



Dear Montessori Family,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

Mark your calendars to join us for the **Primary Meet and Greet** on **Thursday, August 31**. Families with last names beginning with A – J are invited to come anytime between 10:00 – 10:45 am for a 15-minute visit. Families with last names beginning with K – Z are invited to come anytime between 11:00 – 11:45 am for a 15-minute visit. We look forward to seeing you and your child for this brief visit and introduction to the classroom. The teachers will still be in the process of setting up so it is helpful to prepare your child ahead of time that they will see the general layout of their classroom, but there will not be work available just yet. You are welcome to drop off your school supplies at that time or you may wait until the first week of school.

Our return to school begins with **Phase-in**. The phase-in period is a time when children are slowly introduced into their new school environment. It serves as a stabilizing period in which the children and teachers get to know one another. During this transition, we foster security and comfort in a smaller group before the whole class meets. Phase-in allows the new children to get an overview of how things work in the classroom, and the returning children receive reinforcement of the previous year's ground rules. The Phase-In Schedule is posted here.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, please review the **WHMS Family Handbook**.

Children who are enrolled for the full day but are not yet four years old, nap daily. Please refer to the **nap information** form for details on our routine and necessary nap supplies.

Full day children will eat lunch all together as a class. Please pack a cloth placemat and napkin that can be easily folded inside their lunchbox on top of their food items. If utensils are needed, please provide reusable ones. These will be the first items that your child will remove as they set up their eating space for their meal.

All Primary students need to have an open-top tote bag they can carry independently and is large enough to easily fit their lunch box, folder, and any other necessary items. We find an open-top bag facilitates your child's independence as they can pack and unpack the bag on their own within a short amount of time. We will send soiled items home in your child's tote, so we recommend a daily tote bag check. Please do not send a backpack at any time during the school year.

In addition to the above listed items for your child, we request classroom supplies which you will find on a separate classroom list.

Please label all your child's personal belongings to ensure items can be easily returned to them.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Warmly, The *Primary Faculty*