



WATERDOWN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

1921 SNAKE ROAD, BURLINGTON L7P 4Y2

www.waterdownmontessori.com

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

From the Principal's Desk

With the advent of May, the days and weeks will start to fly by. There is so much to try to fit in during the last months of the school year!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our eleventh **Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival** such a fun morning! We moved most events indoors; the rain obliged by stopping before 9:00, and by the time we ended the sun had made an appearance!

The staff are busy writing report cards, which will be sent home on May 13. The following week you are invited to attend our annual "**Parents' Day Tea**" (see details elsewhere).

On that day school ends at 11:45. That afternoon and evening are set aside for **Parent Teacher Interviews** (12:00 – 8:00). We encourage ALL parents to sign up.

Volunteer hours are due in to the office this month! Let us know (in writing) how many hours you have contributed in which areas. Cheques will be returned to those families who have completed 10 hours during the year. Remaining cheques will be deposited June 1, with pro-rated amounts returned according to the number of volunteer hours completed.

There is one sad note this month; after ten years with us, **Madame Grace** has decided that it is her time to say au revoir to Waterdown Montessori School. She will have more time for all the other things she enjoys doing, including spending time with her granddaughter! We know you will join us in wishing her all the best for this next step in her life.

It is hard to believe that it was only at this time last year that we first mentioned the possibility of a **Toddler Program**. One year later, we are thrilled with the decision to open a toddler class. With the help of Mrs. Julie and Mrs. Deb, our teacher Mrs. Kristy has worked wonders with our youngest children. The class is already full for next September, and we are starting a waiting list.

Clive Hall (Elias's father), is the founder of "100 Mile Home and Design Centre" a company that designs and sells handcrafted Canadian furniture. Clive has a generous proposal, which benefits our families, and the school! Look for the letter and card attached to this newsletter.

Read the rest of the newsletter for more information about all the end of year events. Look for the Parents' Day Tea, Waterdown's second annual Rotary Canada Day Ribfest, report cards and Parent Teacher interviews, and much more!

Here's to spring!

Sue Reid-Kulpaka
Principal

Parents' Day Tea

Parents are invited to join us the morning of **Thursday, May 19th** at 10:30 to celebrate mothers and fathers.

The performance will be at Notre Dame, in the same room where we held our Christmas concert. This gives us more space, and allows our gym to be set up properly for "tea" afterwards.

Each class will make a small presentation. Following the performance you are invited back to the school for tea and treats in the gym. Most of these will have been made by the children. Please complete the form elsewhere in this newsletter if you are able to attend. This will help us plan for numbers. Thank you.

Get Your Popcorn Here!

The school purchased a popcorn maker just in time for this year's Easter Egg Hunt. It was very successful, and we can foresee using it often in the years to come.

If anyone would like to use it for an event outside the school (birthday parties, movie night, family reunions) you are welcome to **rent it** for only \$25. It uses regular popcorn and is air-popped (no oil needed), is not too heavy to carry and is very easy to use.

Please speak to Ann or Sue for more information.

May Birthdays

Adam will be 4 on May 1.
Noah will be 5 on May 16.
Maximillian will be 8 on May 25.
Kaiya will be 3 on May 25.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!

New Arrival

Kaiya has a new baby brother! **Reef William** arrived on April 21 at 3:33 a.m. weighing 8 pounds 8 ounces. Mum, Dad and Reef were home in time to say good morning to Kaiya when she woke up! Congratulations to Tanya and Will, and welcome, Reef.

Dates to Remember

- ❖ "Owl Prowl" at Mountsberg: Wed. May 4
- ❖ Parents' Day Tea: Thursday, May 19, 10:30am
- ❖ Parent Teacher Interviews:
May 19, 12:00 – 8:00pm
- ❖ P.D. Day: May 20 – school closed
- ❖ Victoria Day: May 23 – school closed
- ❖ Jump Rope for Heart: Wednesday June 1 (rain date: Thursday, June 2)
- ❖ Graduation (children completing a three year cycle: more information to follow):
Wednesday, June 8, 11:00
- ❖ Play Day: Thursday, June 9, in the morning
- ❖ Last Day of school: Friday, June 11 (School ends at noon)

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Remember to sign up for an interview time to discuss your child's progress this term. If you would prefer, you may call the school to arrange a time. Casa interviews will be scheduled from 12:00 - 8:00pm on Thursday, May 19th. Childcare will be provided for the duration of your interview until 5:30pm on that day.

Please refer to sign up sheets to see what times are available for interviews with Mrs. Kristy and Mrs. Barbara. If you are unable to sign up for a scheduled time slot, please speak to your child's teacher to make alternate arrangements.

Summer Camp News!

Don't miss out! If you are looking for a great summer experience for your child, try our summer camps! We would like to remind you that if you have a younger child, and are unsure about signing him or her up for a full week, you have the option of signing up for a few full days, or for mornings only. We would like to know ahead of time for planning purposes, but if plans change as time goes on, and you find you have a day (or a week) to fill, you can enroll your child with 24 hours' notice, as long as space allows. (Leave a message on the school phone.) Regrettably, campers **will not** be able to replace missed days due to illness or vacation.

Please be considerate. The girls plan ahead. Activities are organized and supplies (snack, crafts etc.) are purchased based on the number and ages of children attending each week.

Please note:

1. Summer camps will be run by Emily and Meredith Kulpaka. This is the seventh year they have been running this camp together.
2. Emily is a graduate of the Trent/Queen's Concurrent Education programme. She will start a full time teaching position this fall! Meredith has completed her second year at Carleton University, where she is studying International Business. Both girls have extensive experience working with children.
3. Friends from outside the school are welcome.
4. Registration forms for all camps are available in the office and online. The link is: <http://waterdownmontessori.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Summer-Camp-Forms-2011.doc>

Scholastic Book Fair

Congratulations to **Harry**, who won \$25 worth of books from the book fair, and to **Noah**, who won \$25 worth of books for himself, and \$25 worth for his class.

The WMS Friendship Tree

There are two lasting bequests we can give our children: **one is roots, the other is wings.**



Perhaps this is your child's last year at Waterdown Montessori School. It might even be the last year for your whole family! Some families choose to have a "Friendship Tree" leaf engraved as a lasting memento: of their child's graduation, or of their family's years in the school. Some years, parents of the graduating students have purchased a leaf together in the class' name ("Mrs. Barbara, Class of 2010" for example.) The cost of a leaf is only \$250, (or \$500 if in a business' name) and you will receive a tax receipt for your donation. If you would like more information, please ask at the office.

Classroom Wish Lists

This is also the time of year when some parents ask us about what they might give to their child's teacher. To help you out, teachers will be posting 'wish lists' outside their classrooms. These are generally items that they would like to have for their classrooms but are not considered 'essential'.

Sometimes they are items that families might have at home. Mrs. Kristy was mentioning the other day for example, that she would love to have a balance beam in her classroom. They are sold in educational catalogues for up to \$400! A parent heard, and said that she had one at home that her children were no longer using. A perfect solution for everyone!

Tales from Mrs. Julie and Ms Wyn's Classroom

Reading rules in our classroom! The children are barely in the door and they are asking to read to me or to Ms. Wyn! I think the favourite part of reading for them is being asked the questions at the end of the text: e.g. What colour was the cub? What word rhymes with *ink*? Each time they finish a book, they insist on answering the questions—all the while grinning proudly!

Perhaps inspired by the various fiction and non-fiction texts, some of our third year caspas have come up with the idea of making their own books. Brayden chose 3 photos (story prompts available to them in the classroom) showing the sunset, a rat exiting a cage and a rat jumping. I think you will agree that the first sentence certainly catches the reader's attention! Julian picked images of the sun, a cloud and a plane to begin his (non-fiction?) book.

Once the children have completed composing their stories, they will make their own covers for the printed text. Possibly some illustrations might make their way onto the page....



Mrs. Julie

News from Mrs. Phyllis and Mrs. Judy

It's hard to believe we are at the beginning of May already, which means we are almost at the end of another school year.

When I reflect back to the start of the year, I marvel at the big changes in the students. They have grown academically and socially. It has been another great year!

We will continue to keep the students occupied as we wind down over the next few weeks and they continue to wind up.

Check your calendars for upcoming events: the Parents's Day Tea, graduation, and play day. We hope to see you there.

Mrs. Phyllis

Casa French

It is nice to see how much the children have improved in the past months. The younger children have been learning vowel sounds, the numbers 1 to 10, the days of the week and two new songs. The older groups are practising " Je veux" " Qu'est-ce qui se passe?" and " Qu'est-ce que c'est?" Some are trying to read from our *Premier Mots* reading series; these are fun to read.

All the children continue to practise the alphabet. We will also be covering and reviewing words and short sentences from the past months to reinforce the vocabulary.

I am so pleased with the children and their ongoing interest in learning French.

The program for May/June is posted in the French room, please feel free to take one.

Madame Grace

News from the Elementary Classroom

(Madame Sue, for Mrs. Barbara)

In April the elementary students had a chance to experience making “Pysanky”— a traditional Ukrainian method of decorating eggs for Easter. Before beginning, we discussed the significance of some of our Easter symbols, such as eggs, bunnies and chicks. These symbols were part of springtime traditions long before Easter!



Making pysanky is extremely challenging. The children draw their designs on a raw egg, with light pencil lines, and then trace over the designs in melted beeswax, using a “kistka” a stylus with a tiny copper funnel to hold the wax. The children hold the funnel in a candle flame to melt it and keep it running smoothly.



Starting with the white egg, the beeswax is applied to all areas that are to remain white. The egg is then put in a special light coloured dye (usually yellow first). Next, beeswax is applied to all areas that are to remain yellow, before being put in the next dye and so on, from lightest to darkest.



Once the egg has been dyed the final colour, the beeswax must all be removed! The egg is held near (but not in) the candle flame until the wax starts to run, and then is blotted with a paper towel. This process is repeated over and over until all the wax is off and the brilliant colours are revealed.



The last step is to varnish the egg. The final products are truly works of art, and should last a lifetime if handled carefully.



Sleeping Children Around the World!

Every year the school supports several charities, which are chosen for different reasons. One of our mandates has been to find a charity that has relevance for children, fewer “gimmicks” (flashy prizes for the amount of money raised, for example), and reduced onus on parents to canvass family and friends for funds.

A few years ago, we found such a charity. The campaigns have been well received, and so once again we are supporting



Sleeping Children
Around the World!

Sleeping Children Around the World (or “SCAW”) raises funds to provide bedkits to the neediest of children in underdeveloped and developing countries.

There are at least two compelling reasons for choosing this charity for our school to support. One is that 100% of every donor dollar reaches a child; because it is run by volunteers, there is **absolutely zero overhead**. The second reason is that we felt it was a cause every child could relate to at some level. Any child can imagine what it would be like to sleep on bare ground with no bed, no covers, and no pyjamas. Thirdly, no sponsor sheets will be sent home!

Instead, each class will be busy with their own projects. Crafts and baked goods will be on display in the hallway for the next few weeks, culminating with the Parents’ Day Tea and parent teacher interviews. As in the past, the elementary class will be taking orders for their popular homemade bread. Watch for the order sheets, or let the office know if you would like to reserve a loaf (or more – they freeze well!)

If you would like to help your child with a project at home to raise funds you are more than welcome to do so. Each bedkit costs \$35.00. Last year the children earned enough money to purchase ten bedkits.

For more information on SCAW, go to <http://www.scaw.org/about/index.html>.



*The Rotary Clubs of
Flamborough &
Waterdown
Present*

Our 2nd annual Canada Day Rotary Ribfest June 30 – July 3, 2011 Memorial Park, Waterdown

www.ohcanadaribfest.ca

The inaugural Oh Canada! Ribfest is certain to become a marquis event for the community, drawing rib fans from throughout Southwestern Ontario. Sponsored by The Rotary Clubs of Flamborough AM and Waterdown, this four-day festival will celebrate Canada Day, and recognize new Canadians, while raising much-needed funds for the many local and international charities, projects and humanitarian causes our Rotary Clubs support.

The celebrations begin July 1 with an official Citizenship Court to swear in new Canadians. The festivities will include:

- Tantalizing ribs and other foods prepared by professional Ribbers
- Other food vendors selling Blooming Onions, Pitas, Bacon on an Bun, ever faithful hot dog, hamburger and french fries!
- Don’t forget the Ice Cream and Candy Vendors!
- A licensed family festival, featuring the communities own Nickle Brook family of beers in tents and gardens throughout the grounds.
- Entertainment – a selection of professional entertainers including Freedom Train, 509Band and others will be complemented by local talent from the community.
- A children’s carnival area area, with rides, games, food and refreshments.

Opportunities abound for your family to have an amazing time or for your business to enhance relationships through your sponsorship of this exciting community-based event.

Waterdown Montessori School would like to host a booth at this event again this year. We have lots of ideas! Please see the next page for details.



Canada Day Rotary Ribfest June 30 – July 3, 2011 Memorial Park, Waterdown

www.ohcanadaribfest.ca

Can you spare some time during this year's Canada Day weekend?

Last year a small group of enthusiastic parents set up a WMS booth at Waterdown's first Canada Day Rotary Ribfest. This year we have time to prepare! Mary Ann Bunkowsky has offered to once again set up and take down our booth. We need volunteers to be present for periods of time each day.

We will have a display, and brochures about the school to hand out. If someone is interested in learning more about the school, or has a question you don't feel comfortable answering, simply ask them to leave their name and phone number on the sheet provided, and let them know that someone will get back to them.

We suggest that you wear a Canada Day t-shirt (Zellers usually has a great selection), or a Waterdown Montessori School shirt. We would like to give some small token, (perhaps a maple leaf cookie?) to those who stop by.

We are suggesting 3 hour shifts. If you would be willing to cover any of these times, please let the office know.

(You are welcome to divide a time slot if you find someone to share with.)

	11:00 – 2:00	2:00 – 5:00 (3:00 start)	5:00 – 8:00
Thursday, June 30	N / A		
Friday, July 1			
Saturday, July 2			
Sunday, July 3			

**The following is a letter from Lindsay M, a parent in our school.
(Her son Mason is in Mrs. Kristy's toddler class.)**



Medics HELP is a Canadian not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing volunteer assistance and relief to the people of the developing world.

Our goals are accomplished primarily through the provision of temporary Medical Camps in communities that are in drastic need of basic medical care and placement of medical volunteers to work in healthcare projects such as hospitals and clinics, as well as by providing supplies and training for the ongoing maintenance of these humanitarian initiatives. Heading into the near future we will be funding, building and operating our own clinics and other projects in areas of need within the developing world.

While medical assistance is our primary goal, we do also provide non-medical volunteers and supplies to assist in running orphanages, schools and community centres in areas where we have ongoing medical projects.

Medics HELP is run entirely by volunteers. We rely completely on the contributions and generosity of our donors to meet our goals.

There will be 6 Paramedics deployed to Kenya for 3 weeks from Sept.23 - Oct.16 (including myself). We are having a fundraiser/comedy night at Club 54 on Friday June 3rd. It is open to the public and tickets are \$15 each. Please come out for a few laughs and to support a great cause!

Thank you,
Lindsay M



— *Do it Right the First Time* —

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Dear Parents,

Who we are...we started a local Company with the vision to create and showcase true Canadian quality, value and style. We are proud to bring you locally, custom crafted, solid wood furniture. Creative control is in your hands from our existing collections to uniquely custom crafted pieces including custom cabinetry - along with a complimentary line of quality made upholstered furniture to suit your life.

Our showroom is a testament to our abundance of Canadian resources of high quality woods - Pine, Cherry, Oak, Ash, Maple and more, where you can see and feel the dedication of our Master Craftsmen. We think you will be as excited to own such beautiful pieces as we are to present them to you.

We also truly believe in Montessori education, its characteristic emphasis on independence, freedom within limits, and respect for a child's natural psychological development.

In this regard, 100 Mile is partnering with Our School. Effective May 01 to June 30, 2011, all Parents, Family and Friends of Waterdown Montessori School will receive a 20% discount off all their pre tax purchases. In addition, WMS will receive a 10% donation from 100 Mile Home on the value of every order placed through this program.

100 Mile home is open Thursday through Sunday. We are available Monday through Wednesday by appointment. Visit us...or simply talk to Clive in the parking lot!

Warm regards,

Clive Hall