



September 2021 newsletter – Parksville

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome the new and returning children and their families to Bright Star Montessori School. We hope that your summer holiday was nice and relaxing.

We are happy that our head Montessori teacher/manager on site Ms. Linda will return after a few months leave due to the unexpected passing of her Husband. She will be working in room #1 with Ms. Kate.

Ms. Juhee will be working in room #2 as Montessori teacher welcoming two new teachers: Ms. Rita McEwen ECE qualified with many years of childcare experience and Ms. Lindsay Steel ECE assistant and new administrator for both island locations. Ms. Lindsay can be emailed at: island@brightstarmontessori.ca

We are excited about the opening our new Qualicum Beach location as some of our children will transfer there. Ms. Holly, ECE and Montessori qualified teacher and manager of Qualicum beach location will be moving over to the Qualicum location with Ms. Michelle our ECE assistant. Both are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

For many children school is their first experience in a group situation. For this reason, the new children have been scheduled to start with a shorter day. This allows for individual attention during their process of adaptation to the new environment and the classroom community. At first your child will attend class for 1 - 2 hours. Attendance for the following days will gradually be lengthened, extending to the full session as soon your child is ready. Once she/he is ready to attend a full day class, please keep in mind that the classroom doors open at 8:00 am. It is important that you allow your child plenty of time to get ready for school so that she/he can feel calm on arrival. In order to ease the transition and support your child's independence, please respect our policy of keeping your goodbyes brief and sweet, outside the classroom, and reassure your child of your return.

New children will come at their prearrange time for gradual entry. Your child will be dismissed at the door once she/he is ready. The second day your child will stay until 12:30 pm and will have lunch at school if all is good and there were no challenges during his/her first day. If a child needs an earlier pick up time, then in that case, the teacher will give you your individual time. Please make sure that we have your cell phone number so that we can reach you if needed. It will help your child to adjust to the school routine easier and without any separation anxiety. We will try to have our new children for the full day session on the third day, unless there are other recommendations from the teachers related to your child's adjustment in previous days.

School clothing Children should wear comfortable and appropriate clothing. In order to foster independence please make sure that the clothes and shoes are easy to manage by herself/himself. Please put your child's name on all items of clothing to avoid confusion.

Your child's bag, which remains in the classroom, should contain:

- ✓ Spare pair of pants
- ✓ Spare pair of socks
- ✓ Spare pair of underwear
- ✓ Long short sleeved shirt or t-shirt
- ✓ Hard soled shoes (clean pair of shoes/runners/crocs style)
- ✓ Two plastic grocery bags labeled with your child's name

Nap time for FULL DAY and EXTENDED DAY CHILDREN Your child will need one fitted sheet for 48"x 22" (120cm X 55cm) and one blanket. These items should be labeled with your child's name. Children will not need a pillow.

Earthquake preparedness kit Each child must bring to school a large see-through Ziploc plastic bag (freezer quality is best) with the following items inside:

1. Label with child's name, address and phone number as well as parents' work name, address and phone number.
2. List inside with - 1 emergency contact 100 km outside Parksville
- 3 emergency contacts in Parksville – Nanaimo area
3. Small flashlight with batteries
4. Small "space" survival blanket (available at Canadian Tire)
5. Snack pack (crackers, canned fruit with flip-off tops). No peanuts.
6. Family picture
7. Tiny comfort toy
8. Band-aids small & large

Please bring all the above items with you on the first day, and also your Emergency Consent Card.

Snack & Lunch: Lunch with the name on the container need to be sent to school with your child every day. Please make sure that you provide your child with healthy and nutrition lunch and 2 snacks. Please do not send to school sweet lunch –muffins, doughnuts, cakes, chips, candies, and chocolates. Our teachers will not allow your child to eat these items.

We are NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Toys/ books Please explain to your child that toys should be left at home. Children are welcome to bring books or items related to the monthly theme on every Friday, for Show and Tell activity. To avoid confusion please remember to label the items with your child's name.

To access Parent's Corner on our website www.brightstarmontessori.ca the user name is brightstar and password is 3503

To contact our school: landline – 250-586-0018

school **NEW** cell phone for text messages during the day: 250-228-5923

Room #1: Ms. Linda and Ms. Kate

Room #2: Ms. Juhee, Ms. Rita and Ms. Lindsay