



## **AM, PM session & Extended Day Program – September 2023 Newsletter**

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to our returning and new families to our classroom community. We hope you had a great summer, and we look forward to a wonderful year together.

When school starts, there seems to be an expectation of fresh beginnings for everyone in the family. There are new schedules, new environment, new and renewed friendships. Therefore, we have taken the opportunity to enclose a few reminders of the classroom and school procedures.

**New children only!** For many children attending our school is their first experience in a group situation. Therefore, 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 hour (2 hours for the extended day children). The second day your child will stay for 2 hours (4 h for the extended day children) and will have snack at school (snack and lunch for extended day children). We will try to have our new children for the full session on the third day, unless there are other recommendations from the teachers related to your child's adjustment in previous days. 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. 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. 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.

**Please send all of the below items (school clothing and emergency kit) with your child on the first day.**

**School clothing** Children should wear comfortable and appropriate clothing. 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 and right size shoes (clean pair of shoes/runners/crocs style), two plastic grocery bags labeled with your child's name.

### **Emergency kit (new children only)**

Please provide on the child's first day of school the following items in addition to the Basic Student Emergency Kit provided by school (its price was included in the registration fee):

1. Label with child's name, address, and phone number as well as parents' work address and phone number.
2. List inside with - 1 emergency contact 100 km outside Vancouver  
- 3 emergency contacts in Vancouver
3. Family picture
4. Tiny comfort toy
5. Band-aids small & large

**Staying home when sick** Parents and caregivers **must assess their children daily for symptoms** before sending them to school. All children with common cold, influenza, stomach flu, Covid-19 or other infectious diseases symptoms **must stay home until no fever, vomiting, diarrhea for 48 hours or symptoms have improved/resolved or have been assessed by a health care practitioner to exclude any infectious diseases** (e.g. eye infection) and confirm that it is safe for the child to return to school.

If children develop symptoms while in school, one of the teachers will contact the parent/ caregiver to pick them up right away.

Please understand that when working with young children, teachers and children are in close contact most of the time. Therefore, the risk for the teachers to get sick is quite high. In case our school will experience illness amongst staff, we may need to close for operational reasons if we are unable to maintain staff-to-child ratios as required under the Child Care Licensing Regulation or ask some of the families to keep their children at home.

**Snack, Lunch (only for the extended day program), Water** must be sent to the school with your child every day. If the lunch is sent in a tall Thermos container making it difficult for the child to eat it or if for any reason the food must be transferred into a bowl, please send one with your child in a Ziploc bag so the child can take it home for you to wash it. Please put your child's name on every item (snack or lunch containers, eating tools, water bottle, Ziploc bag). We encourage parents to provide a healthy and nutritious snack/lunch. Please avoid sending any sweets to school for lunch – no donuts, cakes, chips, candies, chocolates, etc. Remember that we are a free nut environment, and we have students with severe allergies enrolled in our school.

**Birthday celebrations** Please let us know ahead of time about your plan. We recommend providing a mixed fruit cake (8 -10 inches) you can buy from Saint Germain, T&T, Maxim, Price Smart or mini cupcakes. Plates, spoons/ forks must be provided as well. If you choose to send any decorations (balloons, banner) make sure you drop them off with the cake/ cupcake.

**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. Comfort toys are allowed for a short time, only during the transition time when the child is adjusting to the new environment.

**Drop off and pick up times** Use the entrance on Rumble Street for drop off and pick up. Please DO NOT block the bus station and avoid U-turns in the front of the school for the safety of the children, yourself, and others. There are lots of parking spots along Rumble Street. It is required that your child be dropped off to school by 9:00 am/12:45 pm at the latest. For extended day children only: if your child can't be here before 9:10 or he has an appointment scheduled in the morning, please drop him off between 11:30 and 11:45.

Your child should be picked up no later than the dismissal time as following:

11:30 for AM class

3:15 for PM class & Extended Day program

by 5:00 pm for the Extended Program with Before and After School

**Newsletters & school communication** A newsletter will be sent every month (September – June) via email with information about the topic of the month, events, and reminders. Some of this information will be also posted on the school door or so please take the time to read it. Most of the school correspondence will be via email so please make sure you provide us with an email address you are checking frequently. Please inform us via email about your child's absence (preferable before the class starts & one email should be enough if the child is sick and will be home for a few days).

**To access Parent's Corner** on our website [www.brightstarmontessori.ca](http://www.brightstarmontessori.ca) the username is brightstar and the password is 3503. You can find here Newsletters, School Calendar and Parent Documents (including school policies).

**Please let us know if any of the information that you provided on the registration form changed (phone number, address, email address, persons authorized to pick up the child, medical information as allergies, medication etc.).**