



LDVA NEWS

September - December 2021

BACK TO SCHOOL AT LDVA UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Susan Lee, Academic Head

LDVA students are very excited and happy to be back in school and learning in person. In spite of the restrictions due to the Covid-19 mandates, students and teachers are taking advantage of our new facilities and making the best of it.

One important aspect missing from life at school is the ability to have whole school assemblies. Fortunately in our new campus we have a modern PA system that enables us to share special moments together as one big family. The PA system allows us to share time together each Monday morning during *Opening Ceremonies* where we celebrate birthdays, announcements, and sing the national anthems. Each week a student is selected to recite the Lord's Prayer in English, Italian, or French.

We have also taken advantage of the PA system to collectively celebrate important events such as: *Truth and Reconciliation Week* (Sept. 27 - Oct. 1) during which time our Grades 7/8 students shared information to honour children of residential schools; *Thanksgiving Week* which was a celebration led by the Grade 6 class who shared original essays and poems with the rest of the school; and *Remembrance Day*, celebrated during the week of November 8 – 11 and led by Grades 4 & 5 to honour those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

We look forward to contributions by our younger students in **upcoming events** which include: *Leonardo's Challenge* scheduled for November 25 involving Grades 4 to 8 and to be featured online.

Christmas Mask Design (Dec. 13) when students will be invited to design and wear a Christmas mask; *Christmas Sweater Challenge* (Dec. 14) when students will be challenged to create their own sweaters or shirts to wear at school on that day; *Pajamas and Pancakes Day* (Dec. 15) when students will be invited to wear their PJ's to school and be treated to pancakes in their class; and *LDVA Christmas Concert* (December 16), is the day students will be performing their Christmas songs. The event will be shared on-line or via Instagram, Facebook, and on the LDVA Website. On that day all students are required to be in full uniform.

LDVA STAFF 2021-22

Susan LEE , Academic Head, Grades 4&5
Sandy GRAVINA , Admissions, Bursar
Anna BATTISTON , LEM Assistant
Manjola GOLGOTA , Elementary French
Trent JEWELL , Grades 7&8, Phys. Ed.
Jeff DE JESUS , Grade 6, Phys. Ed., Religion
Beverly LOBO , Lower Elementary Montessori
Cinzia MARCUZ , Scuola Materna Assistant
Giulia O'NEIL , Casa Montessori Directress
Domenico PAGLIA , Italian, Art
Marcella RICCIUTI , Scuola Materna Directress
Sydney SURAJRAM , Music, Preschool French
Suzann TASSIELLI , LEM Assistant
Nanette VILLARBA , ECE Supervisor/Assistant
Sal RITACCA , Co-founder, President
Dom TASSIELLI , Co-founder, Treasurer

TERRY FOX RUN

Trent Jewell



This year LDVA raised close to \$7400 in aid of cancer research through its traditional annual **Terry Fox Marathon of Hope**. On September 29 Grades 4-8 completed the run at Caledonia Park while the other classes did it on the Columbus Centre

campus and the school playground. Every pledge sheet or online sponsor page earned each student a chance to win a Terry Fox T-shirt. A draw was held and the T-shirt winners were Ilaria (Gr.6), Poppy (Scuola), and Zaira (Gr.5). Congrats and thanks to all for your ongoing support and participation !

LDVA INTRAMURAL SPORTS 2021-22

by Michele (Grade 7)

Covid-19 has put many school activities on hold, including LDVA's amazing **Intramural Sports** program. For the past two seasons the program was stopped due to the virus, but we're not giving up. This year's season has started off strong. All three teams have their eyes on the prize, the coveted *Tim Brown Memorial Trophy*. At the start of the school year our grade 7 and 8 Captains drafted new teams composed of enthusiastic athletes. We have already had four weeks of fantastic frisbee, and fascinating flag football; we are currently starting the basketball portion of the season.

Near the beginning of the season the *Arte/Scienza Arctic Foxes*, now tied for first place, were dominating the frisbee portion. Displaying their ability to claw their way out of the snow, they learn from their mistakes and can turn a game around quickly. In the football portion they displayed their ability to defend, but fell short a few times on the offensive side, and barely got any share of the meat. However, they still managed to stay at the top of the standings.

Despite the *Arctic Foxes* being north of the leaderboard, the *Sensazione Venomous Vipers* have slithered their way up to the top and are now tied with the *Arctic Foxes* at 17 points. In the frisbee portion the *Vipers* were ahead in week one, but the *Arctic Foxes* stole the lead in weeks two to four. However, their venom started to sting in the football portion, stealing wins for the majority of their games

Besides the two teams fighting for first place, the *Sfumato Thunderbolts* are storming in at third place. Despite having a rough start in the frisbee portion, the team has been making a comeback. Since the arrival of a new player who has shone a light of hope for the team, they now rain on other team's parades and have 16 points.

Now we enter the basketball portion and our teams are ready to play hard!

See top right for present standings.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A special welcome to our latest International students Teo (Grade 6) and Fiona (Grade 4) who joined LDVA mid-November. Until their return to Madrid, Spain, for 4 or 5 months they will be a mutually enriching part of our school family. Benvenuti ! Bienvenidos !

SEASON STANDINGS (as of November 14, 2021)

TEAMS	WINS	LOSS -ES	TIES	F	A	Pts
<i>Arte/Scienza Arctic Foxes</i>	8	7	1	62	83	17
<i>Sensazione Venomous Vipers</i>	8	8	1	73	68	17
<i>Sfumato Thunderbolts</i>	7	8	2	79	63	16

F = For (Goals scored by team in soccer / European handball / hockey / lacrosse; or game points scored by team in Ultimate Frisbee / basketball; or touchdowns scored in football; or volleyball sets won)

A = Against (Goals scored against team in soccer / European handball / hockey / lacrosse; or game points scored against team in Ultimate Frisbee / basketball; or touchdowns against team in football; or volleyball sets lost)

Pts = Standings Points (2 for a win, 1 for a tie)

MUSIC AT LDVA

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 and promote the balance between art, logic, imagination and creativity - 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.

Ms. Sydney Surajram the Academy's new Music teacher, holds a Master of Musicology and has experiences as a Choir Director and Youth leader. Her background and approach to education are an excellent match for LDVA's goal 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 Music classes, the *Grades 4/5 Band* meets on Thursdays and the *Grades 6-8 Band*

meets on Tuesdays from 3:20 pm to 4 pm.

In addition to formal Music classes the Lower Elementary students are scheduled for **CHOIR** classes once a week. Preschool children enjoy Music time with Ms. Surajram at least three times a week.



SCUOLA MATERNA*Signora Ricciuti*

E' incredibile come siano già trascorsi due mesi di scuola, durante i quali i bambini hanno dimostrato un grande interesse per il metodo montessoriano.

Ecco alcuni degli eventi svolti nel mese di novembre:

**Il 5 novembre i genitori hanno ricevuto le schede di valutazione dove hanno potuto avere un'idea più chiara sull'inserimento dei loro bambini nell'ambiente scolastico.*

**L'11 novembre i bambini hanno colorato dei papaveri ed ascoltando delle poesie ricordando così questo giorno memorabile.*

**Il 19 novembre si sono svolti colloqui tra genitori ed insegnanti.*

Vorrei ricordare che con l'arrivo dell'inverno arrivano anche i raffreddori ed influenze. Quindi è molto importante controllare i propri bambini ed i loro sintomi, cercando di proteggere loro ed i loro compagni di scuola.

Il mese di dicembre è sempre un mese molto speciale per tutti i bambini, perchè aspettano con ansia l'arrivo di Babbo Natale. Anche nella nostra classe in occasione di questo evento, tutti insieme cercheremo di creare un'atmosfera natalizia attraverso canzoncine, lavoretti e racconti.

**Il 16 dicembre sarà l'ultimo giorno di scuola prima delle vacanze.*

**Il 17 dicembre tutti i docenti parteciperanno ad un aggiornamento professionale.*

Le insegnanti della Scuola Materna Montessori augurano un Santo Natale ed un Felic e Anno Nuovo a tutte le famiglie.

**CASA MONTESSORI***Directress Giulia O'Neil*

A warm welcome to all the new and returning students and their families! The children have settled into their school routines and are well on their way to a productive school year filled with positive learning experiences and lots of fun!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Terry Fox Run this year. The Casa children spent the day learning about Terry Fox and participated in the Terry Fox preschool run in our playground. The children were also very excited to spend a day in their Halloween costumes and carve our class pumpkin! With the holiday season approaching, the preschool classes have been learning Christmas songs and poems. We are looking forward to celebrating the holidays with various Christmas activities and crafts.

As the weather gets colder, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for morning and afternoon recess. A reminder to please 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 (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 please email casa@ldva.on.ca. Emails are checked before 8:20 am or after 3:30 pm. For urgent or time sensitive concerns please call the office at 416-247-6137. Thank you!



ABOVE: Casa Montessori children working on Practical Life activities

LEFT: Scuola Materna student deeply engaged in Binomial Cube activity



Olivia Parrott, an LDVA 2020-2021 Honours Graduate and first recipient of the new "Thinking Like Leonardo Award". Qualified recipients are Graduates who have successfully completed 11 years at LDVA from preschool to Grade 8.



Outdoor fun and games at the new Columbus Centre campus.

CORPORALITA - "The Cultivation of Grace, Ambidexterity, Fitness, and Poise"

S. Ritacca

Corpo is the Italian word for "body". *Corporeality*, as defined above, is one of the 7 *Da Vincian Principles* described by Michael Gelb in his book "How to Think like Leonardo da Vinci" and promoted by LDVA. Like many great minds, including Plato and Maria Montessori, Leonardo believed strongly in the mind-body connection and the importance of body awareness.

Having a positive attitude and sense of personal empowerment for our health and well-being is at the core of *Corporeality*. Mindful eating, body memory, ambidexterity, flexibility, and moving with poise and grace are all aspects of *Corporeality* that if nurtured from youth can help develop body awareness and promote a full and healthy life.

Leonardo believed that eating should be a pleasurable and sensual experience that embraces nature. He advised that over-eating was counter-productive and that to be physically and mentally healthy we must be in tune with our own body.

Activities that promote ambidexterity serve to increase one's range of movement and grace. Playing the piano, sports or other instruments are examples of ambidexterity expanding one's physical skills and potential. Repeating actions over and over help create body memory which foster ambidexterity and other complex movements. For any worthy activity "practice makes perfect".

Flexibility training, such as stretching and some types of yoga, can be a great mind-body workout and a great way to tune in to the body.

In today's world of screens and digital devices children are spending far too little time engaged in whole brain movement or focusing on their mind-body connection and real time awareness. The principle of *Corporeality* is an essential component to the development of self-esteem, connecting with nature, and living a life that is meaningful, fulfilling and an essential counterbalance to virtual reality.

The link below is a short excerpt from **Michael J. Gelb's** keynote address "How To Think Like Leonardo da Vinci". Watch Gelb use juggling skills to explain the Seven Da Vincian Principles: <https://youtu.be/pkAZ0R2YKk8>

The staff at LDVA wishes all our families a joyful, safe, and peaceful Christmas Holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday, January 3, 2021

