Primary Environment Welcome Letter

Hello, Primary families!

I'm excited for us to start a new school year together! I look forward to connecting with many of you in a few weeks at our Back to School night, on Thursday, August 20th. We have been hard at work preparing our communities for curious minds!

I'm thrilled to be able to work alongside a team of amazing educators. I would like to welcome back Montessori Guide Ms. Meghan and her Assistant teacher, Ms. Ava (Primary 1), Assistant teacher, Ms. Madison with our Montessori Guide and PreK Counts teacher Ms. Amanda (Primary 2), and Ms. Kat who will be joining myself in Primary 3.

In a few weeks, you will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom during the orientation day. It is expected that you bring the following items prior to the first day of school so that they can be organized into your child's cubby space.

All Students:

● Several spare changes of clothing which should reflect the season and should include shirts, pants/shorts, as well as underwear and socks, as we play in dirt and water daily. Practical, loose-fitting clothing that your child can independently change into is requested. Their extra clothes should include 3 pairs of underwear, 2 shirts, 2 pairs of pants, and 2 pairs of socks.

● Indoor shoes that can be independently changed into before they enter their classroom. Inside shoes should be protective and stay on their feet. While Crocs are easy for young children to take off independently, they are not tight fitting and often children's feet slip out of them. When deciding on their inside shoes, please consider that they are also something that your child can independently put on and take off. This will allow your child to feel successful. Children need sturdy, closed-toe, supportive outside shoes - sneakers are best!

● Outdoor shoes that allow your child to run, climb, and protect their feet during outdoor gross motor play are requested. Sandals and other open-toed shoes are not appropriate for gross motor play, and again, Crocs are not a sturdy choice.

● Outdoor gear based on the weather forecast. We do strive to get outside every day; this might mean we take a rain walk or play in the snow or mud. A raincoat and boots on those days are requested and appreciated. On cold and snowy days, snow pants, coat, gloves, and a hat are needed. It is suggested that your child practice getting into their winter gear prior to the arrival of winter weather! They will feel confident and successful! Please plan on sending in rain gear when your child visits their classroom on Friday morning. Each child should have rain boots and a raincoat or poncho. If your family does not have an additional set, please let me know - we have a "lending library" of outdoor gear in many sizes that you can borrow for the season and then return to us at the end of the Spring.

● A backpack that can hold their dirty clothes and their artwork is requested. Backpacks should be large enough to accommodate a standard size paper folder for transporting work or documents back and forth to school. A larger backpack adds negligible weight but much more function)!

Full Day Students:
●Your child will be provided with a blue nap/rest bag. The blue bag will stay at school throughout the week and each Friday will be sent home to be laundered.

- If your child is napping, we will provide a fitted sheet for their cot. Please send in a blanket and something small to snuggle with if they would like. All items should fit within their blue bag. If your child still wears a pull-up while sleeping, please send 5 each week in their bag. One or two "extra" at the start of school is helpful as we'll tuck them into their Please do not send diapers - pullups allow the children to get ready for nap independently.
- Some children will be or have transitioned out of nap time. If your child is a "rester" who does not sleep in the afternoon, please send in a small labeled blanket and something small to snuggle with, if they prefer one. All items should fit within their blue bag.

Extended Day Students and Nap Students:
● Please send one additional full change of clothes in a labeled gallon Ziploc bag for nap and/or extended care accidents.

Kindly label ALL of your child's belongings! Children often do not know how to identify their possessions, especially at the start of the year or at the changing of seasons. It helps teachers greatly and avoids your items ending up in our Lost & Found. Our favorite is the label stamp because it works on socks too! Any label you choose is good. Last name stamps are fine as well to make it easier on future hand-me-downs in your family.
Namestamp Mabel's Labels stamp Inchbug labels Mabel's Labels Stickers

Please keep all personal items, toys, jewelry, etc. at home. These are often easily lost, misplaced, broken, or taken home by other children. If there is a book or special photo your child would like to share, please email your child's teacher.

This school year we are asking a few families to volunteer to take their child's classroom laundry home once a month. The new building, The Nest, will have laundry, but we're asking families to help clean the classroom work rugs once a month, as well as a few of the rest mats. If you're able to help, thank you! We will send out a laundry sign up during teacher inservice.

We will not be using water bottles during the school year, and will be returning to using individual water glasses during the work cycles.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out or find me at Back to School night from 6:30-8pm!

With gratitude,

Bonnie Cirillo
OCC Montessori
Primary Coordinator, Primary 3 Montessori Guide