



## February 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that January has come to an end. It has been a month to celebrate new friends and strengthen bonds with old friends.

We are continuing our temporary sickness protocol and would ask that families please take a moment to re-read through the changes. We continue to do extra cleaning and sanitizing in the class and encourage parents to keep their children home if they are showing signs of illness.

### **Study Topics**

The children continue to work at their own pace with the Montessori materials and we have seen some great focus and concentration developing. They are becoming more independent and show greater confidence as they continue to succeed at their chosen works.

As a group our alphabet introductions continued with the letters J, K and L. We are concentrating on the phonetic sound of each letter so your child might be able to identify a letter by sound instead of by name. This is done to make the process of reading easier when the children are ready for that step.

We welcome show and tells that connect with the current letter of study and have found that items found in nature, stories or items connected to real life to be the most successful.

### **February Topics**

In February we will continue our letter studies and will continue to explore the continent of South America. We welcome any cultural material that might support the children's experience. Instead of Valentines cards and gifts for classmates we are wanting to focus on Random Acts of Kindness towards our families and friends. We have been talking a lot about "filling buckets" and what that looks like. It is based on the story Have you Filled a Bucket Today by Carol McCloud. We encourage families to continue the discussion at home and to support your children in their efforts.

### **Independence**

We are working with the children to help them learn to be fully independent with getting on their outside, winter gear. We encourage their learning by guiding the process and supporting the children in doing as much for themselves as possible. Doing the same at home when time permits would be very much appreciated.

### **Program Time Reminders**

Just a reminder that we have 3 different program end times. We really appreciate that the majority of our families are consistent in timely pickups.

If your child is registered in our AM preschool their program ends at 11:45am

If your child is registered in our Extended Day Class pick up is any time before 3:30pm

If your child is registered in our Full Day Care they need to be picked up before 5pm

**Our late fee policy is that we charge \$1.00 per minute when children are picked up late.**

Thank you for your diligence.

### **Parking lot safety**

There are a few different programs that drop off and pick up from our shared parking lot. It has been our observation that not everyone who drives into the lot is watchful for young children. Parents are asked to please walk with their child when approaching the parking lot and not to use the lot as a play area.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>: NO SCHOOL – PROFESSIONAL DAY

Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: NO SCHOOL - Family Day

### **Reminders**

\*As the weather is unpredictable please ensure that your child has full outdoor gear at school.

\*If your child is sick please keep them at home to rest to help prevent the spread of germs and to prevent your child from coming into contact with new germs

\*If your child is going to be absent please let us know before 9am.

### **No character policy - Reminder**

We have a no character policy at Bright Star Montessori. Please ensure that your child's clothing, lunch bags, backpacks and water bottles are character free. Your support is very much appreciated.

As always, the teachers are very grateful for our children and our families. We welcome your input and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Miss Linda, Miss Kate & Miss Rema

Miss Juhee, Miss Rita & Miss Lindsay

## **Qualicum Beach- February 2022**

**Dear Parents,**

January is behind us and hopefully the cold weather too. Thank you to all the parents who have been sending their children dressed appropriately for the weather each day. Also, a huge thank you to all of those who have labeled their children belongs, it helps us to make sure your child's things go home with them.

### **Things from home**

We have seen many small items from the children's home turn up in our classroom and it can be very hard to keep track of who they belong to and where they go once the children all arrive. Due to this we would really appreciate if your child could keep any small toys or play items at home. If your child wishes to bring an item for show and tell we would be happy enough for them to share an item from nature (not a toy). Ex, shells from the beach, leaves found on a walk, a bird's nest etc. These items will inspire the children to further their connection with the natural world around them.

### **Snack time**

In our Montessori classroom we offer the children the self-control over their own snack time and choices. What this looks like in the classroom is when the child feels ready to have snack they will wash their hands, collect their lunch bag and water bottle, and find a space at the snack table. The children have become used to choosing for themselves 2 items from their lunch bags to eat at snack but sometimes they need a little guidance. To help them keep being independent it may be beneficial for your child to have 2 separate snack items, so they aren't tempted to eat all their food during snack time.

### **Our works**

In January we worked on the letters G, H, I, and J. The children created many crafts associated with the letter sounds of each letter. Ex, green grapes, hearts, insect colouring, and jaguars in a jungle. In February we will continue through the alphabet hopefully with the letters K, L, and M. The children also learnt about Kandinsky concentric circle art. The children each created their own beautiful masterpiece which is on display in our hallway. The children loved the bright colours and how perfectly imperfect each painting was.

### **Important dates**

- **FEB 14<sup>TH</sup> - Valentine's Day celebration**

We will be having a small celebration, with valentines' games and crafts.

If you wish to send your child with valentines for their friends, the teachers can provide you with a class list to ensure no one is left out.

- **FEB 18<sup>th</sup> – Professional development day**

NO SCHOOL IN SESSION

- **FEB 21<sup>st</sup> – BC Family Day**

NO SCHOOL IN SESSION

### **Sickness policy**

Currently we have a zero-tolerance sickness policy in place. This is to ensure our classroom is as healthy as possible. Temperature checks are being taken at the door (please wait until your child has had their temperature taken before leaving). If any symptoms or fever that arises while a child is in care will see a call to parents for immediate pick up. All children must be 100% symptom free to return to school. No exceptions. We ask parents to use their best judgment and make the decision at home instead of bringing their child and having to be turned away at the door which can be very hard on everyone. For any questions, concerns or complaints please contact director Adriana Antonic.

Thank you,

Miss Holly  
Miss Michele  
Momma Linda