

BULL RUN OBSERVER™

Friday, May 7, 2010

WESTERN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY'S FAVORITE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Vol. 11 No. 18 ONE DOLLAR

Bristow Montessori digs in to start in fall

By REBECCA MAGUIRE
Observer staff

Bristow Montessori School will open for business this September, just in time to welcome the influx of tiny tots looking to expand their educational horizons. A ground breaking was held in March.

As the first Montessori school located in the west end, the school curriculum will aim to foster the development of children from ages six weeks to 5 years using traditional Montessori methods.

"The beauty of Montessori is the balance of allowing free will within the context of a structured setting," according to the school's vision statement. Children are encouraged to work independently and together to enhance academic and social skills, as well as improve self-image. In addition, students are encouraged to think critically, and problem solve with optimism. Above all, students are permitted to grow at their own pace, under the supervision of trained Montessori educators.

"Our neighbors in the community are a discerning and educated group. They are looking for a preschool option that will give their children a head start in life" said Sameer Patel. Patel is chairman of the school's board of advisors and a partner in the firm developing the Bristow Commons shopping center.

In an effort to meet the needs of the community, Bristow Montessori School will "marry top-notch Montessori education from credentialed and experienced teachers with the highest quality all-day optional childcare," Patel continued.

The space has been meticulously designed with its small tenants, and their parents, in mind.

The facility will be state of the art, featuring a "visually appealing" design with "elements of brick and stone" to complement the aesthetic features of the entire center, Patel said. An emphasis on the building's natural light capabilities will complement the school's courtyard outdoor play area, complete with a vegetable garden for students. An enhanced security monitoring system will seek to ease parental minds.

The school's interior will be light and bright. Ten classrooms will be fully stocked with child-sized furniture, developmentally appropriate toys and art supplies, all within reach of students on open shelving. Spaces will be open and uncluttered to permit youngsters free movement and wiggle room. The bright and cheerful classrooms will be a preschooler's paradise, with plenty of toys, books and music.

The 14,000-square-foot school will eventually be home to 200 students, Patel anticipates.

A typical day for Bristow

Montessori School students includes a flexible, yet predictable, set of activities that focus on group and solitary play, story and song times, outdoor play and creative time. The age and developmental level of children will determine their specific activities, but instructors will actively engage youngsters' minds and bodies during the course of the day.

The curriculum is designed to enhance the social, emotional, and physical growth of the children to foster independence and self-esteem, as well as provide a solid educational foundation during the preschool years.

Students also actively engage in a multitude of extracurricular activities that keep the day fun and exciting. Music and movement, language and artistic activities round out the day.

The new facility will be the cornerstone of the new Bristow Commons shopping center; centrally located at the intersection of Linton Hall and Devlin Roads.

The center will bring "an improvement to the quality of life" in the neighborhood, said Corey Stewart, chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. The new center will serve as a walkable community center with plenty of green space and well-planned amenities.

The area surrounding the center is first and foremost a neighborhood, Stewart said. Yet, "residents



©2010 Bull Run Observer

Rebecca Maguire / the Bull Run Observer

From left, Corey Stewart, chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, Mruad Pandit, Sameer Patel and Trisha Leathers of the new Bristow Montessori School recently broke ground for the facility slated to open this fall.

here are cosmopolitan and desire [certain] amenities" within walking distance of their homes, he continued.

The plan for Bristow Commons blends the needs of the community with the county's Smart Growth tactics, he noted.

Bristow Montessori will be the first business to open in the center, which will likely be completed by 2012.

Bristow Montessori School is

accepting reservations for the 2010-11 school year. Parent information sessions are conducted monthly at the Sheffield Manor Clubhouse. More information is available by phone: 703-468-1191 or online, www.bristowmontessori.com.

©2010 Bull Run Observer
All Rights Reserved.
Used with Permission.