



Mountainview Montessori News

15225 – 98 Avenue, Surrey BC V3R 1J2

Tel: 604-589-1193 Fax: 604-589-5000 Email: mountainview@surreyschools.ca

www.surreyschools.ca/schools/mountainview

MS. CHERYL RUTHERFORD – PRINCIPAL
NEWS # 01

MS. LORI BAIRD – HEAD SECRETARY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

In our Montessori school we learn together peacefully and responsibly by caring for each other and the world.

Message from Ms. Rutherford

The Mountainview Staff would like to welcome all of our students and their families to the new school year at Mountainview Montessori.

Our welcome back orientations yesterday and today went very well. There were many excited students glad to be back at school after a long period of time away. As well as reassuring students and easing concerns, teachers covered important health and safety information related to new routines including:

- Why our orientation groups were so small
- Class cohorts starting Monday
- Physical distancing
- Physical spacing
- Frequent hand hygiene
- Arrival and dismissal
- Washroom procedures and limits
- Play areas
- School supplies, planners

Whether you'll be sending your children for face to face instruction every day or starting off in the Blended Transition program, we are looking forward to working with you and your children this year. Although school will look a bit different, we are just as committed to ensuring the same positive, engaged and connected school community we are all accustomed to. Welcome to all of our new students and families. We look forward to getting to know you and your children.

Please know that all school communication (newsletters, etc.) is sent electronically. Be sure to sign up on our school website and check your email. If your email address changes, please make sure to add it on our school website and let the school office know your new email address. Similarly, if your phone number changes, it is extremely important to relay your new contact information to the school office so we can update our records.

Return to School Safety Protocols in Place

- Parents and caregivers are responsible to assess their child(ren)'s health each day before going to school. If your child is experiencing symptoms of common cold, influenza, Covid-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases, please keep your child home until there has been an assessment by a health care provider AND the symptoms have resolved. I have attached a COVID Daily Assessment sheet to this letter
- All students, staff and family members **must** stay home if they are sick.
- Families will be contacted if your child becomes ill while at school. Please make arrangements to pick your child up as quickly as possible in this event.
- Unfortunately, for this year, no parents or visitors are allowed in the school buildings as per Public Health guidelines, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- No dropping off of student lunches or other items
- Physical distancing in common areas outside of the classroom by students and staff
- Physical spacing (one metre) in all classrooms/cohorts
- Regular, scheduled hand washing and hand sanitizing
- Students will be organized into classes/learning groups and anyone working with students outside of these groups will be expected to wear a mask and/or maintain physical distance
- Masks may be worn within one's cohort but will be encouraged when outside of one's cohort and physical distancing of 2 metres is not possible
- Each student and staff member will receive 2 reusable masks
- Students will learn to follow good hygiene practices (coughing into elbow, avoid physical contact, wash hands frequently, maintain social distancing)



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Return to School Safety Protocols in Place con't.

- Increased outdoor learning and play (dress appropriately for the weather)
- No large gatherings such as school assemblies or school events (These may be shared digitally)
- Limited shared classroom resources (any shared resources will be disinfected)
- Fabric and plush items removed from classrooms (pillows, toys, etc.)
- No sharing of food including lunches or snacks. For this year we are asking that **No birthday treats be brought to school**
- Teachers will be supervising their classes when children are eating their lunches
- More frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces throughout the day and evening in addition to regular cleaning
- We will have a playground rotation set up for recess and lunch to maximize physical distancing and to kids have the opportunity to play safely in a variety of areas every day

Class Placements

Teachers will be working on class placements this afternoon and we will be ready to begin with classes on Monday. Due to the other options available to families this year, we have fewer enrolling divisions and organizational plans and staffing assignments have changed. Once students start in their class (cohort) on Monday, they will not be switched as we are unable to have kids cross cohorts into another group once placed. We appreciate your understanding. We will have twelve regular divisions (2 Kindergarten, 5 Primary, 3 Intermediate and 2 6/7 classes). This will mean that for this year we are having to reorganize some of our classes. We have done our best to keep things as stable as possible but for some of our families, your child may not be in the class they were in last year or expected to be in this year.

Families whose children will be moving to new classrooms will receive an email today or Monday indicating which teacher your child will be with this year.

There is a myriad of additional information online regarding the Health & Safety protocols in schools:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/Back-to-school-resources-for-parents-and-teachers#.X1rCCmXSfq3>

Video Q & A with Dr. Ingrid Tyler, Fraser Health Medical Health Officer
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/back-to-school-resources-for-parents-and-teachers/back-to-school-covid-19-video-questions-and-answers#.X1p5gnmpE2w>

Please note: once children are in assigned classes we will be unable to move them from one cohort/classroom to another as per instructions from the Ministry of Health.



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Meet Our Staff...

Classroom Teachers:

Ms. Moro
Ms. L'heureux
Ms. Grata
Mr. Stumpf
Ms. Butler/Ms.Tratch.
Ms. Lopez
Mr. Au
Ms. Mairs
Mr. Henderson
Mr. Milsted
Ms. Richmond/Ms. Stewart
Ms. Pouwels
Ms. Kim
Ms. Dueck
Ms. Vakili

Non-Enrolling Teachers:

Ms. Nathan – Library
Ms. Tratch – Music
Ms. Pataky– Grade 7 Band
Mr. Lau – Integration Support
Mr. Lee – LST (Learner Support Teacher)
Ms. Matheson– LST
Dr. Makkar – Counselor
Ms. Khaira – Speech Language Pathologist
Ms. Liscombe – School Psychologist

Support Staff:

Ms. Elliston– Child and Youth Care Worker
Ms. Kaur – EA (Educational Assistant)
Ms. Harding – EA
Ms. Naidu – EA
Ms. Saeed – EA
Ms. Sandhu – EA
Ms. Sull – EA

Office Staff:

Ms. Lori Baird – Head. Clerk

Custodial Staff:

Mr. Rommel – daytime

Mr. Rusty – evening
Ms. Maddala - evening

Noon Hour Supervisors

Ms. Henderson
Ms. Jennifer
Ms. Lynn
Ms. Susie

Monday, September 14

Your child(ren) should return to the same meeting place as Thursday/Friday.

Primary students please arrive at 8:30am

Kindergarten students please arrive at 8:45am

Intermediate students please arrive at 9:00am

Teachers will be outside to greet students. Ms. Nathan and Ms. Tratch and Ms. Rutherford will be outside to help children/families who received an email that they are moving to a new class this year.

At the end of the day, the teachers will take their class outside to their morning meeting spot.

Parents of Primary students, look for your child outside near the basketball court

Parents of Intermediate students, look for your child outside in the courtyard.

We will keep the same staggered start times for the first week of school – September 14 - 18

2:30 pm Dismissal

We ask parents to pick their child(ren) up promptly at 2:30 pm every day this year. Please physically distance yourself from other waiting parents. If your child(ren) are older and go to and from school on their own, it is imperative that kids head straight home at 2:30 pm. It is risky for students to be unsupervised and hanging around with others. For our families who drive their children to and from school, we are asking families to **pick up students promptly at 2:30 and head home.** This will be safer for everyone.



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School Supplies and Planners

Students in Grades 4 – 7 should bring their school supplies on Monday, September 14th. Please ensure everything is labelled with your child's name. Intermediate school supply lists are still on our school website. Go to www.surreyschools.ca/mountainview.

Primary students do not need to bring any supplies as your teachers have them already. Parents please pay the \$45.00 Montessori school supply fee on line. This will be available in the next few weeks, watch for further information.

School planners are delayed and we will likely receive them at the end of September. Once they arrive, I will let you know that they are available for purchase at the cost of \$2.50 each. Kindergarten children do not need a planner.

A Reminder - Our Bell Schedule Effective Monday, September 21, 2020

8:15 – 8:30 am - Morning Supervision

8:30 am - Welcome bell

Morning Session

10:30 – 10:45 - Recess (outside)

Mid-Morning Session

11:45 – 12:30 - Lunch and outside play

12:30 pm – Afternoon classes begin

Afternoon Session

2:30 pm Dismissal

2:45 pm – Outside supervision ends

Parent Drop-off and Pick-up

There is no drop-off or pick-up in the staff parking lot.

Families with children in **Primary Grades** are encouraged to drop off kids from the Johnston Heights Parking lot adjacent to the Primary Building and playground area. Families with children in **Intermediate Grades**, we encourage you to drop off your students along 98th Avenue in front of the school as it is closest to the Intermediate Building. **Please be mindful there is no parking on the corner and we ask that you do not drive into or park in the staff parking lot.** When the weather is great we encourage as many parents as possible to walk their children to school.

As much as possible, for this year, we encourage parents to drop off children (especially our older students) at school and then leave. The fewer adults we have on the school grounds the better it is for everyone.

Lastly, I just want to say that I understand this list of precautions is a big ask for everyone and it goes against all we hold dear in our Montessori family. **Please know this is not forever - it is just for now!** Our Mountainview staff all want things back the way they were as much as you do! For now we all need to work together and do our best to ensure that our school remains a healthy and safe place for our children, their families and our staff to learn, work and play.

Thank-you,

Ms. Cheryl Rutherford
Principal