

Camp & Education Guide

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WWW.TANDEMNEWS.COM



New Montessori school offers classes in Italian immersion

By Mark Cirillo

Italian Canadian parents who would like to preserve their linguistic heritage now have a unique educational opportunity for their children.

Maple Crest Private School, which opened its doors in September 2003, now offers Italian immersion classes for children ages 2 1/2 - 5 1/2.

Maple Crest is a Montessori school, and offers programs in both English and Italian. According to Dhan Aiyar, the school's director, the Italian immersion program is the first of its kind in the city of Vaughan.

Many first generation Italian-Canadians want their children to learn Italian in order to preserve a part of their heritage. They also

want their children to be able to speak with their grandparents. "It was because of the needs of the community that we came up with the idea of Italian immersion," said Mrs. Aiyar.

Parents have the option of enrolling their children for full or half day programs. Italian students attending the full day program receive instruction in both languages.

"When a child is enrolled in our program, they have the benefit of spending the morning in regular Montessori, and in the afternoon we move them to Italian immersion, so in the course of one day they are exposed to two programs, as well as the benefit of learning a second language," said Mrs. Aiyar.

see **Maple Crest**, p.E3

Getting a JUMP on good grades

John Mighton shows all kids are capable of good grades

By Mark Cirillo

John Mighton is a playwright whose work includes the 1992 Governor General's Award-winning *Possible Worlds*; he is an actor whose credits include Gus Van Sant's Academy Award-win-

ning *Good Will Hunting*; and he has a Ph.D. in mathematics. His new approach to teaching has helped thousands of inner city children. But if you read his book, *Myth of Ability*, you'll learn he's not a genius.

At least that's what he's trying to teach us. Simply put, the "myth of ability" is the false belief that some kids are naturally more "able" to succeed than others. When children start believing in this false

"hierarchy of intelligence," the results can be devastating.

Mighton founded JUMP (Junior Undiscovered Mathematical Prodigies) in 1988. The project was a response to an urgent need: many inner city kids who were struggling in the traditional classroom setting needed extra help, but teachers were too busy and parents couldn't afford private tutoring.

At the time, Mighton was a

Ph.D. student in mathematics. He decided to start up a free private school based on his views of education.

He developed a simple yet effective teaching method that stems from the belief that all children are capable of excelling in math if they are given appropriate instruction.

The great success JUMP has achieved suggests this belief is true. Today JUMP offers tutoring in four public schools, and

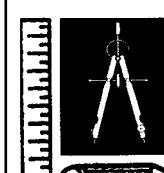
provides teaching assistants in fifteen schools.

"Our tutors come from all walks of life - actors, writers, students, teachers, business people, retirees and even scientists, engineers & mathematicians!"

The people at JUMP have written a manual that is available for a small donation. It outlines the philosophy and methods of the program. You can order a copy online or call

416-348-9545.

It is a useful read for teachers, but also for parents whose kids are struggling at school (particularly in mathematics, although is relevant for education in general). Whether or not parents can afford a private tutor, Mighton's ideas are worth a look. They will offer encouragement and guidance to parents who in turn will need to provide these for their children.



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Padre Pio Academy's mission is to inspire and foster student's intellectual, emotional, linguistic, physical and Catholic values in the spirit of the Academy's namesake St. Padre Pio.

Antonio Bisceglia, the academy's founder, is an Ontario certified teacher and holds a Master of Education degree in Administration and

Supervision. Mr. Bisceglia and his wife, Linda, a Sociologist and certified Child and Youth Worker believe in developing the whole child.

The Academy offers a tradi-

tional co-ed Catholic education. In September 2004, the Academy's South Campus will open its doors to students from grades 1-8. The campus is centrally located on Weston Road, nestled on the Humber River. The North Campus, located in Woodbridge, will continue to offer pre-school, JK/SK, language classes, tutoring, SSAT/EQAO prep, computer classes and March Break and Summer Camp.

Programs run year round and low student to teacher ratios are guaranteed for all programs. The Academy follows and exceeds the Ontario Ministry of Education Curriculum.

Padre Pio Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race or religion and tuition is extremely competitive to ensure all members of the community have access to the Academy.

For more details visit the Academy's website at www.padrepiօacademy.com or call the Academy at (905) 265-9115 for more information.

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Over The Rainbow's staff is multi-talented.

Special talents common among staff at popular Woodbridge daycare

Over the Rainbow Children's Center carefully selects its staff, all of whom are qualified and trained Early Childhood Educators.

A common feature of the staff are their individual special skills and talents that compliment a daily program which includes arts and crafts as well as regular field trips. Policies and practices at Over the Rainbow encourage and promote professional development.

The center has been professionally designed to accommodate busy children. Toys, games, activities, programs and outdoor playgrounds are all tailored to meet their developmental and social needs. Children develop a love of learning, independence and self-control as well as the ability to interact positively with others.

Over the Rainbow Children's

Center recognizes the unique qualities each child possesses and focuses on developing well-rounded and self-confident children in a comfortable, safe and nurturing environment. And, the school is equipped with 'Internet Viewing'. Each parent is given a password and can log onto a secure network to watch their child's activities through the day.

Over the Rainbow Children's Center is licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and cares for children from birth to 12 years of age.

The Center's capacity is 81 children divided into five distinct programs and is open Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 7:00pm. For more information call (905) 850-3553 or, log on to www.Overtherainbowdaycare.ca.

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Maple Crest, con't from p.E1

"Parents of Italian background like the fact that we have both these programs under one umbrella," she added.

The full day program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Full day students get an hour break for lunch, followed by a short nap. Two snacks per day and a hot lunch are included in the cost of tuition.

The school also offers before- and after-school programs at no extra cost for parents who need the convenience. The after-school program includes a guided homework session that reviews what's been learned during the day. After they are finished with their homework, students are free to play in the school's gymnasium until their parents pick them up.

As for the curriculum, Mrs. Aiyar said that Italian immersion is much like regular preschool instruction. "The content is basically the same as they have in pre-school and junior and senior. They learn shapes, colours, weather, seasons, the national anthem, words for different objects." The only differ-



Children at Maple Crest profit from the language classes

ence is that they do so in Italian.

Montessori schools are based on work of Italian educator and physician, Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952).

Dr. Montessori was the first woman to receive a medical degree in the history of Italy, and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace prize. All Maple Crest instructors are certified in Montessori teaching.

Mrs. Aiyar also said that Maple Crest will expand in September 2004, to include instruction for children up to grade 6. Classes from grade 1 onward will not be Montessori.

"From grade one onward we go to a private curriculum [recognized] by the ministry of education," said Mrs. Aiyer.

This combination of Montessori teaching for early years and academic teaching in later grades is another thing that sets Maple Crest apart from other schools.

"We start [with children] 2 and-a-half and 3 and-a-half, and we expose them to the practical and sensorial activities. Once they are 3 1/2 yrs old we start moving them more towards academics, in terms of learning lan-

guage, math, and culture. By the time they graduate from senior kindergarten to grade one, they're ready to learn abstract terms."

By this point the child is ready to learn from oral instruction or writing on the board. "From grade one we follow strictly the curriculum of the ministry."

On weekends Maple Crest offers Italian classes for older children (seven and up), as well as French classes and a children's art club. They also provide private tutoring for secondary school students who need help in math, calculus and data management.

Maple Crest is located at 28 Roytec Rd. in Woodbridge. It is on the corner of Weston Road, between Highway 7 and Langstaff Road, just West of Highway 400.

If you would like more information on the school or would like to enroll your child, please call 905-652-1234 or 905-652-6666; or contact the school by email at info@maplecrest.ws.

Leading European methods the key to challenging students at North Hill Private School (toddler to Grade 6)

North Hill Private School operates on two leading European pedagogies – the Montessori method and the Reggio Emilia Project Approach. The result at North Hill Private School is an enriched, well-balanced program that values both art and academics equally. North Hill is recognized and governed by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The low student/teacher ratio allows children to excel at their own pace therefore surpassing Ministry Guidelines.

Montessori's philosophy states that children, working at their own pace, strive towards independence. They are internally motivated to learn as they develop concentration and perseverance. They absorb complex skills through active involvement with concrete materials.

The Reggio Emilia Project Approach also highlights children's naturally inquisitive nature and eagerness to learn. Project work involves students in small groups, brainstorming and designing projects that are meaningful to them. Teachers challenge students to use higher order thinking skills by planning projects that are large and complicated. During this process students represent their knowledge through different forms of expression: words, drawing, painting, movement, sculpture, drama and music all play an important role in project work. Projects require students to think, to debate different options and look at the world from different perspectives.

To complete your child's enriched education, he/she will participate in French classes, specialized Music, Judo, and Art lessons, monthly school trips and physical education in the large indoor gymnasiums.



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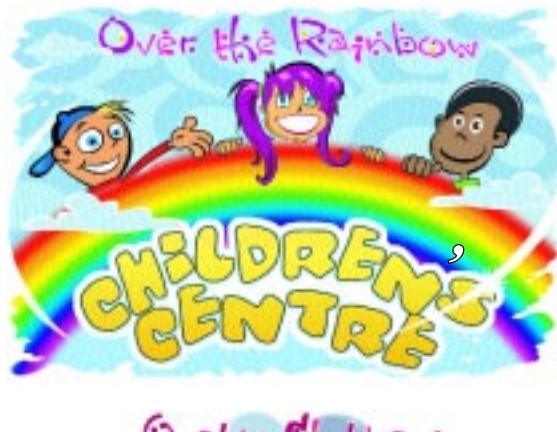
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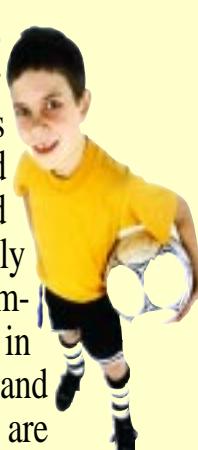
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Trinity College School's travel education program broadens students' horizons

Building on last year's success Trinity College School continues to expand its new initiative: the Travel Education Programme. This venture allows high school students to earn a credit while exploring a foreign locale. The strength of this program lies in the fact that students can make connections between their learning and real life situations. The classroom becomes alive as students experience lessons first hand.

Mike Wall, a student of the grade 10 Computer Programming course in Banff exclaims, "Banff was a breathtaking, liberating, beautiful and amazing experience. I learned a lot on the trip, inside and out of the class, and

I will never forget the life-changing experience that was TCS in Banff."

Jasmin Charters who attended the grade 12 History course in France states, "The group became a close knit family, and everyday was a new adventure. The month's occurrences were only heightened when subject matter taught in class was seen and experienced with one's own eyes."

This summer TCS is offering courses in Pontoise, France; Banff, Alberta; and Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. If you're looking for an adventure this summer contact Lisa Smith at 905-885-3217 ext: 1281 or visit www.tcs.on.ca/TravelED/

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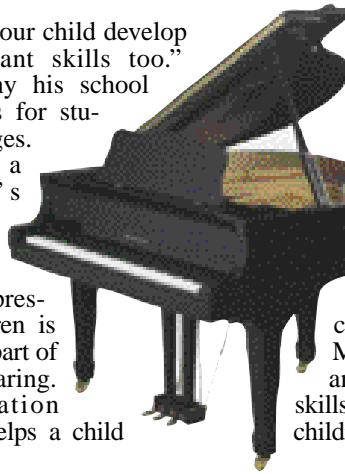
York's largest music school encourages toddlers to express themselves musically

Experts say the need to make music is inborn. The first music we hear is mommy's heartbeat. Children instinctively bang pots, pans, boxes, toys and furniture to make music.

Pat Dirauso Director of Arcadia Academy of Music School in Woodbridge, Maple, Richmond Hill and Nobleton says it is never too early to start stimulating your child with music. "Professional educators know the importance of music-making," he says. "Making

music helps your child develop other important skills too." Which is why his school offers lessons for students of all ages.

Arcadia Academy's Dirauso explains that encouraging musical expression in children is an important part of child rearing. Experimentation with music helps a child



grow in mind and body. Self-confidence improves as musical expression improves. Patience, manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination and concentration are all affected by musical practice. Memory, self-control and improvisational skills are all sharpened as children play music.

As well, when children are playing music they are involved in an educational, stimulating, non-violent and non-aggressive activity. And, they enjoy it!

"Bang, strum, blow, shake, sing and dance," says Dirauso of Arcadia Academy. "Stimulate your child to live and learn through music."

For more information on Arcadia Academy of Music Schools call (905) 851-8631 or log on to www.arcadiamusicacademy.com.

Toronto Basketball School helps kids develop their social skills as well as their jump shot

At Toronto Basketball School, training is not just for sport, it is also a fundamental technique to help your child develop composure, concentration, critical thinking, other social skills and talents as well as sportsmanship.

The Toronto Basketball School teaches the importance of teamwork, respon-

bility, commitment, and hard work. Physical activity is good for the body and the mind. Regular exercise helps maintain weight, builds muscle and strengthens bones.

They are proud of their commitment to creating in this basketball school a community, family environment. The program aims to create a fun and educational program where your child will make new friends and develop a positive self-esteem.

The winter season includes 16 professionally supervised practices (once a week) and 16 games (house leagues – once a week.) They will also provide a basketball shirt. The registration fee is \$180.00. Registration starts January 26, 2004 for boys between the ages of 7 and 15 and girls between 7 and 10. To register, contact Mr. Miguel Laporte at 416-419-9778 or Mr. Silvino Carta at 416-885-7765. Registration Office: 5109 Steeles Avenue West, Suite #202 (Steeles & Weston.) Monday to Friday (9a.m. to 5p.m.) Sunday at Saint Basil Great College School at 20 Starview Lane (Weston, one light south of Sheppard,) from 1p.m. to 6p.m.

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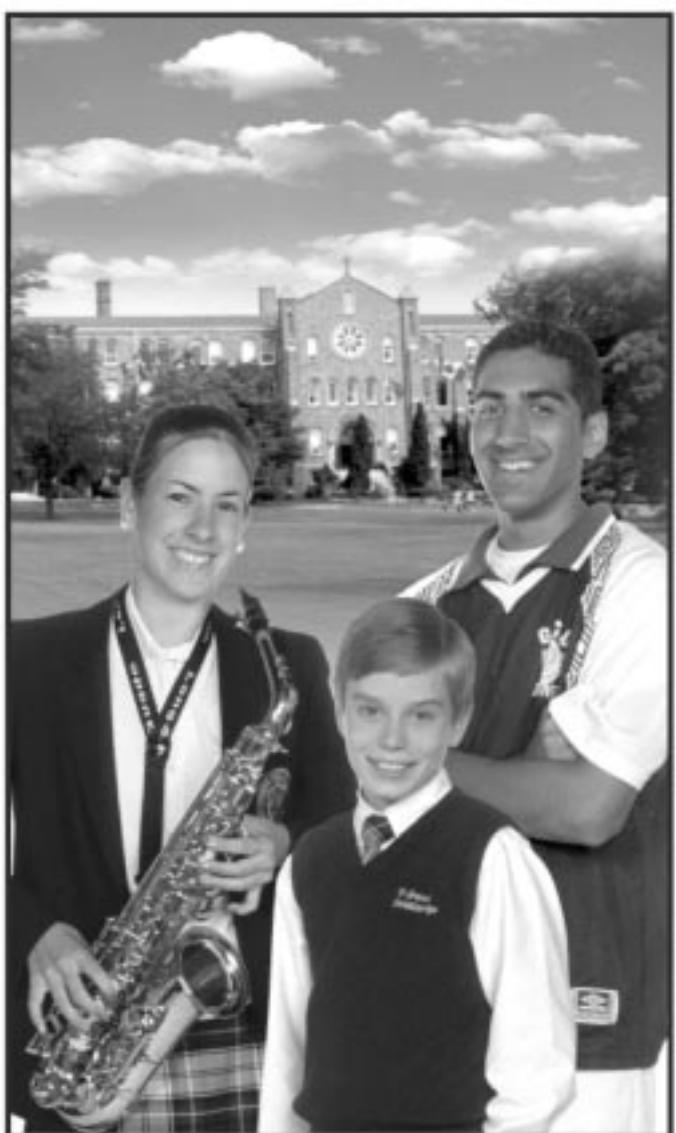
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Christian College offers performing arts camp and post-graduate program to high-schoolers

Grenville's Grenville Christian College location on the St. Lawrence River, in the heart of the 1000 Islands, lends itself well to recreational as well as educational activities. The school offers a unique quality education and sense of family, which is considered one of its competitive advantages.

This summer, GCC will offer

a five-week performing arts camp and ESL training, - the foundation of a full-scale summer co-curricular program.

"We offer an excellent academic program, backed by exceptional arts and athletic programs," explains David Dargie, Headmaster. Every student is encouraged to pursue co-curricular activities to round out their education.

GCCs Post Graduate program offers high school graduates a "gap year" experience prior to college or university with two options -- building your transcript or building your resume. Grenville graduates had a 100% placement rate in their post-secondary school of choice in 2003, even facing the double cohort.

"Our graduates are everywhere: - Queens, Harvard, Waterloo, McGill," Headmaster

Dave Dargie adds. "They leave GCC ready to explore the world, and make a difference."

Dargie notes that although the value system is Christian based, students come from a variety of faiths. "The multicultural mix in our school is an asset. Our students appreciate it."

He says the seven to one student/teacher ratio enhances the academic offering.

Water Safety Programs Reduce Kids Chances of Water-Related Injuries

Introducing children to a safe water environment is a life-skill and studies show students who are exposed to water safety programs have a reduced risk of water-related injuries or even fatalities.

Trinity Swim School located at 2200 Rutherford Road, Unit #12 in Maple offers Canadian Red Cross Water Safety Programs tailored for all ranges of swimmers from infants to adults in its new 91-degree heated pool.

The teacher/student ratio is never greater than three to one at Trinity Swim School to ensure that all students get the attention they need. All instructors are fully certified and have years of teaching experience. Aquatots is a special program for infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are all accompa-

nied in the pool by parents. The AquaQuest program has 12 levels that students progress through at their own pace while learning water safety and swimming skills. AquaAdults offers an integrated program with a built-in flexibility to allow instructors to tailor instruction to meet individual needs.

Also offered at Trinity Swim School is Adult Aqua-Fitness aimed at increasing flexibility, tolerance and strength in a low-gravity environment. Hydrotherapy is offered to increase range of motion, mobility and strength for a variety of medical conditions, work-related and motor vehicle accidents and neurological conditions.

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Canada's Best Karate teaches respect, honesty and integrity

For eleven years, Canada's Best Karate has been teaching students martial arts and self-defense. With a special emphasis on children aged 3 to 12 years, the popular karate academy also teaches the "I Can" motivational system encouraging children to develop a disciplined approach to chores and homework.

The specially designed curriculum of Canada's Best Karate

combines physical activities with character development. Students are evaluated using a unique one-on-one system and they are taught values such as respect, honesty, discipline and integrity.

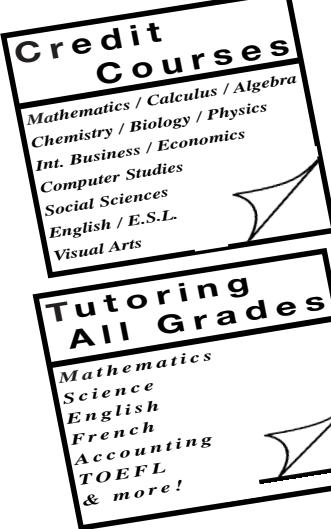
Combining traditional martial arts training with modern teaching methods is great for promoting character development in young people," says Scott Bullard the school's owner and Sensei/Master Instructor. "Parents are finding

that they need help educating their children and Canada's Best Karate is filling that need."

Classes are scheduled by age and skill level and include the School Safe/Street Safe program which teaches Stranger Danger skills and bully prevention techniques. Facilities are large and

clean with wall-to-wall padded floor and an extensive supply of training equipment. Canada's Best Karate is located at 5100 Rutherford Road. (Rutherford & Islington). To find out more call (905) 893-3342.

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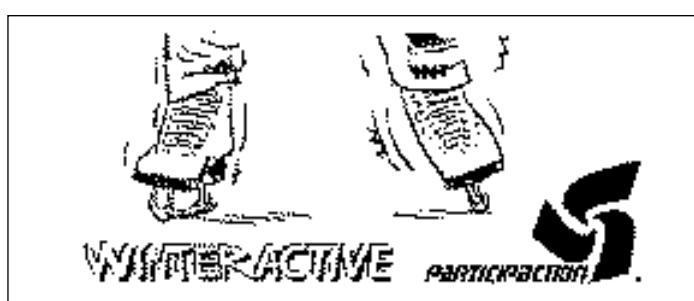
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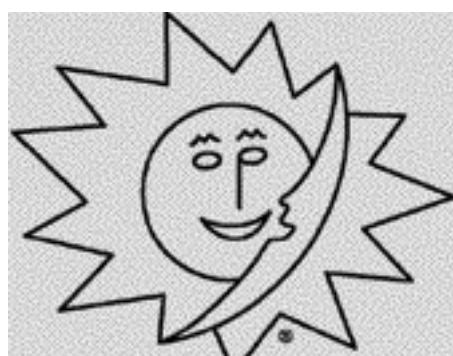
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