

ROOM 1 NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Parents and Families,

We would like to warmly welcome all new and returning families back to school. Thank you to our new parents for attending the parent orientation evening last week. We hope this meeting was an informative way for you to get to know us better, and gain a better overview of the classroom and community at Vancouver Montessori.

September is moving through very quickly and we are happy to see how well the children are settling into the classroom. We are sensitive to the adjustment for some; either transitioning from other environments, or beginning new full day classes in Extended Day. A new school year is a transition for everyone one.

We are happy to see the practice of grace and courtesy weaving through the actions of so many children. We give Grace and Courtesy lessons throughout the day; how to help a friend, how to ask for help, how to observe a friend working, how to invite a friend to work or play a game outside. These short spontaneous lessons throughout the day offer practical ways for the children to refine the way they socialize, and to build meaningful connections as a community.

Last week as a group we observed Mid- Autumn Festival. The children were excited to share the different ways they celebrated with their families. As a craft the children enjoyed decorating their own moons with collage materials using a mixture of gold flecked ribbon, flower petals and colourful patterned paper. We enjoyed looking at decorative boxes of moon cakes that some parents had shared with the teachers. We looked carefully at delicate illustrations on the boxes and read the uplifting messages celebrating family and being together.



We like to thank you for following drop off and pick up procedures so well. A kind reminder class doors open between 8:20 am and 8:30 am. Please plan your time accordingly to arrive on time. With French classes beginning this week we would like to have the children in class and settled in order to begin. If you are late coming to school, please wait for the teachers at the door and we will quietly guide your child into the classroom.

Please remember to hold hands with your child especially in high traffic areas leaving and entering the school parking lot.

As the weather is changing, please help your child participate in wearing the appropriate clothing for the weather for playground fun. Rain jackets and rain boots on rainy days have offered so much pleasure jumping in puddles and exploring the natural playground.

This week we are observing reconciliation day/week in class by looking at indigenous art and photos of artifacts. Please note as per the school calendar school we will be closed on Thursday, September 30th in observance of Truth and Reconciliation Day. Your children are welcome to wear an orange shirt throughout the week in recognition of the "Every Child Matters."

We look forward to a wonderful school year ahead.

Kindly,
Mrs. Gish and Ms. Lin



VANCOUVER MONTESSORI SCHOOL
Room 8 Newsletter- Fall 2021

Dear Parents,

The classroom is buzzing with activity once more and we are so thrilled to be back with your children! New children are settling nicely into a routine, and returning students are re-discovering their classroom and friendships in new ways this year. We thank parents for their patience with the gradual entry process, it really helped make your child's transition into school life much easier.



We celebrated Thanksgiving digging up the potatoes the class planted last Spring. The children gathered outside around our potato pot and took turns pulling up the plants, removing the soil and excitedly finding prized potatoes of all sizes in the soil. Children observed the root systems coming out of the potatoes and helped scrub each one in the classroom. We also read Before We Eat by Pat Brisson, an excellent book that expresses gratitude for all the people and processes involved in providing us the foods we eat. We hope your children enjoyed cooking and eating the potatoes they helped produce!

We will be having an in-class Halloween celebration on Friday, October 29th. You may pack a special individual snack for your child to eat and we will all enjoy our individual snacks at the same time. Children may come to school dressed in costume that day but please be aware that they may not bring face coverings, weapons or props (objects not attached to the clothing), and their costumes should allow them to use the washroom easily and independently.

We kindly remind parents that we open the playground gate at 8:20 AM and children should be in the playground by 8:30 AM, at the latest. The time in the playground is irreplaceable for social development, gross and fine motor movement, connection to nature, English language development, and is a key component of our curriculum.

For pickup, the morning class is out by 11:25 and Extended Day children are out by 2:55. Due to a shortage of street parking, it is important that these times be followed to facilitate the 3:15 Elementary pickup, and to allow a smooth flow of school traffic.

As the weather turns colder and wetter, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately to be outside, rain or shine. Keep in mind that coats and jackets should be easy for the children to zip or button up by themselves (if you have a hard time zipping up their zipper, they probably will as well!). Please avoid coats that are too long or jackets that are too tight.

Thank you for your weekly flower contributions. Children are really enjoying the flower arranging activity, using the fresh flowers families bring to beautify their classroom.



The bi-weekly French class started at the end of September. This is a collective lesson at the end of the morning. The class always begins with greetings in French. This month, the children have worked with the names of clothes we need to wear as the weather gets colder as well as the name of the season and the weather it is outside. They practiced their numbers from 1-12, the names of colours, as well as some parts of the body. "What's missing" games and songs are part of every class. We always finish by reading a French book and singing a goodbye song.

We are looking forward to having in-person parent-teacher conferences on November 26th. A sign-up schedule on Google Docs will be sent to your email address on November 8th. In the new year we also plan to arrange observations!

We hope you enjoy the beautiful Fall colours!

Kind regards,
Ms. Hammel and Ms. Lucie



Autumn Newsletter: October 2021
Room # 2

Dear Parents,

The first month has gone by swiftly and both new and returning children have been settling nicely into the learning environment. We would like to thank all the families for your patience with our gradual entry process.

Returning students have been working on familiar activities for review, as well as beginning new lessons. Children in both classes have been participating in many lessons on grace and courtesy. This includes greeting, taking turns, taking care of self-lessons such as hand washing, how to wear and dispose of face masks safely.

Culture appreciation and awareness is an important aspect of Montessori education. We will celebrate Thanksgiving on Friday, October 8th. It will be a celebration of being thankful for what one has and the bounty of the previous year by decorating the cornucopia (horn of plenty) with fruits, vegetables, colorful fall leaves, harvesting potatoes that were planted by the second- and third-year students, and making butter from fresh milk.

We will contact you via our class email so you can sign up for the in-person November conference. The days are as follows:

- November 25th – no PM class – PM conference
- November 26th – no school – conference continues

We are looking forward to a wonderful year! Please do not hesitate to bring any questions you may have. We are happy to address them after school hours with a phone call or zoom meeting through class Email.

Thank you.

--

Warm Regards,
Miss Booshi & Miss Olivia



Vancouver Montessori School

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS KIT

(See sample in the front office. These kits must be renewed yearly).

Each child must bring to school a large see-through Ziploc plastic bag (freezer quality is best) with the following items inside (in addition to rubber-soled shoes and a labeled change of clothing):

- 1) Label with child's name, address and phone number as well as parents' work name, address & phone number
- 2) List inside with: 1 emergency contact 100 km. outside Vancouver
3 emergency contacts in Vancouver
- 3) Small flashlight with batteries.
- 4) Small "space" survival blanket
- 5) Snack-pack (cheese & crackers), canned fruit with flip-off top (No Peanuts).
- 6) Family picture.
- 7) Tiny comfort toy.
- 8) Band-Aids - small & large.

Please bring a change of clothing to be left in the classroom and a daily water bottle with the child's name on it. Children who eat lunch at school are to bring reusable containers and cutlery and a cloth placemat in their lunch kits. These will go home daily for cleaning.