

# The Discovery Montessori Inc.

School News Letter - August 2019



## Directress Note

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are enjoying the summer months. A beautiful summer season is a great opportunity to create memories with your children. It offers us the ability to enjoy the beauty of nature whether is through a picnic in the backyard, a walk in the park, or an evening gazing at all the stars in the sky.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning students and also to our new students and their families. This is an important time of the year where I reflect on the past school year and plan for an even better next year. I am very excited about what we can accomplish together. After recharging with my family in Italy this summer, I am ready to make this our best year ever!

We have had a busy summer program at the Montessori with a group of wonderful students participating in our indoor and outdoor activities. Our wonderful Ms. Chaimaa and Ms. Fadiah have created a stimulating atmosphere for our students this summer. Ms. Khan has also been instrumental in making sure this summer a success through all her hard work. This August Ms. Khan is going to spend time with her new grand-daughter and in her place we are lucky to have Ms. Spogmai take her place.

I hope you can continue to enjoy the last few weeks of summer with your family and friends. I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, September 3, 2019!

*Fouzia Ali*

## Pickup & Drop



To ensure your child's safety, please accompany your child until a staff member takes over the responsibility. Please inform the staff of any change in routine or behaviour 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 him/her.

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 5:00 pm.** If for any reason you are picking up your child after 5:00 pm there will be a charge of \$ 1.00 per minute. The same rule applies for the children who are supposed to be picked up at 3:30 pm. Any late pick-ups will be invoiced. The main door will be closed for drop-off after 9:00am. If you are arriving late please use the back door.

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.

## 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 her that Mommy (or whoever) 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 she realizes the environment is a safe and happy place to be. Once this realization occurs, the tears dissipate, the interest in the class-room is kindled, and the child becomes involved in her work. A staff member remains with your child until she reaches this level of calm. Your child is reassured that you will return after playtime.

**Reunite:** At the door, your child is happy to be with you and excited to share his/her work. 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're all in this together !!

## Lunch & Snacks

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 well being 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 participate in a baking class and the snack for that day will be the baked goods which our senior students will have baked.



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

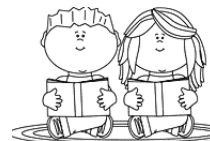
Please make sure to wash the hands and rinse your child's mouth if he or she had eaten a peanut butter sandwich before coming to school.

## Show & Share

Every Monday the Casa Children will have **Show & Tell** during "Circle Time". Your child is encouraged to bring something of their interest. Examples of items would be objects from nature, photographs, favourite pieces of artwork, and brochures from trips, a special toy or artifact that has a story. You are welcome to send a note if you would like the teacher to take a lead to help your child to get started. Please ensure that your child has the opportunity to participate in show & tell by assisting them in choosing an item of educational value. This helps the child to share and feel special about their personal belongings. It also assists greatly in developing public speaking skills at an early age.



## Friday Envelope



The children will take home finished work and newsletter or any other school information, in a string envelope during the week-end. The finished work can stay home and envelope should be returned to school on the following Monday. Parents can also use this envelope for any communication with the school. Every Friday the Casa children are also allowed to take one reading book from the library. These books are required to be returned to school the following Monday. This routine helps the children build responsibility and we ask the parents to encourage their children to manage this task. Any lost book will be charged and an invoice will be sent to the parents.

## Labels for Children Clothing



Please label your child's belongings as the school clothing can easily get mixed up with someone else's clothing. Please don't send any scarves, as well as do not attach the mittens with string as these pose a choking hazard in the play area. The mittens can be easily attached to the jacket with a clip. There is a very neat label company from whom you can order labels for your children. These labels stay on the clothing even when these items get wet.

There are two distinctly Canadian brands: These labels are washable (dishwasher and washing machine) and are quite durable. Their web site address is:

Mabel's Labels: <http://www.mabel.ca/>

Loveable Labels: <http://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/high 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. 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.

## Grace & 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.

## Our School is Fragrance/Scent Free

We have declared our school a scent and fragrance free zone. Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance free.



## Building Reading Comprehension Skills

We all wish for our children to succeed in life. To help achieve this success the parents are encouraged to read to their children as often as possible, preferable 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. A regular visit to the library or reading at home at bedtime is a good start.

The school has a "Read with me " reading program in place. The information will be sent home in the first home folder in September 2019.

## Parent Volunteers

All parents who wish to volunteer at the school activities or to accompany their child during the school field trips must provide a copy of their latest **Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)** issued by their local police authorities.

## Arrival & Departure

The Discovery Montessori strives to be a respected and responsible member of the residential community on the 9th Line area. Please respect the sanctity of the surrounding by approaching and leaving the school slowly and safely.

**Full Day:** The school begins at 8:45 am and ends at 3:30 pm.

**Morning:** The school begins at 8:45 am. Children should be brought to the school at 8:45 am and should be picked up at 11:45 am.

**Afternoon;** The school begins at 12:30 p.m. Children should be brought to the school at 12:30 pm, and should be picked up latest at 3:30 pm.

**Before and After school program:** Please observe your timings accordingly. The School closes promptly at 5:00 pm.

Please note that late pick up and early arrival will be charged if your child is not enrolled in the before and after program. Your punctuality in observing to your pick up and drop off timings will be greatly appreciated



## Absent Child Reporting.

All parents/guardians need to report their children's absences, late arrivals and/or early departures from school. If for any reason your child is going to be absent from the school you must send an email to the school (info@discoverymontessori.ca) the night before the planned absence. Or Call in the school at 905-824-9246 and inform the staff about the child's absence.

As a part of the school policy to maintain daily attendance, if the school observes that a child is absent without any notification, the parents will receive a call at their home phone or their cell phone to inquire about the reason for the child's absence.

## Keeping a Sick Child at Home.

Parents must keep their child at home if they feel that the child is displaying even mild symptoms of Fever

- Sore throat that lasts for more than 24-hours, especially when accompanied by a fever.
- A significant rash, particularly when other symptoms are present.
- Nasal discharge ( Sniffles and Runny nose)
- Ear pain
- An uncontrolled cough
- Has recently vomited or had Diarrhea within the last 48 hours.
- Severe headache, especially with a fever.
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)

Keeping your sick child home stops the spread of illness, avoids the exposure to other children and staff members, and lets your child get the care and rest they need to get well. Children should not be attending school even if they have early-onset symptoms of these illnesses. Parents' diligence in monitoring these health conditions will ensure a healthier and happier school environment for both the children and staff.

## Immunization, Allergies & Medical Concerns

**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 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.

## CONSTRUCTION ALERT



As you are aware we are in the process of building new space for our kids. There will be construction work at the back of the school property during the coming months. We have erected a yellow steel fence to separate the construction area from the school. To avoid any injury please do not let your children go near the yellow steel construction fence during pick up and drop off periods

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## MEET & GREET THE TEACHERS

Our MEET & GREET session is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

It will be an orientation day for all the new and returning students & parents.



## OUR SCHOOL STAFF



Ms. Alia Jameel & Ms. Farzana will manage Casa1.

Ms. Imtinane and Ms. Spogmai will manage Casa 2

Ms Leeda Aboutarie will manage Casa 3

Ms. Mala Chhabra & Ms. Dara will manage Casa 4.

Ms. Jana Skarecky will be conducting the Music classes

Ms Zubaiya Khan will be our support staff

Ms Sabrina Syed and Ms Priya will be our supply staff

Information about our French lessons will be provided before the school starts.

Please note that all our regular staff members are Montessori & ECE qualified and carry extensive experience in managing early childhood educational programs.

## Summer Camp Craft.



## Dates to Remember

- Meet & Greet Session Saturday August 24, 2019.

10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

- First day of school: Tuesday September 03, 2019

- Parents Information Night : Friday Sept. 27, 2019.

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (parents only)

- Field Trip: Thursday October 10th, 2019

Andrews Scenic Acres; for Pumpkin Picking

- Picture Day : November 04, 2019.

- Field Trip: Monday, 02. 2019. CrackPot Art Studio for Art classes.

- Winter Concert: December 03, 2019 .

- Fri., Dec. 20, 2019 Last day of classes

- Winter Holidays : Dec. 23, 2019 – Jan. 03, 2020 incl.

*(The school is closed)*

