

Presidents report March 13th

Info night:

Thank you everyone who participated in this years Montessori info night.

Despite the fact that once again the ad for this event was late, we had a good turnout (approximately 50 people). Mrs. Anne Buchanan and the volunteer children did an amazing job demonstrating our wonderful Montessori materials and giving parents an overview of the program.

The process of breaking up in 3 smaller groups (classroom, school and CVMS) proved itself as very successful as well. Parents had the opportunity to see the school and classroom and were able to ask questions and find answers for every aspect of the program. Thank you Mr. Pullin for being such a great tour guide.

Childcare was another welcome and successful addition to the evening. Our Babysitters Megan and Kirsten, and supervising parents Natalie and Colleen kept more than 18 kids busy.

Thank you all.

Suggestions for next year: The CVMS needs to start advertising in the Valley as soon as we receive the date for the info night (press release, hang up posters, contact radio, TV). We have learned that we can't rely on SD 71 to advertise in time. Therefor informing the public in time will be the job of the CVMS. The concept we offered this year worked well and could be repeated next year (bigger room and working equipment would be an asset).

Registration:

Registration for the K Montessori program took place on Feb.28th and March 1st 2007.

A hard core of nine parents camped out overnight to be first in line for K registration.

Thanks to Mrs. Diane Blackburn (acting principal), Mrs. Tracy Price (secretary at GV) and Mr. Allan Douglas (Director of Instruction for elementary schools), the registration was done in a very efficient and professional manner. By 8:30 the bulk part of registrations had been processed.

As of noon on March 12th 2007 we have:

20... Kindergarten students registered and
8 combined Grade one/two student on the waiting list

GV School will continue to accept registration for Kindergarten students and take names for Grade one and two on the waiting list.

Families will receive a call from GV School to confirm their acceptance in the program. If you have any questions in regards to this issue please contact Mr. Allan Pullin, Principal at GV School @ 338 1425.

Meeting with Dr. Jordan Tinney (Superintendent SD 71) on March 9th:

Dr. Tinney has acknowledged the issue of providing the Montessori program with a qualified Montessori TOC. We have not been given a timeframe of when this might happen.

Dr. Tinney has acknowledged the need of Montessori related Professional development for Mrs. Buchanan. CVMS pointed out the nearest Montessori schools on the Island (Nanaimo and Victoria)

Hiring of a new experienced and qualified Montessori teacher for the 2007/08 school year.

Dr. Tinney stated that the posting for this position will come out around May 15th and not as originally planned in early April. SD 71 has to follow the rules of the Union agreement. We won't be able to challenge that.

CVMS asked for the availability of a quality insurance manual for programs of choice.

There is no such thing in SD 71 available for any program.

CVMS ask for the possibility of a 4-day school week for the Montessori program.

- extended days could allow for longer uninterrupted blocks of Montessori instruction
- Be an environmental sound solution (most of the kids in the program do not live in the catchment area of the school and therefor need to be driven.) A 4-day week could mean one day less driving into town.

- A 4 day week could make childcare arrangements easier (it might eliminate or shorten before an after school care, childcare for one whole day is easier to find than before and after school care)

In order for this concept to be approved CVMS and GV principal Mr. Pullin need to submit a letter of request to the board of trustees before My 31 2007.

Dr. Tinney doesn't see a problem with this request as long as teacher, students, parents and principal are in agreement.

CVMS will follow up on the required info and submit a request if this idea is accepted by the majority of parents ,teacher and principal.