

Blue Spruce Montessori News

*News from the Classroom
Upcoming Events
Skating/Registration/Open Houses
Why Montessori for KG*

FEBRUARY 2016



February / March News



News from the classroom

January turned out to be a great month in the classroom, full of growth and discovery and maturity. Our young children returned with confidence and purpose and are really enjoying working their way through the Montessori materials. Our extended day children are very comfortable in their roles mentoring their younger peers and reaffirming what they already know.

We welcomed two new students, Brennan Bowal joined our morning class, Rowan's brother and Karina Tseng joined our afternoon class. Please welcome them to Blue Spruce.

Our observation table this month hosted labelling the parts and animals from the Artic and identifying and matching various animal footprints to the animal. We listened to some beautiful pieces composed by Tchaikovsky and looked at beautiful paintings by our Artist of the month, Edgar Degas.

We are looking forward to a great couple of months and seeing the continued growth of all our students.

Re-registration

September 2016/17 registration for families currently attending Blue Spruce will take place during the week of [February 1st](#) through until [February 5th](#). Morning children and their siblings will have priority to secure spaces in the morning class. Eligible extended day children will have priority to secure their full day spaces. Afternoon children wishing to move to the morning will have priority based on the time they have been enrolled at Blue Spruce and availability. We will always do our best to accommodate our family's requests, but spaces will be allocated on availability. We will send out confirmation letters during the week of February 15th

School Closed – FAMILY DAY

School will be closed on [Monday February 8th](#) for Family Day. Enjoy your family time together!!

VSO – Extended Day Children

[Thursday, February 11th](#) the extended day children will be going to the Elementary Concert Series held at the Orpheum Theatre to see the VSO perform "Magnificent Melodies"

Valentines Ice Skating

[Friday, February 12th](#) we will be hitting the ice for some skating fun!!

We are looking forward to our annual Valentines skate, this year at the Richmond Ice rinks on # 6 road. We will be combining both morning and afternoon classes. Our ice time will be 11:45 – 12:45 p.m. and we will have pizza and goodies at the rink.

Valentine Cards

If children would like to exchange Valentine cards with their friends at school we are going to set up bags for you to mail them. We will have bags for each child for you to place the cards into. We will set them up on trolleys in alphabetical order (similar to Christmas) and in class groups, e.g. AM PM EX DAY We will set them up by the far South West door weather permitting or in the classroom hall. This will be set up Wednesday, **10th** –Friday **12th** Children will take home their bags on **Friday, February 12th** before skating.

To make things easier for you a good suggestion is to sign the cards from your child only and not write them to each individual child.

I will send out class lists as we have a couple new students in the morning and afternoon.

Open Houses

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9TH 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH, 11:00 A.M. –2:00 P.M.

We will be holding public open houses for September 2016/17 registration, please inform friends whom may be interested in enrolling their child/ren for September of these dates, we would love to meet them and discuss with them how Blue spruce can meet the educational and developmental needs of their child/ren. We are currently taking applications for the upcoming school year and booking classroom observations.

Practicum Student

Tina Nguyen, (Mrs. Nguyen) will return to the classroom during the weeks of February 22nd - March 4th she has completed a week of observing the classroom and a week of teaching and will return for her final two weeks of teaching the children. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs. Nguyen.

Guest Speaker-Fran Kammermayer

Wednesday, February 24th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We are inviting Fran Kammermayer, author of “It’s not a Plot to Drive you Crazy” to share her strategies for positive discipline with you all. A topic we all struggle with and are constantly seeking good advice and tools to have at the ready. We hope you can all make it. Fran is an excellent speaker and you will enjoy what she has to say on the subject. (Letters will be sent out soon)

Why Montessori for the Kindergarten Year

This year at Blue Spruce we have 8 extended children all KG aged completing their Montessori primary program. It has been an amazing year so far for them not only of academic growth but also of confidence building, responsibility and problem solving skills. The Montessori approach to education truly is learning for life and we feel so proud in our work to know that these young students will leave us with a very solid foundation for life.

At Blue Spruce we have been very fortunate in being able to offer a full Montessori primary program with an extended day program that has been very successful. We are still visited by students from many years ago whom are now teenagers and finishing high school. The majority of these students are thriving not just academically but also socially.

If your child is turning 5 by the end of this year and you are looking at your options, I also encourage you to talk with our families that are currently enrolled in the extended day program.

We also take children into the extended day program at around 4 -4 ½ if they have been attending the program for a couple of years already. We will discuss each individual's child readiness for extended day with you. Please set up a time we would love to discuss this further

Tax Receipts

Tuition receipts for the 2015 school year will be handed out by the end of February.

Laundry/Flowers Sign up

Thank you once again everyone for your contributions of flowers & for helping with the laundry. We appreciate the effort you all make to bring beautiful flowers for the children to arrange. The children love having flowers on their tables while they work, and you can often see children "smelling the flowers" as they walk by. We also appreciate you helping to clean the cloths so we can keep extra garbage bags out of the landfill each year. Blue Spruce produces less than one full bag of garbage a week, as we compost, recycle and use cloths for hand drying.

Family Evening

Thursday, March 10th 4:15 – 6:30 p.m. We are going to hold a Family evening for the children to bring their families into the classroom and show them around. Invitations with more information will be handed closer to the date

Car Park Safety

We genuinely care about the safety and wellbeing of your children and have set up car park rules to ensure that no one gets hurt. Please park only in designated spots and please walk your child to and from school holding onto your child's hand. Please remind children that the car park is not an area for playing and running. Drivers please slow down at all times when entering and leaving the car park. Children must be in the backseat of a vehicle and fastened in an approved car seat. Please follow safety guidelines so our children keep safe. Thank you.

January/February/March Birthday Celebrations

In January, Miya turned 4 we also celebrated Tyrus Birthday as he turned 4 on New Years Eve.

In February we will celebrate Jacob Wong's 5th Birthday & Breanna Chan's 6th Birthday.

In March, Giselle Chan, Tegan Choi and Talia Lam will all turn 3, Teddy Ranson will turn 4 and Madison Yamazaki will turn 5.

Happy Birthday Everyone!!

From all the Staff at Blue Spruce Montessori