



July 13th, 2017

Director's Greetings

Explorations 2017 has returned to Trafalgar School for a second year and we are grateful to Principal Ms. Nikidis and her staff for accommodating our camp once again. We are especially grateful this year, given the impressive increase in registrations that we have experienced to date.

As always, I am most impressed by the professionalism, creativity and enthusiasm of our Activity Leaders. Given our downtown location and proximity to local museums, galleries and science laboratories, campers have been "out and about" the city with greater frequency than ever. The occasion of Montreal's 375'th Anniversary celebrations has provided even further off-campus opportunities.

Our campers are presently preparing for our Friday Open House and Show Case presentations. In the meantime, you are invited to follow us on Facebook.

Regards,
Jim Officer
Explorations Camp Director

Junior Program

Children Around the World - led by Alex Mew

Since the start of camp, we have been learning about different countries and cultures found all over the world. While we have been looking at new and foreign cultures, more importantly we have been exploring the different cultures found within our own group. Every day, campers have been bringing in meaningful things relating to their culture and sharing these special things with the rest of the group. Children have shared things such as language (for example, how to say "hello") money, clothes, pictures and books, amongst other things. After learning all about what the campers have brought in, we've followed up on this by listening to related music, dancing, playing a game, or engaging in art, for example, creating marker prints and using model magic to expand on what we have already explored. Our group has also been reading a book called "This is How We Do It", which tells the story of seven children from around the world, and using this as a starting point for activities. For example, children have been creating collages representing their own lives and heritage. In addition to this, last week we had a picnic and ate traditional foods

from different countries, while this week we visited a cultural exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. In the next few days, we plan on making mosaics based on art from Islamic countries and learning about how to use chopsticks. Overall, we've been having a great time with our group, and we look forward to sharing all of the fun things that we've been doing at Friday's Open House!

Children's Rights are Rocking! - led by Selina Morrison

We have been exploring various children's rights and issues. The children are becoming experts on the topic and are becoming aware of their rights and how many children have their rights infringed upon every day. Through games, art, stories and discussions they have explored their self-identity, the difference between needs and wants, the importance of education, family, love and equality and more. They are becoming advocates for themselves, their friends and hopefully in the future children around the world. We look forward to sharing our activities with you in room 202 at 2:45 after the Music Show.

Discover Montreal - led by Kimberly Skovhoj

Our first week at Explorations has been very exciting and eventful. We have started exploring many of Montreal's beautiful sites and attractions. The students have sketched the panoramic view from the city's Belvedere lookout, have gone on a scavenger hunt for bones and minerals at McGill's Redpath Museum, and have even strolled downtown in order to discover some of Montreal's well-known sculptures. They

have also created their own sculptures, skyscrapers, flags, and collages which represent their unique vision of the city. To top it off, we treated ourselves to some delicious St-Viateur bagels and cream cheese as a way of celebrating what we have accomplished during the week. We look forward to sharing with you all that we have discovered and created at our Open House this coming Friday.

Great Artists of the World - led by Tracey Blonder

What a great time we have had. Famous lines and colors galore, messy painting, lots to explore. Our two weeks were spent creating wonderful scrapbooks and trying many varieties of art materials. Sand drawings at the park, science color mixing, musical practices and outdoor fun, sculptures and building... the time went by too fast. We can't wait to show you what we have done at Open House. See you on Friday.

Inventions and Inventors - led by Kristeen Carson

Kristeen's grade 2 and 3 group has been busy learning about the different inventors and their inventions. We have been having fun working on different art projects that we can't wait to show you! Benjamin Franklin's lap book, our five mosaic posters, our iPads, invention mural and much more. We have also watched little internet videos about the different inventors. I hope to see you all at our Open House to showcase all of your little sweeties hard work. On Friday be sure your child has their Explorations shirt on for their big music show. After music you will be asked to meet your child in room 206 for their science presentation

(2:45-3:00). Then you will be asked to come visit our classroom to see all the beautiful work your children have done. Please bring a big bag so you can leave with all their art projects. See you Friday.

Junior Physical Education - Jane Crutchfield

It has been a great start to our 2017 summer camp. All the campers are enjoying running around playing a variety of games such as parachute, pirate panic, meteor shower, tale tag, hoop tag and doctor tag. They are all running, laughing and playing together with excitement and enthusiasm.

Junior Music Session 1 - led by Kathleen Walsh-Turcotte & Brenda Fahey-DeJean

Things are very lively in Junior Music! The children are busy learning the original songs in the musical "E I E I Oops". Some children are also learning the dialogue to tell you the story of Madame Cow and how she lost and then found her voice. Everyone is singing, clapping, moving, and stomping! Not to give it away, but there definitely is a happy ending with a nice lesson on helping friends with self-esteem. Come and enjoy your children's presentation this Friday at Open House.

Junior Science - led by Amanda Marshall

We've been having fun and learning a lot in Junior Science. Day one was an introduction to science. It included working through the steps of the scientific method using a marble experiment. On day two, we began studying the nervous system. Through teaching and a variety of

activities and experiments, we have learned about its three parts, the names of the nerves that bring the messages to and from the brain, what a neuron is and what it looks like, as well as information on each of the five senses.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Open House where we can share with you in more detail all that we've been doing over the past two weeks. See you then!

Welcome to the Jungle - led by Robyn Irving

Jungle Explorers! Robyn's Junior Group has been exploring and learning about jungle animals this last week. We have made our own Safari vests and hats while learning about the animals that we would see on a Safari. There has been much excitement in the room while we have read stories and learnt facts about these wonderful animals. We will be continuing to learn about the layers of the rain forest over the next couple of weeks so we can see their habitat. It is a thrilling time for our explorers; they are very excited to learn new things. We look forward to showing our projects next week!

Intermediate Program period 1 8:30-10:00

Brain games! - led by Tami Brewster

Campers have enjoyed polishing their skills and strategies as they've got new games and perfected ones they know. Settlers of Catan, Othello, Carcason, and Monopoly have all been popular this session. Superb collaboration and communication skills exercised as students eased into their morning at Explorations.

Build A Computer From Scratch - led by Steven Lowry

Last Monday, each camper walked in to find an empty computer case next to tables covered in parts. Since then, they have built working computers from the ground up, learning about all of the components and how they all interact with each other. They configured all the hardware, installed an operating system, drivers and software. Finally, they networked all of their computers so they can communicate with each other.

Our campers will be able to tell you about everything that is under the hood of their computers. Ask them questions about the components and they will be able to explain why it works the way it does and why it is an essential part of every computer. Our future techies will be giving their computer lessons so you don't want to miss this.

Cartoonamania - led by Carolina Martinez-Sierra

In this activity the children have been introduced to a variety of cartoon styles. From chibi (which is a Japanese style that focuses on cuteness) to superheroes. Together they are learning how to draw these styles of animation. Each day is a new style of cartoon. By the end of the activity they will be choosing their favourite drawings to produce a personal book which will be on display during the Open House.

Challenging Math for the Curious - led by Ranjeet Bachonee

The "Challenging Math for the Curious" group started with a warm introductive sharing of the appreciation of the cyclical nature of birthdays and months in the Gregorian calendar. We then compared and contrasted the conceptual structure of counting numbers in well-known languages such as English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hebrew, Hindi and Italian.

We listened to some classical music as well as recorded audio samples of counting in native Canadian languages such as:

Alongquian, Anishinaabemowin, Atikamekw, Blackfoot-Piikani, Cree, Innu, Kanien'keha, Michif, Naskapi, and Nishnaabemwin.

Using a variety of approaches, we then enjoyed exploring triangular numbers, square numbers, cubic numbers, tetrahedral numbers and Pascal's triangle. We explored 'orders of magnitude' from Planck's scale to the estimated size of the observable universe. We learnt about

similarities and differences in numbers systems used by humans and computers. Using paper, scissors, sticks and glue, students constructed the 5 platonic solids and concluded by comparing and contrasting the number of faces, vertices and edges. Multiple dimensions, matrices, curve sketching coupled with some hands-on 'Flexagon' activities will allow us to explore Math by learning through imaginative and creative play.

Code & Design Electronics - led by Robin Blackwell

This session, Code & Design Electronics dove in to the world of C++ and Arduino! They started off the week learning about the structure of the code and how it could be broken down. They then went on to take on building and coding challenges of greater and greater difficulty using LEDs, buttons, and screens. From there they went on to research and design their own creation. They then built and programmed their very own electronics.

Computer animation - led by Erik Goulet

With our team of eight gifted animators we started exploring the wonderful technique of computer animation. With every class we start by stretching our imagination muscle by reviewing some of the landmark animated shorts created over the past 20 years. Once our warm up is done, we get to work and dive head first into the software known as Softimage! Following a steep progressive learning curve my team was able to pull it off with brio by executing all three scheduled exercises. Starting with Mr. Snowman to better understand positioning in the 3d space, we continued with Mr. Fish and the methodology of sub modeling. Finally we

were able to create M. Robot to better understand how we translate our ideas into a visually stunning result. Now the toughest challenge lies ahead: giving life to their own project! With all the knowledge accumulated during the first week, they should be able to pull it off with flying colors for our grand presentation on Friday. I hope you will be able to join us to witness their amazing accomplishments.

English as a Second Language- Intermediates - led by Coco Kexin Fang

It has been an enjoyable experience working with this dynamic group of students. This week we have been working on the grammar; namely, past tense and future tense. In order to consolidate our learning in a fun way, we did a variety of activities as follows:

Firstly, campers were divided into two groups to make sentences with past tense and future tense, followed by a competition between the two teams. They brainstormed together during the sentence-making period. Then, one student in each group came to the front to write their sentences on the board. Afterwards, they were asked to share the sentences with the whole class. Secondly, every student used their imagination to write a story with at least three characters using past tense. They had a lot of fun during this process. After writing their stories, they practiced reading their stories in their group then performed in front of the whole class. Finally, students watched the movie *Home Alone* to practice and further consolidate their future tense and their summary skills.

We look forward to seeing you at Open House this Friday when we will be

debating a social issue, performing our new stories and creating voice overs (dubbing) for the movie Home Alone.

Fimo - led by Lou Standjofski

The gang is working hard to prepare for Open House and the display... boy, are you in for a treat. Even if you don't take the fimo activity, you should come see the magical works of art!

Glee - led by Christian Ingelevics

It's been an exciting Glee session; we spent Monday choosing the songs and by Wednesday we were already choreographing! The songs we will be performing are Happy (Pharrell), On Ecril Sur Les Murs (Kids United), Stay (Zedd/Alessia Cara) and Yoda (Weird Al). We are all very excited to show you what we've got!

GoNuts with GoPro - led by Allan Romano

Exploding water balloons, cascading coloured balls, calisthenics, big soap bubbles ... it's amazing how stuff like that looks when you capture it on a GoPro / sports camera and mess around with it in iMovie and add Garageband music. The campers have been having a ball videotaping their shenanigans and then turning them into video art with musical scores. Come visit us Friday morning in room 303 and you'll see what I mean. Please bring a usb stick in order to take home the GoPro video. Videos will also be posted on a YouTube channel just for our campers.

Orienteering – led by Kate Morris

Orienteering campers have trekked up the mountain and down into downtown finding a grand total of seven geocaches already! Teamwork, patience and optimism have helped the two Orienteering teams: Pandas and the Money Makers, on their hilarious, long walks where the floor frequently turns to lava! We are developing compass skills by making mini-orienteering courses and will soon learn some survival knots. We hope the good weather continues!

Photoshop - led by Brent Callahan

The campers are working hard to complete their Photoshop assignments in preparation for your arrival. Please bring a usb flash drive in order to save their work and bring it home. Presentations of their work will be in the computer lab room 215 on the second floor. Come visit and see their hard work.

Quilt-Tastic! - led by Meaghan Siddall McNerney

We are a huge and creative group this session. Our enthusiastic and ambitious young quilters have jumped head first into the piles of gorgeous fabric - ready to create their very own quilts. Some of us even brought in our own favourite samples of nostalgic clothing to deconstruct and repurpose. We have meticulously planned our designs and colours to best represent our personal style and our creations are coming along. We are excited to see how cozy and warm, yet stylish our quilts will be...

Songwriting 101 - led by Ian Hanchet

Songwriting 101 has no performance or presentation scheduled.

Intermediate Program period 2 10:15-11:45

Books! Make Your Own Comic Book - led by Susan Mitchell

We have made mini books and our own idea sketch books; shared ideas about how to express emotion in faces and posture in our drawings; sketched out ideas for characters and now we are starting our first comic book pages.

Come visit us in the art room on Friday afternoon and see the wonderful works that your children have created.

Computer Technician In Training - led by Steven Lowry

Last week, each camper started to build their computers from the ground up, piece by piece. They know what all the components are and how they work together. Since building their computers they have learnt how to install and customize operating systems, secure user accounts, configure wireless routers, network computers to share printers and files, as well as many other tricks of the trade. They learned proper ways to back up your computer, how to maintain your computer so it runs smoothly, monitor and diagnose problems with hardware issues, and a wealth of other information they are eager to divulge to you. Come

meet our techies if you want the inside scoop.

Debating Social Issues - led by Meaghan Siddall McNerney

What a bunch of brilliant and curious minds we have this session! We have been learning how to stretch our minds to view the world around us from different perspectives. We have been refining our convictions to deliver poised and deliberate arguments. We have been open-mindedly delving into serious topics, as well as silly ones, facing challenges head on, collaborating on ideas and strategies to get our points across.... communication has just as much to do with speaking as it does with listening, if you hear what I'm saying!

Design, Create, Build - led by Robin Blackwell

This term students began with the thrilling challenge of designing their very own catapult or trebuchet to launch a water balloon. From there students took on the challenge of designing and building a bridge that could hold as much weight as possible! Students then went on to build and design their very own mechanical hand before designing and constructing their own arcade style game such as basketball and pinball machines made out of wood and cardboard!

Digital Photography Magic - led by Allan Romano

Our future photographers have been snapping away (I always remind them to shoot LOTS - it doesn't cost anything) and building their portfolio of photos. During the same time they've been learning the many ways their photos can be edited and

transformed in Photoshop. They've also begun assembling their slideshows and creating a musical score in Garageband to accompany the slideshow. We'd love it if you came by on Friday afternoon so that your children can demonstrate what they've doing and how they've been doing it. Please bring in a usb stick so that they can bring their slideshows home. We will be adding their slideshows to our private YouTube channel, so you can check them out there as well – expect an email from me containing the link to YouTube.

English as a Second Language- Intermediates - led by Coco Kexin Fang

It has been an enjoyable experience working with this dynamic group of students. This week we have been working on improving the oral skills and grammar, namely, past tense and future tense. In order to consolidate our learning in a fun way, we did a variety of activities as follows: Firstly, the students heatedly debated on the topic of technology. Two teams elaborated on their points persuasively. Secondly, every student used their imagination to write a story with at least three characters using past tense. They had a lot of fun during this process. After writing their stories, they practiced reading their stories in their group and performed in front of the whole class. Finally, students chose from one of the four scenes (i.e., restaurant, police station, renting an apartment, shopping for a friend) to act out. They were then required to produce at least 15 sentences for a conversation.

At Open House, we will be debating on a social issue, performing our new stories, and doing voice overs (dubbing) for the movie *Home Alone*.

Intro to Game Programming - led by Brently Callahan

Within the second day the campers were engaged in their tasks of creating their first role playing game. They have already created many maps and have worked hard on programming their game so that their vision of their game will be realized in time for your visit. Come visit the computer lab in room 215 on the second floor so that they can take their adventures home with them. Please remember to bring in a usb stick.

Intro to Robotics - led by Kate Morris

All campers have earned their Lego Licenses by working collaboratively on their Tri-Bot! In daily challenges, campers have been testing their creativity by building bridges, cute creatures and cars all in under 10 minutes. Now, with a developed understanding of the Lego programming language and the different sensors, teams are able to create their own designs including a Rubik's cube-solver and a back massager! We look forward to showing off our creations at the Open House!

Kids Cook - led by Kathleen Walshe-Turcotte

A great first week was had by all ...we mixed, measured, created and tasted such fine fare as Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies, To Die For Blueberry Muffins, Rhubarb Crumble (freshly picked in the morning from Karen's garden), Banana Muffins, Pad Thai Stir Fry and more. We will be eating more veggies this week. Such a wonderful group of cooks!

Master of Magic - led by Ellis Steinberg

Young magicians indeed. We've got some real wizards this year! Focus is on good fundamentals, and confident presenting. The magicians have learned many trade secrets thus far, and are preparing themselves for strong performances at the Open House. Many are becoming rather clever with sleight of hand, and others are quite a laugh while presenting! Every young magician offers something unique, and is truly quite talented. We look forward to seeing what type of great magic will come next!

Once Upon a Time in the Land of Minecraft - Tami Brewster

Committed campers arrived with a plan! No need for inspiration for a rebuild, teams of builders planned & built their worlds. Superb collaboration and teamwork were at play! Returning campers to this activity arrived with blueprints and a mission.

Play The Guitar Now - led by Ian Hanchet

Play The Guitar Now is 16 guitars playing the chords and tricks learned in the short (almost) two weeks since we met.

Scene! - led by Lou Standjofski

Three scenes, fourteen actors and a whole lot of hilarity! Three monologues and a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 30 minutes, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Act Like a Man* by Nicolas Doyon. See you at Open House!

Stomp! - led by Christian Ingelevics

Crash, bang, boom! Stomp is back after a one year hiatus and we are a mighty group. Four campers with zero drumming experience are expertly banging away on buckets and plastic cups with excellent rhythm. Come to our Friday afternoon performance and prepare to be amazed!

Intermediate Program period 3 12:15-3:15

Advanced Robotics - led by Kate Morris

So far, we have a guitar, a dog and several Battle Bots ready to show off at the Open House! We all worked to get our Lego Licenses by building a colour-sensor car and explaining all the different EV3 sensors and how to program them. It was exciting to open the new EV3 boxes and to be the first campers to ever use them! We are also using some of the very old RCX bricks to make funny machines...but be careful not to put them too close to your hair!

Art Through Time - led by Susan Mitchell

Paper vase drawings from Ancient Greece.... Australian Aborigine dot paintings..... Inuit spirit masks made with papier maché. These are just a few of the wonderful creations that the children have been making .

Come visit us in the art room on Friday afternoon to see the results of all their hard work.

Bollywood Dance - led by Shefale Urva

Our Bollywood group had a blast of a time in their first week of camp during which they completed learning their first choreography and started working on their second. On Thursday, they were treated to some body art where they had a chance to adorn their hands with henna. The week culminated with a session in traditional Indian cooking. Needless to say, the menu was a hit since we had to cook two batches of the item and it was all gobbled up in no time! In the second week, we aim at completing the second choreography and perfecting synchronization. Time permitting, there is a possibility of us going to an Indian restaurant for some lunch. Looking forward to seeing you all at Open House.

Comedy Workshop – Stand-up and Sketch writing - led by Kevin Gasior

Welcome to the writer's room! Our campers have been brainstorming on a daily basis to produce their very own sketch comedy show or stand-up routine. They have been creating unique characters, developing original premises, content and subsequently writing dialogue based on their ideas. The young comics got to showcase their comedy chops at The Comedy Nest, located on the third floor of the AMC Forum. That is always one of the week's highlights. With two weeks of writing, revision and rehearsal behind us, it's show time! Come to their premiere performance on Friday afternoon in room 405. This year we have some creative commercials, original character sketches and hilarious observational stand-up routines.

You never know what to expect on this 20-minute comedy journey. Please do come and join us in room 405! See the Open House schedule for more details.

Culture Club - led by Meaghan Siddall McNerney

Always ready for open-minded adventure and curious to uncover something new, our explorers have encountered a number of exciting places and met some of the people that inhabit them. We have learned many anthropological terms to guide our trips and help us find what we are looking for. As budding ethnographers, we've observed remnants of the past and experienced current happenings in Montreal at the Old Port (WHILE MEETING THE MAYOR!), danced at the Jazz Fest, learned about Chinese culture and tasted delicious treats in Chinatown, created our very own Dreamcatchers, soapstone sculptures, and tried hoop-dancing guided by representatives of indigenous communities. There is more to discover in this multicultural city, at the St Joseph's Oratory, the Marche Jean Talon and Little Italy, a synagogue and... here we come, Montreal!

Explosive Science - led by Robin Blackwell

Students began this term by learning about the concepts of forces and gravity. After learning about breaking down forces into vectors, students planned out and built their very own eggship to withstand a drop from a height of at least 8 feet. Students then went on to design and build their own bottle rocket to try and escape the pull of Earth's gravity. Students then explored the world of chemistry, including chemical and physical change. After

chemistry, we covered the concepts of scientific trial and design through the construction of different structures and also explored our universe by analyzing the layout of our solar system and by exploring our very own planetarium.

Improv Madness on Youtube - led by Lou Standjofski & Allan Romano

We're swinging from the chandeliers and blowing up the campus with ridiculous skits and improvs. It's a match made in heaven: crazy inventive skits improvised by our talented actors that are videotaped and edited by our equally talented videographers. The excitement never ends! By learning about improv and video production, we have been creating masterful videos that you're going to love and enjoy watching on our private YouTube channel. Please join us this week at Open House! Bring a usb drive to take home your productions.

Intermediate Game Programming - led by Brent Callahan

The campers are being challenged by learning a how-to-create-their-own-game-from-scratch. They seem to be up to the challenge and have already made great progress. Please bring in a usb flash drive to the computer lab room 215 on the second floor in order for them to bring their game creation home.

Kitchen Kapers - led by Kathleen Walshe-Turcotte

The afternoon cooks mixed, measured, created and tasted foods such as Individual Strawberry Shortcakes, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Watermelon

Spinach Strawberry Salad, Chocolate Krinkle Cookies, Old Fashioned Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies, Rhubarb Muffins, Apple Muffins, Mini Cheesecakes and Snickerdoodles. Vegetarian Sushi and more is on the list for this week. We will be going to China Town on Thursday for lunch.

Lights, Camera, Action! - led by Tami Brewster

An APP a day keeps the doctor away! This session allowed campers to learn or polish a new app a day. Campers created on a daily basis sharing their work & creations in a digital portfolio. APP smashing became the norm as campers stretched their creativity into new realms.

Origami - led by Christian Ingelevics

The origami students are having a great time folding paper all afternoon. Lots of transforming modular pieces, florescent flowers and animated animals. We will be presenting our final projects on Friday afternoon. Come by and check out the multitude of possibilities that folded paper allows!

School Of Rock - led by Ian Hatchet

School Of Rock will present four pieces from the golden era of rock music. Summertime Blues (Eddie Cochran), Feelin' Alright (Dave Mason/Joe Cocker), Mr. Soul(Neil Young/Buffalo Springfield) and Subterranean Homesick Blues (Bob Dylan).

Stained Glass - led by Carolina Martinez-Sierra

The kids have been introduced to the stained glass art style. We went to the Fine Arts Museum to see the artwork and including stained glass work. Within the classroom they have created artwork with the stained glass motif. They've turned mason jars into stained glass vases, and used tissue paper to create large landscape artwork. You will have the opportunity to see their beautiful work displayed at the Open House.

Whodunnit?-Forensic Science - led by Hollie Marie Bertrand

In *Whodunnit?-Forensic Science!* students have been learning the techniques that crime scene investigators use not only to find trace evidence left at crime scene, but also to analyze it. This week they have worked on mastering these techniques. During Open House, the students will demonstrate how they used these different techniques they have learnt to solve a crime.