

# Holistic, integrated Montessori education at The Greenwoods Academy



photos by  
Michel Lanthier Photography

At The Greenwoods Academy, learning is a joyful, holistic experience. Guided by the pedagogical philosophy of an "integrative education", the independent school, located minutes from the Kanata Research Park, offers a Montessori-based program for children from preschool through the elementary grades. Curriculum is appropriate to a child's developmental stages, nurturing the mind, body, emotions and spirit. "We follow the traditional curriculum of the Montessori classrooms but focus not just on the academics but the whole child," says owner and director Sharleen McCorrister. "We believe that education is a wonderful, lifelong pursuit facilitated through exploration, observation and discovery by the child."

An inclusive community that respects and celebrates all cultures, The Greenwoods Academy has a peace education component in all its curriculums that fosters peace within and without. "Our school encourages global awareness and the three to six-year-olds participate in various fundraising activities to support the school's charity, Families for Families," Sharleen explains. "Last year, the children raised \$10,000 that we used to purchase Housall shelters for people in Haiti.

"Partners In Health, an NGO I have supported through fundraising events in the U.S., was able to use one of these shelters as a mobile clinic in and around Port au Prince. Another shelter was used by a school to house its library." These humanitarian endeavors engage the children, instill positive personal values and enable them to gain valuable knowledge about life and the world.

*"I truly believe that the world is a village and it is important to teach our children to be citizens of the world. The children are encouraged to think and act both locally and globally. No matter how small the effort, children of all ages need to know that they can make a difference."*

The Greenwoods Academy owner and director Sharleen A. McCorrister

Thanks to broad and diverse curriculums, children at The Greenwoods Academy learn independence, self-awareness, tolerance and empathy for others. What's more, grace and courtesy are demonstrated and encouraged as daily practices.

There's an excellent arts and drama program, a separate music program and daily French instruction. In addition, after-school programs range from homework and science clubs to yoga, martial arts, dance and movement.

## "Where the journey begins..."

All Teachers are nurturing, experienced and fully qualified in Montessori Certification, Early Childhood Diploma and/or Bachelors of Education Degree. They come from a range of diverse backgrounds, Sharleen says, with the common denominator being a love for educating children. "The school is committed to professional development which includes workshops, PD day programming and continuing education."

The school experience is fully integrated through the participation of parents and family, thereby creating a strong, supportive school community committed to the education of its children. Parent participation in educational workshops, school events and parent-teacher interviews allows school and home to work closely together, ensuring a combined effort in supporting the educational journey of each child.

The Greenwoods Academy is housed in a "casa" that has just undergone the first phase of expansion. It has four fully-equipped classrooms that are home to its toddler, preschool, kindergarten and elementary-based programs.

The school strives to be both progressive and constant, fostering respect and responsibility to self, others and the earth. A globally aware, environmentally friendly and inspiring educational setting, The Greenwoods Academy is a nurturing school community in which children can thrive. For more information, call 613 591-3100, email [info@greenwoodsacademy.com](mailto:info@greenwoodsacademy.com) and check [www.greenwoodsacademy.com](http://www.greenwoodsacademy.com).



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