



The Montessori Program at Maple Grove Elementary School

Welcome to the Montessori Program at Maple Grove School. The Montessori Program began here in 2004. Beginning in September 2010, the program will include Kindergarten through to Grade 7. To facilitate the growth of such a new program, *The Maple Grove Montessori Parents' Group* asks families to be involved with the school. This can be through volunteering their time and making a yearly taxable donation of \$250 (per child) to support the purchase of Montessori materials required for a Montessori Program.

We are part of the Maple Grove School building and community. Our program benefits greatly from the community spirit, as well as the use of the well-equipped library, gymnasium and recently installed Primary and Intermediate Playgrounds.

Characteristics of the Montessori Program

1. Kindergarten runs from 9:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Monday to Friday with an average of 20 students, ages 4-6 years. There is one Montessori teacher facilitating their learning.
2. The other classrooms, except for Grade 7, incorporate multi-age/grade class groups. Common Montessori groupings are ages 6-9 (Grades 1/2/3) and 9-12 (Grades 4/5/6). There is one teacher facilitating each class. These classes run from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Recess break is from 10:30-10:45 a.m. and lunch is from 12:00 -12:55 p.m. daily.
3. Montessori philosophy states that multi-age/grade classes encourage cooperative learning. Younger children are stimulated

- by the interesting work of the older ones. Older students serve as tutors and role models for the younger, which helps them in their own mastery and leaves them with a tremendous sense of self-confidence. The students can progress through the curriculum at their own pace, easily finding peers to work with no matter what age.
4. The B.C. Ministry of Education Curriculum is followed within the Montessori program. The students receive written reports three times a year and parent teacher conferences occur twice a year. There is also a "Meet the Teacher Evening" early in the Fall. The Montessori teachers use a combination of whole class lessons, grade level lessons and individual lessons to meet the needs of each child. Assessment and evaluation is on-going, always respecting the students' efforts and work.
 5. The students in the Montessori program are encouraged to be self-motivated, to monitor their own educational achievement and to behave with grace, courtesy and respect towards others and the environment. There is time during the school day for students to choose from among several educational opportunities. Each student is free to pursue these until his/her need is satisfied. The student is allowed to move freely in the classroom and to speak to other students in a modulated voice. With independent choice, there will be various activities taking place in the Montessori classroom at the same time. One student may be working on an art project while another completes a math problem.

The Montessori Materials

Each of the Montessori classrooms is equipped with a full range of Montessori materials. These materials are extremely costly and purchased with the yearly parent donations. The materials are designed to be used in specific ways by trained teachers. Once the students are familiar with the materials, they are free to use them in their daily lessons. The materials are an integral part of the classroom and are used in all areas of learning, including practical life, math, language, sensorial and cultural.

Frequently Asked Questions Answered:

The Montessori Teachers

Our Montessori teachers are all B.C. certified and hold Montessori teaching certification. Montessori teachers have been called Directresses/Directors, Guides and Mentors. Regardless of the title, all the teachers have a broad education of their own, and bring their own special style into the classroom. It is their job to observe, guide and provide a variety of learning opportunities for the students.

The Teaching of a Second Language and Music

Because our program operates within the guidelines set by the province and the Vancouver Board of Education, the regular addition of French language into the program begins in Grade 5 and 'Band' (optional) in Grade 6. Music is an integrated part of the program at all grade levels.

Field Trips and "In-House" Events

Each Montessori teacher will select field trips and outings that s/he thinks will support, supplement and enhance the students' learning and education. Field trips may be enjoyed with other classes from the Montessori program or the regular program. All assemblies and 'in-house' events are enjoyed by all students at the school.

Maria Montessori

Dr. Montessori was born in Italy in 1870. She was an enthusiastic advocate for the rights of the child. After becoming Italy's first female doctor, her interests turned to the education of children. Her educational method and philosophy evolved over 50 years of work with children from around the world. Montessori schools exist on six out of seven continents and have educated hundreds of thousands of children during the past one hundred years.

For additional information on Montessori please log on to www.montessori.org or www.montessori-namta.org

For further information on our school please access:

PAC (Parent Advisory Group) Maple Grove School web page
www.maplegroveschool.ca

Maple Grove Elementary School web page
maplegrove.vsb.bc.ca

Maple Grove Elementary
6199 Cypress Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6M 3S3
Tel: 604 713 5356

Maple Grove Elementary Montessori Program Important Information and Dates for Registration 2010-2011

Kindergarten is for children born in 2005. There is automatic acceptance into the program if an older sister or brother is already enrolled.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 applicants are randomly selected through a secure, fair, "luck of the draw" system. Grade 2 and 3 applicants must have previous Montessori experience, although there are some exceptions for special circumstances. Grade 4 is a new intake year where students new to the Montessori program are accepted. Grade 5, 6 and 7 applicants must have previous Montessori experience. Some exceptions are considered if space is available.

All applicants' names are included in the draw. The results are posted immediately and successful applicants are informed by mail. Families must confirm acceptance by February 26, 2010 at 3:00 pm. After that time, unclaimed spaces will be offered to those on the waitlist. After the classes have been filled, the remaining applicants are placed on a waitlist according to the order in which their names were drawn. This list is kept **only** for the 2010-2011 school year. Applicants who have not received a placement for 2010-2011 are welcome to reapply in November 2010 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Montessori visits are an opportunity for a short tour of the school to see classrooms and ask questions. (See Observation Guidelines attached.)

Applications Accepted		November 2, 2009 to January 29, 2010
Draw		February 10, 2010 11:00 a.m.
Montessori Visits	Kindergarten	December 7, 2009 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
	Grades 1 – 7	Please call to arrange an appointment between November 2, 2009 and February 5 th , 2010
	Welcome to Kindergarten	June 4, 2010 10:00 a.m. to noon

Montessori Classroom
Observation Guidelines

1. When you enter the classroom, please sit down on the chair provided.
2. When you sit down, children may come up to you. Please try not to engage them in conversation. A polite "Hello" and a direct response as to who you are is fine; then quietly ask the child to return to work.
3. Teachers are unable to answer your questions during your observation.
4. There is more to the Montessori classroom than the activities of one particular child. There will be some individual learning activities, some small group learning activities, or a large group lesson being presented. Try to alternate between a wide-angled view of the entire classroom and a focus on a particular child. Listen to the activity level as it rises and falls.
5. Notice that children learn in different ways. With some types of materials you will see groups of children working cooperatively, and with others you will find an individual child working alone intensely. Still other children are walking through the classroom seemingly not engaged in any direct activity. Very often, this last type of child is engaged in actively absorbing information through observation of the children and the materials in the classroom. It will help if you alternate your focus on these different learning patterns.
6. The directress (class teacher) is a facilitator of the child's autonomous learning process. She guides rather than insists. She prepares the environment, gives the child the tools to utilize the materials and then does whatever else is necessary to help the child interact with the environment without assistance. Sometimes this involves direct encouragement, at other times indirect appreciation, and even a judicious absence. There is a basic respect for each individual child's particular style of learning in the Montessori classroom.
7. Sociability: watch the ways in which the children offer assistance to one another - with the materials and with everyday tasks - and the ways that they are directly sociable with one another.
8. Autonomy: the generation of autonomy is a function of the prepared environment of the Montessori classroom. What this means is that the child will have available all needed materials, in good working order, to complete a task that has usually been self chosen. The structure of Montessori provides the child with as much time as s/he needs to complete the task. Elementary students have assigned work as well as free choice in their academic presentations. It is their responsibility to stay focused and current with their assignments.

<http://www.oneworldmontessori.org/observation9.html>