



LDVA NEWS

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PRAISE THAT WORKS - S. Ritacca EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MOTIVATE CHILDREN

Top psychologists have warned that exaggerated or gratuitous praise may teach some children to focus on test scores and rewards instead of learning. Just like focusing on poor grades, unmerited praise could lead children to associate effort with failure which is counter-productive to developing self-esteem or potential.

In the words of award winning writer Erin Anderssen, parents are advised to "Keep gushing to a minimum. Over-praise can send the wrong message, especially if children know they didn't do their best. Don't make praise about control." When praising a child it is best to give comments that lead them to prioritize effort over grades or material rewards.

To motivate positive behaviour, a parent or teacher should be careful not to use bribery, intimidation, or humiliation as these can foster disrespect, low self-esteem, or a lack of trust. A child who is constantly treated in this manner will be unlikely to ask questions or seek help from those who do this. Lack of trust stifles learning. To encourage trust, parents and teachers need to set some basic guidelines for positive behavior and enforce these consistently, fairly, and respectfully. These can be as simple as:

1. Always give your best effort.
2. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
3. Always act with respect toward others.
4. Know and follow the rules.
5. Treat mistakes as stepping stones to success.

Behaviour that violates established reasonable guidelines must be addressed immediately with a full explanation as to how it is inappropriate, followed by appropriate consequences. The child must have a clear understanding as to why the behaviour is not acceptable and also why it is not in her/his best interest.

Especially in the formative years, the role of parents or teachers is to motivate behaviour and attitude that fosters a healthy self-esteem and personal growth. To do this we must always be aware of the power we have to influence their development. Manipulating children to meet our agenda only teaches them manipulation. Respecting them and their true needs (not to be confused with their provisional wants) teaches them respect for themselves and others.

THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT LDVA

On December 16 students were challenged to design their own Christmas hats or headbands to wear to school. They were also invited to dress in red, green, and white.

On December 17th students participated in the annual "Christmas Sweater Challenge". The challenge was to use an old sweater, sweatshirt or shirt to create a festive Christmas themed sweater, an original work of art to be worn to school on that day.

Wednesday, December 18th was "Pajamas and Pancakes" day. Students wore their pajamas to school and enjoyed pancakes and hot chocolate with their class.

LDVA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual LDVA Christmas Concert will be held in the gym on Thursday, December 19th at 4:30 pm. Students from Preschool to Grade 7 will come together to delight parents and family members with performances in the spirit of Christmas. As always, it is the perfect beginning to the Christmas Holidays - and the last one to be held at the Allanhurst campus.

Students are to arrive at school on that day in full uniform. Families are asked to please enter through the parking lot doors starting at 4:00 pm (front doors will be locked).



Learning Multiplication With Montessori Bead Bars

COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

With the arrival of the cold weather children are expected to come to school with warm winter clothing including jackets, hats, gloves, boots, and snow pants as needed. Conditions warranting indoor recess include: rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, extreme winds or cold. When temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates -27°C or lower children will remain indoors. When temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates -20 to -27°C , recess may be shortened to 15 minutes depending on local conditions. Children will be monitored closely for signs of frostbite or difficulty breathing.

In the event that classes need to be cancelled due to a snow storm warning, when possible, the day before the storm parents will be informed that an email will be sent out by 6:30 am informing them of the closure that day. If in doubt parents are invited to call the school or send an email to Mrs. Lee at sl@ldva.on.ca before heading out to school.

**Learning Mathematics at LDVA****THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT LDVA**

SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS Signora M. Ricciuti

Dopo aver completato la programmazione per il mese di novembre, i bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori, si accingono alla preparazione del periodo natalizio, completando tutte le attività che questo mese comporta, incluso il Concerto di Natale. In occasione di questo evento i bambini creano un'atmosfera natalizia attraverso l'apprendimento di canzoncine, poesie ed attività creative.

Il 16 dicembre, è iniziata la nostra settimana del conto alla rovescia prima di Natale. Per l'occasione, i bambini hanno dovuto indossare un cappello natalizio creato da loro.

Il 17 dicembre, abbiamo avuto "The Christmas Sweater Challenge" dove si doveva usare la propria creatività per realizzare una maglia natalizia. Che divertimento!!

Il 18 dicembre, giornata speciale, "Pancake Breakfast". I bambini sono venuti a scuola con un comodo pigiama, che li ha tenuti caldi mentre hanno mangiato pancakes la mattina e pizza a pranzo.

*Giovedì il 19 di dicembre alle ore 16:30 ci sarà il **Concerto Di Natale**. Questo sarà l'ultimo giorno di scuola per il 2019, le lezioni riprenderanno lunedì il 6 di gennaio, 2020. Tutti i bambini dovranno indossare il loro grembiule per il concerto. Venerdì il 20 di dicembre, gli insegnanti avranno un aggiornamento professionale e quindi non ci sarà scuola. Buone vacanze di Natale a tutti!*



Lo Staff della Scuola Materna augura a tutti un Buon Natale ed un Felice Anno Nuovo!

CASA MONTESSORI NEWS Mrs. G. O'Neil

The holiday season is here and the Casa children have been busy preparing for the upcoming Christmas Concert and enjoying various Christmas activities and crafts. We had a wonderful time making ornaments which we used to decorate our classroom Christmas tree. The week before Christmas was very exciting at LDVA! We started off the week wearing festive hats and headbands to school on December 16th. Students showed off their creativity and holiday spirit on December 17th by wearing their homemade Christmas sweaters. On December 18th we came to school in our pajamas and enjoyed pancakes and hot chocolate! We would like to remind parents that the Christmas Concert will take place on Thursday, December 19th. The gym doors will open at 4:00 pm and the concert will begin at 4:30 pm. Feel free to send your child to school with an extra uniform shirt on the day of the concert in case of any spills during lunch.

Parents are encouraged to consider choosing gifts for children that aid in their physical and mental development. Items like wooden blocks, puzzles, books, child-sized mops/brooms, sports equipment, art supplies and instruments engage the child's mind and involve hand/muscle movement and coordination. Children under six years of age should have very limited access to technology which has been proven to be detrimental to their development.



Casa Student Learning How To Fold Cloths

Merry Christmas



We look forward to seeing everyone in 2020 !

LDVA'S NEW CAMPUS - Update



Our architect, has informed us that renovations should take 3 to 4 months to complete once all zoning and building permits have been fully approved. The LDVA gym space is already delineated and readied with a new floor and equipment storage space.

Mrs. Lee is working with the Ministry of Education to secure a Daycare License for the new site so that we are able to accept children under 4 - something that several parents have been asking for and will also help to increase enrollment.

Mrs. Lee has also been working with one of our parents to explore possible bussing arrangements to the new campus. Parents are invited to contact Mrs. Lee with any questions or suggestions about bussing arrangements.

In March, LDVA is planning to hold this year's *Serata Italiana* at the new campus' elegant *Columbus Centre Rotunda* venue which will serve as LDVA's new assembly/performance hall. On that same day, before the *Serata* performances we are planning a community OPEN HOUSE. Also on that day parents are invited to arrive earlier and join prospective families as they visit our new facilities. Other Open Houses will be planned depending on renovation completion date. The actual move is planned for the end of June. In the meantime we are arranging school trips to the Columbus Centre and promoting events to help bring together the LDVA and Columbus Centre communities.

Due to the move a higher than normal tuition increase will be necessary next year. The LDVA Board has approved an increase of approximately \$2000. However, parents who re-enroll their children by the date specified on the re-enrollment form will receive a special discount (around 30% of the increase). Families remaining with LDVA will **not** have an increase in tuition the following year (2021-2022). Even with the increase, the tuition for LDVA remains one of the lowest amongst any comparable private schools in the GTA, which is in keeping with the LDVA's mandate of keeping tuition affordable.

Important Fundraising and Marketing initiatives are underway. Though LDVA's Capital and Building Funds will cover major costs associated with the move and renovations, fundraising efforts are needed to enhance the new campus and furnish it with as much new equipment and furniture as possible. Also the more funds raised the more we can expand our Marketing Campaign to attract students from the surrounding neighbourhood.

A number of Marketing initiatives are underway. Our first priority has been to increase and improve our internet presence. Our website has been recently updated and Mrs. Gravina is working with our tech provider to increase our web exposure. We also have created an INSTAGRAM presence which has been receiving numerous hits. Parents are invited to follow LDVA on Instagram and Facebook to help increase the school's exposure - the school's username is **@ldva_toronto**. In addition to emailing personal testimonials to Mrs. Gravina for our web site, **parents are kindly asked to provide positive reviews on LDVA's Facebook page and on Google reviews** to further enhance the school's web exposure .

We are also working to have an article printed in Panoram magazine which is well circulated throughout the Italian community and has featured a number of LDVA graduates (see LDVA'S "Former Alumni" bulletin board next to the office).



Two large announcements promoting LDVA and its relocation are featured as part of the Villa Charities community events on the digital board in front of the Columbus Centre.

These are running 24/7 (pictured left).

Copies of our Newsletters and other ads are also being circulated throughout the Villa Charities community (the parent organization of Columbus Centre). We are also planning a mass mailing of promotional material in the area surrounding Lawrence and Dufferin. Plans to place posters in strategic locations and adds in local church bulletins are also underway. Any ideas or support to help promote LDVA and its new campus are most welcome.

A letter was sent home asking for parental involvement and support. We are grateful to the parents who have come forth to offer their time and help with Marketing, Bussing and Fundraising ideas. Specified donations toward classroom furniture and materials, school equipment (gym, music room, Leonardo Room) or high-tech tools are much appreciated. A tax receipt will be issued for the full amount of any donation received. At their pleasure, donors will be featured on plaques next to the rooms or the equipment their funds helped to realize. **Parents are encouraged to do what they can to help enhance LDVA's new campus.**



Best wishes to all LDVA families for a joyful and peaceful Christmas Holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school in the New Year on January 6, 2020.