

MSK SEPTEMBER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2022

“Excellence in Everything”

Established in 2002, MSK has been the school of choice for hundreds of parents. We are proud to share that since then, many of our Graduates are now working as Engineers, Veterinarian, Lawyers and Doctors. We make “what I want to be when I grow up” a reality and look forward to continuing to make dreams come true, one precious being at a time. We are “leading human souls to what is best and making what is best out of them.”

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1 - “Only practical work and experience lead the young to maturity.”

(Maria Montessori)



Welcome to MSK:

Hello and welcome to Montessori School in Kleinburg’s School Newsletter. Volume 21, Issue 1.

In this issue:

News you can use.....

- **Meet the MSK Staff. Please note that all staff are to be addressed by their last names. Biographies can be read on the MSK Parent Portal.**

MSK Administration:

Mrs. Vincenza Kooner – Please address as Principal Kooner

Mr. Kam Kooner– please address as Vice Principal Kooner

Mrs. Mary Addante- Administrator -please address as Mrs. Addante

MSK Toddler Staff:

- **Toddler Lavender:**

Ms. Melizza – Ms. Seballos – Assistant to Head of Toddler Department

Ms. Yutong – Ms. Chi

Ms. Donna - Mrs. Marra

Ms. Khemie- Ms. Marcelin

- **Toddler Rose:**

Ms. Izzah – Ms. Ahsan (Head of Toddler Department)

Ms. Pavi- Ms. Pavi

Ms. Maki - Ms. Shuri

Returning in January 2023 Mrs. Josie DeSousa and Ms. Sara Galati

MSK Casa Staff:

- **Casa Blue:**

Ms. Amanda – Ms. Elliot (Head of Casa Department)

Ms. Dorianna – Ms. DiBenedetto (Assistant to the Head of Casa Department)

Ms. Jie – Ms. Zhan

- **Casa Yellow:**

Ms. Alba – Ms. Bruzzese (formerly Calautti)

Ms. Connie– Ms. Cassaro

Ms Khemie– Ms. Marcelin

Ms. Donna – Mrs. Marra

- **Casa Red:**

Mrs. Kiran – Mrs. Pabla

Ms. Lora – Mrs. Wright

Ms. Amanda – Ms. Orlando

MSK Elementary Staff:

- **Elementary A:**

Mrs. Sharmila – Mrs. Cappa

- **Elementary B:**

Ms. Pamela – Ms. Leudke

Ms. Lisa – Mrs. Fida

- **Upper Elementary-Intermediate:**

Mrs. Lidia – Mrs. Beros

MSK Italian and French Directress:

Madame/Signora Giordano

Madame/Signora Marra

Music Directress: (Elementary only):

Ms. Amanda Orlando

Here at MSK we are always trying to make improvements and we appreciate all your patience and support as we work through getting it all done. We have been busy updating our policies and procedures to reflect all changes and continue to do so as they come. We have thoroughly cleaned and disinfected including ceilings and heating and cooling systems including our ducts. We have had all necessary inspections and have had all the areas

outside sprayed for ticks, bugs and mosquitos and the list continues.....We have been super busy all summer.

We have also hosted a wonderful Summer Camp Program. It was great to welcome some of our students back and it gave us an opportunity to test out our policies and procedures.

We continue to use our beautiful outdoor space as much as we can. It is wonderful to have the natural outdoor greenery that we have and we look forward to having our students use the play structure. We have also been busy working in our busy forest area. We plan on having the students have their nature walks in the forest this year and look forward to using the space for other means.

I don't really wish to touch upon too much around Covid in this newsletter, but please note that you can refer to the parent portal for more information on this and read updates as they come.

At this time, we wish you a wonderful first day back to school and an amazing year ahead ☺

MORE MSK TID BITS....

1. Pack your **patience** ... The first few weeks back to school require a lot of patience, understanding and communication between all parties. We will try to do our best in making you all feel comfortable and at ease with starting a new school year. There is a lot to learn, getting used to routines again and we want you to know that we are in this together and we are committed to working with you. Read all the information that we send out and try and follow the rules and routines.
2. **First year Toddler and Casa parents** are strongly encouraged to use the "Ease In" method the first week for their children. This will be different for all children starting as some may adjust sooner than others. Therefore, having your children attend the specified times outlined by your

children's teachers should be followed. Once the "Ease In" time each day is up, the teachers will bring your children to you. These children may be children that teachers feel require a shorter time frame. Teachers will use their discretion with all new children in the weeks following. We understand that the "ease in" may not be feasible for many of you due to work schedules. Please understand that we will do our best in comforting your child until either yourself or an emergency contact are able to pick your child up for the day. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

3. If you are wondering how your child is doing, we ask that you please feel free to call the school and check in with the office once your children are in our care. Please be patient in calling as we may be on the other line. Please call (905) 893-0560. We would be more than happy to share with you your child's progress and to ease any of your anxiousness. If children sense that you are nervous, they will too be nervous. Teachers are prepared to give you daily updates. Remember, we are in this together. Remember to breathe and relax!
4. The staff would like to mention that we are ready and set to go full steam ahead.
5. MSK Parent Portal Login:
 - The Parent Portal be accessed via a LINK in the top menu of the website titled "Parent Portal"
 - When you click "Parent Portal" you will be taken to a new page that asks for a password: The password is: **PARENTSOFMSK2223!** We will alert all when new posts are being uploaded. Please check this site often.
6. As always, we still are very committed to **our open-door policy**. If you would

like to discuss anything, please never hesitate to call and arrange a time and come in to speak with me ☺

7. We will be reviewing safety procedures with the children the entire month. Please see the calendar for days and times we will review lock down and fire drills. We encourage you to ask your children about what they learned at school regarding Fire Drill and Lock Down practices.

We realize that there is a lot of information for you to review. Please do not hesitate to ask us about anything should you need to ☺

Keeping a safe and slow Kiss n' Ride Program:

PLEASE refer to the kiss and ride arrival and departure policy on the parent portal.



We expect that everyone will continue to maintain patience and understanding in the morning and afternoons during pickups and drop-offs. Please drive with caution.

A reminder to all parents that while on the long stretch of driveway or in the roundabout, the maximum speed is 10km/hr and there is no passing of vehicles under any circumstances unless a staff member is directing you to pass and has given you the clear.

This is for everyone's safety especially the children.

The inside roundabout parking spots are reserved for Toddler families, the Elderly, Families with Special Needs and families with infants and pregnant mothers. Please note that we will only be in the vestibule area and in the round about from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. during the first two weeks of school. After this time, we will only be in the vestibule from 8:00 to 8:45 am to receive children. Any students

arriving after 8:45 a.m. must enter through the office if no staff is visible in the vestibule.

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE ENTERING THROUGH THE MAIN VESTIBULE ENTRANCE. CASA BLUE AND CASA RED WILL BE DISMISSED (WEATHER PERMITTING) FROM THEIR CLASSROOM DOORS.

Please note that all lates and absences are tracked and will be shown on your child's report card. The only exception will be the "ease in" week where we will be available until 9:00 a.m. Or should there be an extension in the program for a specific child as indicated by your teacher for whatever reason.

The same would apply for the evening as staff will be in the vestibule or roundabout awaiting your arrival up until 4:00 p.m.

For half day Toddler and Casa children, we will be in the vestibule until 11:30 a.m.

Children beginning at 12:30 p.m. must be escorted by their parent into the playground directly, or classroom door. At this time, if the roundabout is not being used for playtime you are asked to drive around the roundabout and turn off the car ignition while dropping off your child.

Should the roundabout be used for playtime than we kindly ask that you park your vehicles and again turn off the ignition and escort your child/ren into the appropriate play area. The main school gates will be closed or sectioned off using pylons at this time. Please be mindful and be on time. We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

We also realize that many of you arrive before school ends and would also appreciate your continued support in waiting in your vehicles until the children are ready to be walked to your vehicle by one of your children's classroom teachers.

During pick up and drop offs by your children's teachers, it is kindly requested that you keep conversations to a minimum and that you maintain your distance. If you require any form of lengthy conversation with your children's teachers, we ask that you please park away from the

roundabout and kindly wait until it is feasible for your children's teachers to spend the necessary time with you. We recommend that a courtesy call prior to pick up or drop off or a quick note alerting your children's teachers of matters you wish to discuss, be done beforehand.

As part of our continued effort in educating the children regarding responsibility and organization, we help the children to help themselves get ready for their day in the morning, and then again in the afternoon when it is time to go home. Thus, the vestibule area should not be occupied by parents unless there is reason for you to be inside.

We kindly remind all families to open and close doors, as well as buckle and unbuckle children.

UNIFORM TID BITS:

If there is a delay in uniform arrivals please do not worry. Dress the students in colours that reflect the uniform colours if possible – hunter green, navy blue, white and dark grey.

Whenever we have civvies days (non uniform days) and since the Montessori School in Kleinburg encourages independence, we request that:

➤ **The children are clothed in items that allow them independent dressing. An example of this would be loose fitting pants that the child is able to pull up and down on his/her own; this will make toileting more successful. Tights are acceptable for girls.**

➤ **Weather appropriate clothing is essential. The children have daily outdoor time during the entire year. They become very comfortable with the seasonal elements and are able to enjoy the elements better if dressed appropriately.**

➤ **Absolutely No jewellery please (real or not) to be worn on regular school days or civvies days. We will not be responsible for any lost items.**






- **We discourage studded earrings or long earrings on girls, as well as any jewellery. Elementary children are permitted to wear a watch.**
- **Practical items that cover, especially for elementary children.**
- **All girls with long hair should wear their hair in a pony tail or have it tied up every day.**













Personal daily notes are always a delight to read and more importantly, make the children happy. For all new parents, "love notes" are notes that children find with messages of love from their parents. The children love finding the notes and reading them or having a staff member read it to them. Notes are found in backpacks, Communication Folders or Agendas. We encourage all parents to participate, no matter how old their children are. Please keep the notes short and sweet but meaningful. The children get so excited finding this special surprise from mom or dad or grandma, grandpa or a friend. Whoever the note is from, it surely puts the biggest smiles on all the children's faces. Keep them coming parents as we love reading to your children. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

Happy Birthday to you.....

-  Sept. 1 - Summer C.
-  Sept. 1 - Emma P.
-  Sept. 2 - Junior B.
-  Sept. 4 - Eva L.
-  Sept. 5 - Logan J.
-  Sept. 6 - Atharv G.
-  Sept. 10 – Aryan S.
-  Sept. 10 – Rafael L.
-  Sept. 13 - Janelle N.
-  Sept. 15 - Amelie G.
-  Sept. 16 – Domenico A.
-  Sept. 16 - Jace S.
-  Sept 17 - Giuliano F.

-  Sept. 17 – Ilaria S.
-  Sept. 17 - Natalia M.
-  Sept. 20 - Niam Patel
-  Sept. 22 - Rayaan K.
-  Sept. 22 - Principal Vincenza Kooner
-  Sept. 25 - Antonio A.
-  Sept. 26 - Charlotte C.
-  Sept. 29 – Kiara K.
-  Sept. 30 – Camila I.
-  Sept. 30 - Noah A.

Wishing everyone that is celebrating a birthday this month a very happy birthday.

Please refer to the Birthday Forms

We hope that you have a wonderful birthday full of cherished moments to last a lifetime. With lots of love, all of the MSK staff and children.

Congratulations to all!



● **Student files:**



Please use the following list as a reminder to ensure your child's school information file is complete:

- Daily health Screening form to be completed prior to coming to school.
- Updated immunization record. If you do not immunize, we require a signed affidavit. Please call the office for more information.
- Birth certificate
- Pictures of those allowed to pick up (to ensure the safety of the students there will be NO exceptions to this rule, including parents of other MSK families)
- Health Card Number
- Correct phone/cell numbers for parent contact
- Allergy Form with the child's current picture attached
- Epi-pens or "puffers" with child's picture on it as well as an emergency medication form on file and in the class.
- Signed release of indemnity, picture and Video agreement
- Elementary "use of Internet" and trip forms signed
- Allergy forms complete and posted in child's classroom, office and kitchen.

The more accurate and up to date your child's file is the more able we are to provide him/her with the appropriate care to his/her individual needs. Please provide the above information by the end of the first week of school. It is your parental responsibility to always keep your child's file up to date. Any changes throughout the school year must be reported to the office immediately.

Please ensure that you send along an email confirming that you consent to receiving emails from MSK.

● **Pizza School Lunch Fundraiser:**



**Friday, September 9 and
Friday, September 23.**

There will be no Wholesome Food Kids meals served on these days for Casa and Toddler children. And, we ask that those elementary children who have signed up for Pizza lunch do not bring their lunch this day. Pizza lunch is ordered from Pizza Nova. If you have yet to submit your child's order forms, please do so at your earliest convenience. We ask that you please consider two or more slices for older children and whatever is not eaten, will be sent home.

- **Curriculum Evening:** Please refer to your classroom newsletters for further information.
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- **NATIONAL TERRY FOX RUN School DAY:** Please mark your calendars: **Wed. Sept. 23rd, 2022.**

MSK is proud to announce that we have raised over \$80, 000 since our inception and participation and we are one of the top raising schools in all of Ontario. Way to go Hawks!!

Your classroom teachers will be sharing important information about online donations.

The school will continue to take donations until early October and keep in mind that all pledges over \$20 will receive a tax

receipt from the Foundation. Thank you for helping us support a great cause.



● **Civvies Day:**

Our first Civvies Day is set for **Friday September 23rd.**

● **Tuition Fees:**

The office will send home, when required irregular fees invoices to families that require paying for irregular hours that their children may have been at school. Whether the day has been extended, extra hours or days attending or early or late drop offs and pick ups. If you know ahead of time that you may need either early morning, late afternoon or extended day services, we ask that you please call the office and inform administration of such.

Please note that with any change to program plan, a \$500.00 fee will be applied as stated in the terms of payment. Thank you.

MSK Parent T.E.A.M. Fundraising and Community Building Committee Meeting:

Please note that the Fundraising Team will be informing you of our first Fundraising Initiative for this year in a future memo. We invite all past members who may be interested in joining the committee again this year, to join us on this day. We also invite all new members to come out and join us. I ask that you please e-mail me at e.marzano@msk2002.com if you are interested in participating in this year's fundraising committee and if you are able to attend the meeting.

About Mabel's Labels MSK Fundraising:

We are moms who were frustrated by the amount of stuff that left our houses, never to return. After lots of research and

testing we created the perfect fun, durable labels for the stuff kids lose!

Our sticky labels and clothing labels, which are dishwasher, microwave and laundry safe, are not only practical, but also designed to be very special to each child. The labels are customized with a child's name, favourite mix of colours and an icon (animal, symbol, etc.). We have also expanded our product line to include personalized stationery products, ID wristbands and household labels. We strive to continuously design innovative labels for babies, kids and grown-ups alike. You'll be amazed at what you can label! As a way to target the problem of lost belongings and a large lost and found, MSK is fundraising with *Mabel's Labels again*, a company with all types of labels that are colourful, indestructible, easy-to-use and fun!

Iron-On, Stickies, Bag Tags, Allergy Alert labels & more! Personalize your labels with names, nicknames, initials - whatever you choose. Cool icons help even little ones identify their own belongings. Dishwasher, microwave, laundry & kid tested! Dispatched within 24 hours to your home!

Visit www.msk.mabel.ca to place your order while helping our fundraiser! Pass this site on to your friends and families – proceeds from anyone ordering through this MSK site will come back to the school. The site is open now, and available through the beginning of September. Perfect for camps, school, and sports Thanks for your support.

● **Principal Kooner's Letter:**



Dearest Parents, children, friends and staff of MSK;

We are so excited for this upcoming year as it will feel more "normal". We are so happy to have added our communal tables back and our abundance of Montessori Materials to our classrooms. We are also very happy to welcome families back into the school.

"Everything in Excellence" is what we hope to strive for this year and we sure will. I look forward to working with everyone to achieve this for our students. They deserve it.

Please join us this month during Curriculum Night to learn more about our programs. Kindly refer to the Sept. Calendar for date and times. We hope to see you on zoom where we plan to talk further about Montessori with all of you.

At this time I would like to also thank all new families that attended our Parent Orientation and our Meet and Greet. If you were unable to attend the Parent Orientation you can find the information shared on the parent portal.

Please note that my door is always open and I am here for you. My e-mail address is e.marzano@msk2002.com should you wish to share your thoughts, opinions, questions or have any concerns ☺ I do appreciate meeting in person fyi more than over email.

In closing we the staff of MSK are prepared to give you and your children a wonderful and enriching learning experience again this year.

Cheers to a great year ahead.

Pax Bonum to you.

Yours in authentic Montessori education,

Principal Kooner ☺

A Prayer for our students.....

I want to teach my students how--

**To live this life on earth,
To face its struggles and its strife
And to improve their worth.**

**Not just the lesson in a book,
Or how the rivers flow,
But to choose the proper path,
Wherever they may go.**

**To understand eternal truth,
And know right from wrong,
And gather all the beauty of
A flower and a song,**

**For if I help the world to grow
In wisdom and grace,
Then I feel that I have won
And I have filled my place.**

And so I ask your guidance, God

**That I may do my
part,
For character and
confidence
And happiness of
heart.**

Who was Maria Montessori?

Maria Montessori was an Italian physician, educator, and innovator, acclaimed for her educational method that builds on the way children learn naturally.

She opened the first Montessori school—the Casa dei Bambini, or Children’s House—in Rome on January 6, 1907. Subsequently, she traveled the world and wrote extensively about her approach to education, attracting many devotees. There are now thousands of Montessori schools in countries worldwide.

Maria Montessori was born on August 31, 1870, in the provincial town of Chiaravalle, Italy. Her father was a financial manager for a state-run industry. Her mother, raised in a family that prized education, was well schooled and an avid reader—unusual for Italian women of that time. The same thirst for knowledge took root in young Maria, and she immersed herself in many fields of study before creating the educational method that bears her name.

Beginning in early childhood, Maria lived in Rome, growing up

in a paradise of libraries, museums, and fine schools.

Maria was a sterling student, confident, ambitious, and unwilling to be limited by traditional expectations for women. At age 13 she entered an all-boys technical institute to prepare for a career in engineering.

In time, however, she changed her mind, deciding to become a doctor instead. She applied to the University of Rome’s medical program, but was rejected. Maria took additional courses to better prepare her for entrance to the medical school and persevered. With great effort she gained admittance, opening the door a bit wider for future women in the field.

When she graduated from medical school in 1896, Maria was among Italy’s first female physicians. Though she was not the first female medical school graduate, as reported by many of her biographers, it does not detract from her accomplishment. Defying conventions, norms, and expectations to successfully make her way in this rigorous, male-dominated field required tremendous strength, dedication, and perseverance.

Maria’s early medical practice focused on psychiatry. She later developed an interest in education, attending classes on pedagogy and immersing herself in educational theory. Her studies led her to observe, and call into question, the prevailing methods of teaching children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The opportunity to improve on these methods came in 1900, when

she was appointed co-director of a new training institute for special education teachers. Maria approached the task scientifically, carefully observing and experimenting to learn which teaching methods worked best. Many of the children made unexpected gains, and the program was proclaimed a success.

In 1907, Maria accepted a challenge to open a full-day childcare center in San Lorenzo, a poor inner-city district of Rome. The students were under-served youngsters, ages 3 – 7, who were left to their own devices while their parents went out to work. This center, the first of its kind in the nation, and a high-quality learning environment, became the first Casa dei Bambini.

The children were unruly at first, but soon showed great interest in working with puzzles, learning to prepare meals, and manipulating learning materials Maria had designed. She observed how the children absorbed knowledge from their surroundings, essentially teaching themselves.

Using scientific observation and experience gained from her earlier work with young children, Maria designed learning materials and a classroom environment that fostered the children’s natural desire to learn and provided freedom for them to choose their own materials.

To the surprise of many, the children in Maria’s programs thrived, exhibiting concentration, attention, and spontaneous self-discipline. The “Montessori Method” began to attract the attention of prominent educators, journalists, and public figures. By 1910, Montessori schools could be

found throughout Western Europe and were being established around the world, including in the United States where the first Montessori school opened in Tarrytown, NY, in 1911.

In the years following, and for the rest of her life, Maria dedicated herself to advancing her child-centered approach to education. She lectured widely, wrote articles and books, and developed a program to prepare teachers in the Montessori Method. Through her efforts and the work of her followers, Montessori education was adopted worldwide.

As a public figure, Maria also campaigned vigorously on behalf of women's rights. She wrote and spoke frequently on the need for greater opportunities for women, and was recognized in Italy and beyond as a leading feminist voice.

Maria Montessori pursued her ideals in turbulent times. Living through war and political upheaval inspired her to add peace education to the Montessori curriculum. But she could do little to avoid being ensnared in world events. Traveling in India in 1940, when hostilities between Italy and Great Britain broke out, she was forced to live in exile for the remainder of the war. There she took the opportunity to train teachers in her method.

At war's end she returned to Europe, spending her final years in Amsterdam. She died peacefully, in a friend's garden, on May 6, 1952.