita" M. Montessori



Scuola Materna class happy to be back to school

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

Welcome to all the new and returning students and their families! We are also pleased to welcome our new assistant, Ms. Joo Hee to the Casa Montessori class! September is always a time of excitement and the children are quickly settling into their school routines. We are well on our way to a productive school year filled with positive learning experiences and lots of fun!

With the weather changing, please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately as students go outside for daily recess. Be sure to label all clothing with your child's name or initials. It is also important to provide your child with a complete change of clothes to keep in their cubby in case of a personal accident or water spill since many of the activities in the Practical Life area involve water. Also please ensure that the change of clothes is in uniform colours (e.g. grey pants and a plain white shirt).

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year feel free to email me at [casa@ldva.on.ca](mailto:casa@ldva.on.ca). Emails are checked before 8:20 am or after 3:30 pm. For urgent or time sensitive concerns we ask that you please call the office at 416-247-6137.

Reminder of Special Dates:

September 26<sup>th</sup>: Terry Fox Run

October 14<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Day Holiday

October 15<sup>th</sup>: School Photo Day



Casa Montessori students back to school having fun working and learning.

**PARENTING TIP**

When your child is doing something you disapprove of, explain why you don't approve of what they are doing, and where possible, provide them with an alternative that you do approve of.



## LDVA PARENT (LAPA) NEWS

Welcome back to all returning families and a special welcome to the families new to the LDVA community.

Parents of Leonardo Da Vinci Academy are part of a unique community that supports and shares in the values promoted by LDVA. While the Da Vincian principles and the Montessori methodology serve as a guide to the school's educational philosophy the values of the school are based on essential Catholic values that include charity, love, treating others with respect, and self-discipline. These values are incorporated into daily activities and curriculum and reflected in the school's policies and practices. By modeling these and supporting the school's policies and procedures, parents not only reinforce LDVA's educational mission but will keep the focus where it should be - on their child's development. The trust and support of parents is essential to achieving our common objectives and to foster the kind of environment that will nurture the healthy development of the children under our care to grow into responsible individuals.

Parents are often called upon to help with school events and other extra-curricular functions. This year in particular, parents will be required to play an important role in helping to facilitate the Academy's move to our new campus in September 2020. This will include Fundraising, Marketing and Promotion, and dedicated support and cooperation during the transitional period.

### DOLPHIN GAMING

LDVA would like to gratefully acknowledge the fundraising efforts by *Dolphin Gaming* that help to subsidize excursions and additional extra-curricular and other resources for our children.

## BACK TO SCHOOL



Mrs. Barba teaching Italian to grade 5 students

## PARENTING DIGITAL NATIVES DURING THEIR KEY FORMATIVE YEARS - S. Ritacca

Most parents agree that raising children is a delicate and **challenging balance** between allowing freedom to learn and develop, nurturing a healthy growth and self-esteem, and providing safe and meaningful boundaries. At the very least, good parenting is about maintaining a relationship based on love and respect while **NOT** enabling bad behaviour.

Parenting digital natives, children born in a digital world, is becoming harder and increasingly more challenging than ever. Given that the excessive time children spend with digital screens, video games, TVs, and cell phones, has detrimental mental and physical health ramifications along with a negative impact on social skills and brain development, parents **must** limit and monitor the time their children spend with such devices. Children who experience too much exposure to screens risk becoming **passive learners** and grow to be dependent on external sources for stimulation and do not learn how to problem-solve or think outside the box - the antithesis to creativity and "*Thinking Like Leonardo*". Excessive engagement with programmed digital screens shuts down the mental circuits responsible for **social interaction** and **deductive reasoning**. This is especially true for younger brains that are at the early stages of development and more vulnerable to **manipulation, addiction, and distraction**.

Being innate learners, children's learning ability can be naturally developed with opportunities for free play and analog activities that do **not** involve devices designed to distract and focus their attention on a virtual world. Just as it is counterproductive to over-schedule children's time, it is disruptive to children's development for them to spend too much time in an addictive virtual world. Time in nature and engaging them in activities such as dance, drama, sports, music, and general arts will foster creativity and self-awareness and help to ground them in the real world.

The role of the parent becomes one of facilitating the healthy growth of who the child already is and help prepare the child for an enigmatic future. This can only be accomplished in a culture that encompasses paradox, mystery, and moral awareness - elements of "*Thinking Like Leonardo*". Much in keeping with Maria Montessori's teachings, the innate ability of children's curiosity and desire to learn is the key to a child's development. Parents must nurture and encourage these at every opportunity and, at the very least, allow children to develop naturally by lightening up on their own irrelevant agenda for their child. At the same time, along with other dangers, we also need to protect our children from being over-exposed to an unnatural, distracting & addictive virtual world.

