



THE DISCOVERY MONTESSORI

August 02, 2024

Dear Parents,

The month of July is over and left us with many wonderful memories at school. The children were immersed in the art projects inspired by famous artists. The outdoor play time was lots of fun as well. Children are having a good time playing with friends, soaking in the sun and building long term friendships. Please review this newsletter in preparation for September back to school information.

Please note that the last day of summer camp is **Friday August 30th 2024**.

SOCCER SHOTS PROGRAM: We're happy to announce that the school will start the "Soccer Shots" After school program in Fall. Every week (day and date to be decided later) after school children will play soccer under the guidance of a coach from Soccer Shots. It is a wonderful program for team building among young children. Please note that this program will run for eight weeks and is ONLY offered to the children who are enrolled in our after-school program from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Parents will soon receive the link to register their child for this program.

I would also like to go over some important policies for new families joining us in September in order for them to have a safe and smooth transition for their child (and a friendly reminder to returning families): please review the fall Lunch & Snack menu and the September calendar which will be uploaded on the parent's portal of our website by the end of August. The Lunch & Snack menu is revised seasonally and the monthly calendar is revised every month. Please review our Monthly calendar to support your child's learning at home

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

To ensure your child's safety, please accompany your child until a staff member takes over the responsibility at the door. Please inform the staff of any change in routine or behavior that may affect your child's participation in the program. There will be a period of adjustment for some children as they begin the new school year. If your child is crying when you drop him/her off, it is best to bring him/her to a staff member, say goodbye and leave. We are aware of the fact that this is often a difficult task; however, it will make your child's transition to school more comfortable if you let the school staff manage this process. We are here to comfort your child and take care of them.

Your child will be released at his/her appointed school closure time. Please do not ring the bell before this time as it is disruptive to the class. Similarly, late arrivals are also disruptive for the rest of the class. Please note that the school closes promptly at 3:30: pm for the regular school hours. The after-school program runs from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The same rule applies for half day program. Please pick up your child on time.

Please let us know in advance if you wish to pick up your child in advance of his / her appointed pick-up time. After school, the child will only be allowed to depart the school with an authorized individual. Please inform the school in advance of any changes in the pick-up arrangement or in the emergency contact information. From September 2024 children arriving late will not be allowed to enter the classroom as late arrivals disrupt the classroom routine.

The cutoff time for morning drop off is between 8:30 am and 9:00 am.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Sometimes at the beginning of the school year, a child has difficulty being separated from Mom, Dad, or the caregiver. Some simple ways to help your child are as follows:

PREPARATION: During quiet times with your child, remind them that the parent/guardian ALWAYS comes back. In the car before dropping off, say, "I'll be back to pick you up after playtime." After a quick good-bye, you are both on your way.

SEPARATION: It is very important to arrive at the school on time. Please know that your child may cry for a few minutes until he/she realizes the environment is a safe and happy place. Once this realization occurs, the tears dissipate, the interest in the class-room is kindled, and the child becomes involved in his/her work. A staff member remains with your child until he/she reaches this level of calmness. It is important that your child is reassured that you will return after playtime.



THE DISCOVERY MONTESSORI

REUNITE: At the door, your child is happy to be with you and excited to share his/her day. Allow him/ her to be buckled securely in the car and avoid asking questions. Your child will share everything in her own good time. If you are still uncomfortable after a few weeks of consistency, schedule an observation of the classroom, park, and peek in the window! You'll be pleasantly surprised by what you see. You have made a wonderful decision on choosing a school. Trust your judgment and yourself -- we are all in this together!

SNACK AND LUNCH

The Discovery Montessori provides a healthy, nutritious and balanced morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack for children. We ensure that most of our fruits, vegetables and dairy products are organic for the wellbeing of our school children. Please note that, for an additional charge, the morning children can also participate in the lunch program. The lunch menu consists of a variety of foods from each of the food groups, including milk and/or water. Once a week the children will enjoy a muffin baked at the school. Your child may bring a labelled water bottle daily to school and take it back at the end of the day.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT NO PEANUTS, PEANUT PRODUCTS OR ANY OTHER KIND OF TREE NUT PRODUCTS ARE PERMITTED IN THE SCHOOL.

Please make sure to thoroughly wash hands and rinse your child's mouth if he or she has eaten any food items containing peanut butter (ex. peanut butter sandwich) before coming to school. Children with special dietary requirements will be provided the food that is mentioned in their Medical Profile.

LABELS FOR CHILDREN CLOTHING

Please label your child's belongings as the school clothing can easily get mixed up with someone else's clothing. For colder months, please do not send any scarves or mittens attached with string as these pose a choking hazard in the play area - mittens can be easily attached to the jacket with a clip. There are two label companies from whom you can order labels for your children. These labels stay on the clothing even when these items get wet and are washable (dishwasher and washing machine) and quite durable. Their web site address is:

Mabel Labels : https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/ Loveable Labels: <https://www.lovablelabels.ca/>

SCHOOL ATTIRE

The students are required to wear comfortable and appropriate clothing to school that may get dirty and grass stained. The school does not allow flip-flops, croc sandals or platforms/heels. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the proper shoes as this keeps them safe and comfortable. Please refrain from dressing your child in skinny pants or jeans as these pants make it difficult for the child to move from the floor to the chair and also creates an additional strain during the washroom routine. We also recommend that a spare change of clothes be kept at the school in case of any unexpected incidents. For the same reason we do not allow overalls at school. We also request that parents provide us with a pair of indoor shoes for the children to wear, in order to keep the classrooms clean and tidy. No jewelry is allowed around the neck or hands. Finally, parents should apply sunscreen to their child, which is good for the whole day, before dropping them off at the school in the morning. Please make sure that your child's change of clothes is in a Zip-lock bag and labelled with your child's name.

GRACE AND COURTESY

Grace and Courtesy is a major element of Montessori education. As we continue to cultivate these skills in the classroom, parents are encouraged to help their children exercise the courtesy phrases of "Thank You", "Excuse/Pardon Me" and "You are welcome", at home and at other social settings with their children. This will help children in recognizing and exemplifying these courtesy phrases, and developing social etiquette, in their social interactions at an early age.

STAGGERED DROP-OFF TIMINGS TO AVOID CONGESTION

We have observed that our parking lot becomes a challenge to navigate during morning drop off. It will get more challenging in winter times, so we are requesting you to follow a staggered drop off of the children:

- **Children Building A (Casa 1, 2) Main Building:** will use the time slot of 8:30 am to 8:45 am.
- **Children Building B (Casa 4 and 5) Back Building :** will use the time slot 8:45 am to 9:00 am.



THE DISCOVERY MONTESSORI

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: The school would like to have a smooth arrival to avoid any congestion.

Main Building - Building A

- Before school is from 8:00 am to 8:30 am
- Full day: begins at 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Morning half day: is from 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- Extended half day: is from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm (lunch included).
- Afternoon half day: is from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
- After school is: from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Back Building – Building B

- Before school is from 8:00 am to 8:45 am
- Full day: begins at 8:45 am to 3:30 pm
- Morning half day: is from 8:45 am to 11:45 am
- Extended half day: is from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm (lunch included).
- Afternoon half day: is from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
- After school is: from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Any late arrivals after 5:00 pm will be charged at the rate \$25.00 for every 15 minutes or part thereof. An invoice will be sent to you later. Your punctuality in observing the pickup and drop off timings is greatly appreciated.

Note: If there are siblings in two different buildings, please pick a time slot that is convenient to you.

Please always slow down as you enter the school driveway and still use all the safety precautions for a safe drop-off and pick up. We appreciate your cooperation.

MAIN BUILDING PICK-UP. In the event that the weather does not allow children to play outside, please pick up your child from their respective classrooms at their scheduled timings. For after school children please pick up your child from the main building front door by 5:00 pm sharp.

ABSENT CHILD: Please call the school at 905 824 9246 or email (info@discoverymontessori.ca) if your child cannot attend the school for any reason. As per the Ministry of Education's directive if your child is absent from school and no notification for his/her absence is received from the parents by 9:30 am, the school will inform the Children's Aid Society (CAS) for further action.

BUILDING READING SKILLS

We all wish for our children to succeed in life. To help set the foundation for success, parents are encouraged to read to their children as often as possible, preferably every day. If the child is already reading then it is very important to listen to his/her reading. This skill not only helps the child to learn discipline in language but also helps in building the math concepts. Regular reading at home at bedtime is a good start.

SHOW & SHARE:

The school has changed the format for show and share sessions on Monday's. No toys or stuffed animals are required for show and share. The teachers will continue to instill the public speaking skills among children and they will be given the opportunities to talk about their experiences at home during their weekends. Please do not send any toys to school on Monday's.

MEET & GREET SESSION

We will welcome all the new Families and the returning families for a Meet and Greet session on **Saturday August 17, 2024 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**. Information regarding your child's classroom teacher will be shared and discussed during this session.



THE DISCOVERY MONTESSORI

IMMUNIZATION AND ALLERGIES.

IMMUNIZATION: Please make sure your child’s immunization record is up to date and that the school has the latest medical information on record.

ALLERGIES: Parents of children with life threatening allergies/illnesses are required to contact the school office to receive and complete medical forms and update the school on any new allergies.

SLEEP REQUIREMENTS: Parents must inform the school if there are any special sleep or rest requirements regarding their child. Children 3.8 years (44 months) and over will not nap at school.

Note: It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure that medical forms, which includes all special needs, are completed and updated each year and the latest copies of the immunization record should be provided to the school.

CLASSROOMS:

We are in the process of finalizing the placement of children and staff members to each classroom. We will have the list ready on August 17, 2024 to share with the families.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

Moving forward the teachers appreciate if the parents do not bring any loot bag for the birthdays and other events of their child. Since not all the children at the school get a loot bag, it has been a challenge for the staff to comfort young children when they see that they did not get any loot bags. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support. Instead, the parents have the option to donate a storybook to your child’s classroom for everyone to enjoy the story. For the same reason the teachers will not be distributing any birthday cards for birthdays or other social events of your child. We once again appreciate your understanding.

STAFF MEMBERS 2024-2025

Ms. **Alia Jameel** Casa 1
Ms. **Dianna Phillips.** Casa 2
Ms. **Lubaina Jivajee.** Casa 4

Ms. **Rabbia Hasnat** Support Staff.
Ms. **Soudi Pouyah** Support Staff
Ms. **Kiran** Support Staff

Ms. **Afshan Masoodi.** Casa 4
Ms. **Mala Chhabra.** Casa 5
Ms. **Dara Syed.** Casa 5
Ms. **Moya Marr** Casa 5 & Music Teacher

Ms. **Adele Halabi** will be our French Teacher

Ms. **Priya** will prepare snack and lunch for children in school kitchen. Ms. **Priya** is a certified Food Handler from the Region of Peel.

I will continue in the role of a Supervisor, Team Coordinator and Director.

I hope you will continue to enjoy the summer with your family and friends.

I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Warm Regards,

Fauzia Ali