

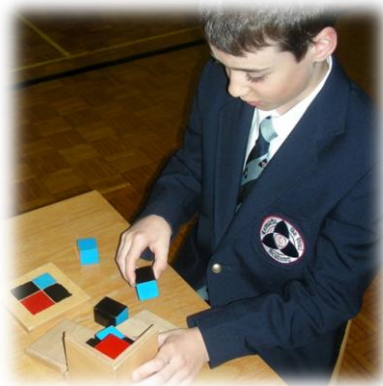


## LDVA NEWS

March/April 2012

### LEONARDO'S CHALLENGE

How do you challenge almost 100 students of varying ages and skills with the same task at the same time? That was the essence of the most recent Leonardo's Challenge by Ms. Rutherford and Mr. Falcitelli held in the school gym. All students from Scuola and Casa Montessori to Grade Eight were placed in groups and presented with various materials from the Montessori classrooms. Each group contained students from various grade levels and were required to work together in order to complete each task. As the younger children were more familiar with these materials they facilitated the activities. The first two stations were building the Pink Tower and Broad Stair without knowing which cube or prism they had behind their backs. Without speaking to each other and by only using their senses (*Sensazione*), the students worked together in order to build them successfully. If not on the first try, (*Curiosità* and *Sfumato*) they learned from their mistakes (*Dimostrazione*) and succeeded in the end. Next was the Puzzle Map of Canada. Similar to the first 2 challenges, students in each group were given a puzzle piece of each Province or Territory behind their backs while their eyes were closed and were asked to assemble the map. While some had no difficulty with the largest or smallest pieces, others had to really feel what they had and think of where it could go or what they were even holding. By working together they were able to deduct what was missing and narrow down the remaining options (*Connessione*). The final challenge involved the Binomial and Trinomial cubes - algebraic representations applied in Lower Elementary Montessori. Each group had to figure out exactly how to arrange the various sized blocks (2 in the Binomial and 3 in the Trinomial) so that the lid on the box would fit properly. This was one of the clearest representations of *Sfumato* and *Dimostrazione*. While groups tried various approaches, the only way they were able to succeed was to learn to work together as a team. Well done!



Left: Claudio, Grade 4, attempting the Binomial Cube challenge



Above: Grades 4/5 students making biscotti

### WOODWORKING WORKSHOP

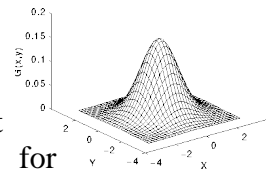
*U Can Do It* is coming to LDVA on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to conduct a workshop with students in Casa and Scuola. The children will be taught how to build their own bird houses just in time for spring.

### OUTDOOR EDUCATION

On April 20<sup>th</sup> students in Grades 1 through 8 will be visiting **Willowgrove Outdoor Education Centre**. During their stay Grades 4 to 8 will be learning about wilderness survival. At the same time the Lower Elementary Montessori class will be learning about *Pioneer Ways* and also doing a map and tree study.

### LDVA MATH FAIR

On Thursday, May 3 parents are invited to attend our school's first Mathematics Fair. The Fair, for Elementary students, will take place in the school gym and throughout the school from 2 pm to 4 pm. Parents of preschool children are invited to visit their child's classroom between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm to explore the Montessori Math curriculum.



### LDVA HAS TALENT

On Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 pm, LDVA will be showcasing student talent. On that evening qualifying students will be performing on our school's stage as part of a variety show. Performances will consist of a variety of formats designed to entertain and amuse the audience.

**INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

T. Jewell

Teams in the **LDVA Senior Sports Program** (Grades 4 to 8 and including some staff members) are attempting a final surge before playoffs start at the end of May. Just before March Break, our program entered its Volleyball phase, with only one sport, Ultimate Frisbee, remaining before playoffs. The *Sensazione Leoni* have enjoyed their new role as kings of the jungle, a coronation that started during floor hockey in which they were undefeated. After their steady ascent the pride has cooled off during their volleyball campaign, and they are eager to hunt new game on the Ultimate Frisbee field. The *Leoni* are a skillful group with strong leadership from Captain Domenic and impressive contributions from the two emerging cubs, Nicolas and Salvatore. A constant thorn (or sting) in the side of the leaders, the *Sfumato Scorpions* have been consistently effective in all sports. They possess a wealth of talent and good leadership, and display great chemistry. Currently they sit only four points out of first place, poised to strike at any time. Captain Zach and his *Scorpions* are rocking the league like the 1980s German band of the same name – although thankfully without the hockey stick guitars and big hair! Meanwhile, the *Corporalità Kangaroos* have had a few setbacks in the last couple of months. After bounding out to a great start, the *Kangaroos* struggled to find their form during the lacrosse and floor hockey components of the program. Appropriately the *Kangaroos* dominated the sports involving jumping (basketball) and kicking (soccer), and are currently reclaiming their season by leaping to success in volleyball. Captain Alex hopes her team will continue to rediscover the bounce in their step as they head into the playoffs and a possible matchup with the *Scorpions*. The *Dimostrazione Dobermans* have had a challenging season with many ups and downs; they showed a bit more bite with some key wins in lacrosse and floor hockey, and throughout the season have contributed great perseverance and sportsmanship. Unfortunately volleyball has hounded these ‘Dogs’ as they have demonstrated a demeanor more like French (no offence Madame) poodles than dashing Dobermans. Captain Michelle has shown remarkable patience and persistence in teaching her team to cope with this ‘dog eat dog’ league.

Shown right is a summary of the standings as of April 5<sup>th</sup> (two points for a win, one point for a tie, none for a loss). During the playoffs, the top ranked seed will face the bottom seed, while second and third will square off in the other match up. Each semi-final will consist of a best of seven series featuring most of the sports already played during the regular season. Winners will advance to what should be an exciting best of seven final series!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

On April 5, Holy Thursday, the school celebrated the upcoming **Easter Holidays** with a special “*Stations of the Cross*” assembly. Parents were invited to join us in the celebration which was held in the school gym at 3 pm.



A scene from the "Stations of the Cross" ceremony

**FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION**

On Sunday, May 6 some of our primary and junior students will be celebrating their **First Holy Communion** at *All Saints Church*.



Grade 8 students will be holding **Confessions** on April 24 in preparation for their **Confirmation** on Monday, May 28.

Thanks to Mrs. Barba and Pastor Rev. Andrzej Glaba for helping our students to prepare and receive these important sacraments.

<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pts</b>
<i>Sensazione Leoni</i>	43	21	8	<b>94</b>
<i>Sfumato Scorpions</i>	42	24	6	<b>90</b>
<i>Corporalità Kangaroos</i>	34	30	7	<b>75</b>
<i>Dimostrazione Dobermans</i>	10	54	7	<b>27</b>

**SCUOLA MATERNA NEWS** Ursino/Ricciuti

*I bambini della Scuola Materna Montessori, dopo la pausa del March Break, si stanno impegnando allo svolgimento del programma per i mesi di marzo e aprile. Con l'arrivo della primavera, scopriranno il cambiamento della natura, facendo così uso dei cinque sensi che promuovono lo sviluppo intellettuale.*

*Il mese di aprile sarà dedicato per la maggior parte alla preparazione della Santa Pasqua, i bambini saranno anche impegnati nello sviluppo di lavori artistici sul tema, creando così un'atmosfera di felicità e di pace. Per lo svolgere di questa attività si vuole ringraziare la Signora Bertozzi per essersi impegnata con i bambini la mattina del 29 marzo. Inoltre si ringrazia anche la signora Scola per aver donato delle attività pasquali. Gli eventi per il mese di aprile sono i seguenti:*

*5 aprile - Via Crucis in palestra alle 3:00 pm.*

*20 aprile - "U can do it" programma  
(seguiranno informazioni).  
"Earth Day"*

*Lo Staff della Scuola Materna vuole ricordare ai genitori che i bambini ai primi sintomi di influenza dovrebbero essere controllati e curati, e al limite tenuti a casa in modo che l'infezione e il contagio abbiano fatto il corso e si è in fase di guarigione ; si consiglia di riguardare accuratamente il "Parents Manual" alla voce Health Regulations".*



Scuola children celebrating "Carnevale"

**GOVERNORS' BALL - May 5**

The date for the LDVA's 24th Governors' Ball is fast approaching. Please see page for 4 for details of this important upcoming event.

**CASA MONTESSORI NEWS** C. Maila

As we move to Spring time, the children continue to work hard in the classrooms. Many have become accustomed to our routine, and are now able to fully immerse themselves in their work. The children continue to show an enthusiasm for school and learning that is unprecedented. We want to thank the parents for always trying their hardest to follow our guidelines in terms of punctuality, dress code as well as nut restrictions in any food item brought to school. For the children still learning bathroom routines, we remind parents to please provide an extra pair of shoes, and several clothes changes to be kept at school.



Casa children in their "Carnevale" masks

We have more surprises and exciting activities in store before the end of the school year, including a special field trip to Spring Ridge on May 23. On behalf of the casa classrooms, we would like to wish the parents and families a wonderful Spring!



Mrs. Lobo with one of the Groups during April's Leonardo's Challenge

## LAPA NEWS



Leonardo Da Vinci Academy's  
24th Annual  
**GOVERNORS' BALL**  
Saturday, May 5, 2012  
Governors' Award Recipient  
**Consul General Gianni Bardini**  
Ticket No. 101 \$125 per person

**GOVERNORS' BALL**

**Mrs. Sandra Crisanti, Chair, Governor's Ball Committee**

Plans for this year's Ball are in full swing. We are planning an elegant evening of dining and dancing. The Ball will be held at the Famee Furlane banquet hall, on Saturday, May 5th, 2012. We have some very exciting things planned for the evening and hope to see you all there. Please see Mrs. Silva at the front office to purchase your tickets. Patron forms have been emailed out to all families. A feature prize this year will be a \$5,000 voucher for next year's tuition at LDVA. But you must be at the Ball to win! I hope to see you all there. Additional forms are available from the office. We encourage all parents to get involved in any way possible: buy tickets, donate auction items and spread the word.



Dr. Gentili, last year's Governors' Award Recipient, at last year's Ball with this year's recipient Consul General Bardini (right)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RECOGNITIONS**

THANKS to Mrs. Crisanti and this year's Governors' Ball Committee for working long and hard to insure that this year's Ball will be a memorable and successful one.

THANKS to all the parents and families for participating in LAPA's Easter Lily and Cookie drive. With your help over \$355 was raised for LAPA initiatives.

A special thanks to parent Mr. Iarocci for assigning his United way donation to LDVA. The amount received will be applied to the LDVA Building Fund.

**THE SCIENCE OF LEARNING**

To neuroscientists, learning is a biological process involving the building of connections among the brain's nerve cells. The more often a connection is reactivated the stronger or 'smarter' it becomes. Things that build 'smart' connections include: learning by doing, movement, using more than one sense to learn, having fun learning, being stress-free, being open minded, discerning patterns, taking the right amount of risk, and feeling connected to your learning environment. These are all aspects of our school's "Thinking Like Leonardo" and Montessori approach to learning.

**Things that inhibit learning include: hunger, stress, fear, boredom, fatigue, not feeling connected to the subject or environment, anxiety, being told there's only one way to learn, believing that you're born with a fixed level of intelligence, low self-esteem, and pre-conceived limitations. There are a number of implications to this that teachers and parents should be aware of. Five are listed below:**

1. **Children with chronic stress or panic attacks have difficulty learning. Being stress free is a pre-requisite to learning for all children.**
2. **Emotions are not separate from logic. Learning can only take place if emotion is engaged.**
3. **Learning must involve the right amount of risk-taking - not too much and not too little.**
4. **Using more than one sense makes blood flow to more than one part of the brain creating opportunities for the brain to store and process information.**
5. **Moving and learning at the same time is better than learning without moving.**

**PARENT & TODDLER ITALIAN PROGRAMME**

Again this year Mrs. Barba has been offering an Italian immersion programme for children 1.5 years to 2.5 years. The programme will be offered on Fridays from

10:15 am to 10:45 am for parents/grandparents and their toddlers. Activities include songs, finger play, and nursery rhymes. Our next session begins April 13 and ends June 15. The cost for this 8 week session is \$88 per child. Please see Mrs. Lee for details and registration.