

# THE DISCOVERY MONTESSORI

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December 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this newsletter as we have successfully completed our first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year! The children and the staff have enjoyed this journey, which will be a memorable one for all of us for the years to come.

Thank you for being a big part of this challenging yet rewarding time for the Discovery Montessori community. The children benefitted from the program, including cherished interactions with their peers and teachers; their many successes and accomplishments have been shared with you by their teachers during your parent teacher meetings. We are forever grateful to our parents and staff for achieving all this in these unprecedented times.

As we still see some parents forgetting to wear their masks when outdoors, we would like to remind all parents that we are required to continue with the protocol of wearing masks for pick-up and drop-off time as it is very important for the safety of your children and our staff. Please follow this protocol at all times.

The winter weather can create some icy conditions so I would urge all parents to use caution at all times - please drive slowly and carefully as you enter and leave the school premises. Please use the designated parking spots to park your vehicle as other open spaces are not allowed for parking. We would like to have a safe parking lot for the safety of our young children and the families.

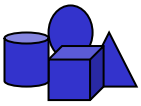
I would also like to remind parents that the front yard is **not** a designated play area for children to play. Please do not let your child play in the front area there as it is close to the parking lot and could be dangerous with winter conditions.

Please note that the pre-pandemic policy for school closure due to inclement weather is not applicable during the pandemic. On days with poor weather conditions, the school will inform the parents about the closure of the school because of the stormy or icy road conditions through email early as early as possible in the morning. Please check your in-box before you head out to drop off your child on a snowy or icy day. The staff will make best efforts to inform you ahead of time for any warning or confirmed snow storm coming our way; we will alert you to be mindful of the situation and check your email for a possible snow day.

Now that the holidays are upon us, we would like to wish all our families the best this season and encourage them to make the best out of this unusual holiday season. The staff at school are aware that because of this pandemic the children will be spending more time at home and, in preparation for this, the teachers have assembled notebooks or a list of activities that your child can do at home.

Holiday times are also times for sharing and caring and giving back to the community. Please talk to your children about the fun of sharing in the holiday times and giving back (local food banks, online donations, etc.), especially during this pandemic. While we look forward to our holiday gift exchange every year, due to the current public health concerns, we would kindly request that parents not bring any gifts to exchange among children. The school will however continue with its holiday tradition of providing a gift to each child (with appropriate protocols).

Lastly, I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to our wonderful staff, for their commitment and hard work during these months. These teachers are front line workers and responsible and dedicated educators. Their resilience and love for what they do has inspired me so much that I take great pride in each and every one of them. I salute their professionalism and I know the parents join me in expressing their deep gratitude for the way our teachers have gone above and beyond this year to ensure the students had an enjoyable experience.



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Happy Holidays, we wish you well this holiday season for all the celebrations our Discovery Montessori families celebrate.

As always, I am available to you for any further information or queries.

Regards

*Fauzia Ali*