

Columbia Montessori School

SEPTEMBER 2019 Part 2

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MONTESSORI CLASSES

The classes got off to an active start on September 3rd and the children are settling in nicely. Most of all new students attended the summer program which made the transition much smoother.

PARENT MEETING

Our Parent Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2019, 7:00-8:00pm. Please make every effort to attend. **This meeting is for parents only.** Please do not bring your child or children. This is not a time for individual conferences. However, if you should need a conference with your child's teacher before October please do not hesitate to call the office or speak to his/her teacher.

Thank you to everyone for being involved in your child's education. These early years lead the way to a successful and meaningful school career.

Our first parent conferences will be scheduled on **October 24th and 25th**. **More information will follow to remind you.**

ONE WAY ~~~~PLEASE

As you probably have noticed the parking lot at 9:00 am and 3:00 pm is very congested and dangerous. Please be very careful when arriving and leaving. We have had several accidents in past years.

Be sure to follow the one way signs. Speed limit signs have been posted on the pavement. **Please drive at 5 miles per hour around our parking lot.**

CELL PHONES

We ask for the respect of our children and teachers that you **kindly finish your cell phone conversations before entering our school. Please give your children and teachers your time during arrival and departure times.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Parent Meeting September 20
Larriland Field Trip October 3

PUMPKIN PATCH FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 3rd**. This is our annual trip to Larriland Farm. All children are invited to come. If your child does not attend school on Thursday you may switch a day to be able to participate.

All children three or under must have a parent provide transportation and supervision. Children not toilet trained must also have a parent attend the field trip. The rest of the children will be traveling by school bus. **More information will follow.**

EXTRA CLASSES

Extra classes will begin in October. Information packets will go home on September 19th. **Enrollment forms for Jumpbunch and Ballet must be turned in to the office by September 27** to ensure a space for your child. Jumpbunch registration can also be done online (please see the brochure). **More information will follow.**

Our classes this year include:

Music, Spanish, Art and Reading Comprehension, all available as part of your tuition.

Jumpbunch and Ballet will be available at a monthly fee set by each company who provides the service. Children must be 3 ½ years old to enroll in the after school programs.

DAYCARE SIGNING IN AND OUT

All children using before and after care must be signed in and out daily using the monitor in the main hall. If you sign in and forget to sign out you will be blocked from signing in the next morning. Please be diligent and remember to sign in and out daily.

EXTRA CLOTHING

Listen to your local weather each morning and dress your child appropriately. Maryland weather changes often.

You may want to keep a sweater or sweatshirt at the school for your child.

Remember to mark all of your child's belongings including all clothing and lunchboxes. Please have your daughters wear shorts under their skirts or dresses. This avoids seeing their underwear during floor and outdoor activities. No ballet tutus are allowed to be worn while school is in session and only acceptable during after school ballet class. Per our school policy, no super hero shirts and no light-up shoes are allowed. Also, please no sequin-flip shirts. They cause many disruptions.

Please no Backpacks! Each daycare child has a cubby that they can use to store their belongings.

BIRTHDAYS

We welcome party treats for the children's birthdays; however we must consider food allergies, sugar content and the children's health. **We do not accept cupcakes or cookies with an overload of icing for the simple reason they are very unhealthy and messy. Importantly, do not bring anything with tree nuts, peanuts or peanut oil. We have several children who have nut allergies.** Blueberry or plain mini muffins and homemade sugar or oatmeal cookies are always a special treat. Other suggestions are fruit cups (not in syrup), frozen yogurt or fruit bars or cup-up fresh fruits. **If your child has food allergies and may not eat anything except what you send from home, be sure to provide special treats for us to keep here for special occasions. Please remember no balloons, hats or favor bags. Also, no birthday cakes.** Cutting slices and serving the cake is time consuming.

PUNCTUALITY FOR ARRIVING

Punctuality is very important at this young age when we are forming good habits. We realize that at the beginning it may be difficult to get a routine going after a long summer. However, we hope by the third week of school a routine has been established to arrive by 9:00 AM. Please realize that habitual tardiness causes innumerable problems for your child which includes:

- Feeling uncomfortable coming late
- Missing crucial lessons on the morning circle
- Missing time to form relationships with the teachers and classmates during discussion time

Your late arrival interrupts circle time and other classes. Habitual tardiness may result in withdrawal.

GREEN LUNCHES

The world talks about "sustainability" and "footprints". At Columbia Montessori School we feel we should be at the forefront of these initiatives in teaching these values to our young students. We would like to see our school families make an effort on ending dependency of plastic Ziploc bags and move away from using paper napkins. **We recommend sending your child's lunch in reusable containers and sending a washable cloth napkin.** However small the contribution, sustained and directed efforts make a difference. We thank you in advance for helping us make a difference.

ILLNESS POLICY

Do not send a child to school with any of the following symptoms; fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, heavy congestion, lethargy or any other condition needing rest or close supervision. We believe that a child who is well enough to come to school is also well enough for normal activity both indoors and outdoors. **Your child must be in normal health, completely clear of the aforementioned symptoms for at least 24 hours before returning to school.**

PUNCTUALITY FOR PICKING UP

Dismissal times are 11:30 and 3:00 unless you are enrolled in the after school program. A late pickup fee will be charged after 15 minutes. Please see the Parent Enrollment Handbook for policy on late pickup after 6:00 PM.

