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### **NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

# PICTURE RETAKES

 The photographer is back on **Thursday morning, November 7** for photo retakes for anyone who would like another try at a school picture (if your child was absent during the first photography session or if you were not happy with the first set of photos). Please let the teacher or office know that you would like a retake. We need a minimum of ten children to participate in retakes in order for the photographer to come back to Montessori, otherwise “retakes” can be at her studio in Kirkland. Note that there are no retakes for the class photos, only individual child photos.

# PARENT MEETING

 Our first parent meeting was held on Thursday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. Here is a brief summary of what we discussed during this meeting:

**Artemis (Daycare Director) Modern parenting, do parents feel guilty for not spending enough time or money on their children?** Times have certainly changed and the young parents of today feel an enormous amount of pressure to be perfect! Artemis explained that this is due to the internet. The interesting thing about all of this is, that a recent article published in the New York Times reported that today’s parents spend the same amount of time with their children as a stay at home Mom of the 70’s. This may seem bizarre, but the truth is that children were freer back then and often would be out of the home playing from early morning until supper time. This despite having their Mom at home. At the end of the day, research has found that children with parents that were trying perfection, were actually more stressed. In the end, it is more important to just enjoy your children and spend time with them.

**Samantha (Classroom 3 teacher): Teaching Emotion and Inclusion:** Samantha opened her presentation by stressing the importance of talking about your feelings, regardless of your age! With children however, it is important to identify the emotion. For that Samantha shared a Chart that she uses in her chart which outlines your emotions by comparing how you feel to a colour. On inclusion, Samantha explained to parents that she speaks with the children that in class we are all a team and we must include each other in activities.

**Herla (professeur de la prématernelle): Apprentissage de l’écriture chez les enfants:** At Montessori, we begin tracing letters with the children. We concentrate on having the children practice the form of each letter. Herla advised the parents that if they wish they may also practice at home as well. The goal is to have the children know all of their letters and be able to spell their names at the end of the school year.

**Tanya (Classroom 5 teacher): Q & A:** Tanya provided the parents with an overview of her classroom and the fact that the smaller group provides the opportunity to be able to do more with the children. For example, today, classroom 5 went for a walk! Overall, it is much more rewarding for both the children and teachers.

**Our second “Wine and Cheese” parent meeting will be on**

**Thursday, November 14, 7:30 pm.  *(Meeting will adjourn at 9pm sharp)***

***All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a very pleasant evening out sharing ideas with other parents. Guaranteed you’ll be glad you came ☺***

***Agenda Thursday, November 14***

1. Celebrating the holidays and other upcoming events
2. Les apprentissages et les expériences vécus par l’enfant en classe façonnent-ils son développement global (Herla, Classroom 1 teacher)
3. Epigenetics explains how early experiences can have lifelong impacts (Artemis, Daycare director)
4. Teaching toddlers a second language (Alana, Classroom 4 teacher)
5. Bringing up children with self esteem (Samantha, classroom 3 teacher)
6. Q & A with Tanya (Tanya Classroom 5 teacher)
7. Open topic discussion

# OUTDOOR PLAY

We go outside **as often as we can** so please dress your child well:

* If your child has sensitive skin, a little Vaseline applied in the morning at home to his/her face will help protect the skin from chapping.
* Snow pants or slush pants (a pair can be left at the school)
* Mittens (No gloves for the 2 and 3-year-olds please). Mittens can be attached (clipped) to the jacket sleeves. (For classroom 3 only we prefer a string through the jacket with the mitts attached to the string)
* A neck warmer - not a scarf. Scarves are dangerous on the playground equipment.
* Remove strings (ties) from jackets, or make them very short. This is also for safety on the playground.
* Boots should be labelled with the child’s name, on the outside if possible, as many boots tend to look alike.

Please note the school policy is **that we do not** keep children indoors if they have a cold. If the child is too ill to be outdoors, then he/she is too ill to be at school. Please do not ask the teachers to keep your child inside when everyone else is going outdoors to play. In the winter it is very healthy to play outside, away from all the viruses!

# SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The teachers and children are extending a special invitation to you to join us for our class holiday celebration. The children will have a short “Christmas show” presentation for you. Please arrive on time as it is basically impossible for the children to wait and the “shows” will start at the time indicated ☺

**You are asked to bring a small gift (value around $10-$20) for your own child**, which “Santa Clause and the Elves” will hand out during the party. Please bring the gift in to your child’s classroom at least one week before the party, so that the teachers can have everything organized.

For this occasion, you will also be asked to bring a plate of party snacks (cheese cubes, vegetable sticks, sandwiches, squares, cookies, etc.) for the children and adults at the party. There will be a sign-up sheet on the classroom door. ***PLEASE remember that it is not permitted to have any food containing NUTS or traces of nuts in the school.***  This is especially important during the party where it is difficult to supervise what the children are eating.

The Christmas parties will be on the following afternoons: (Children who do not usually attend on these days are requested to join us in the afternoon with their parents)



**Classroom 1, Thursday, December 12 at 1:45 p.m.**

**Classroom 2, Thursday, December 19 at 2:15 p.m.**

**Classroom 3, Tuesday, December 11 at 2:45 p.m.**

**Classroom 4, Wednesday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Classroom 5, Wednesday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.**

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR MONTESSORI**

**Montessori Pointe Claire Holiday calendar:**

**Monday, December 23, 2019, ............................................. open**

#### Tuesday, December 24 to Friday, December 27, 2019 ........ closed

**Wednesday, January 1, 2019................................................... closed**

**Thursday, January 2, 2020.................................................... open**

 A reminder: Please note that school fees are calculated for 41 weeks from the start of September to June 23, which does not include the week the school closes at Christmas or the last week of June.

### Image result for inspirational quotes for kids**CHRISTMAS GIVING-BRING ANY USED OR NEW CHILDREN’S CLOTHING OR TOYS TO DONATE**

Every Christmas we also organize a donation project that we can feel can be explained to the children, and we of course again ask for the parents’ help to make this a success. Our preference always is to donate where we know that what we give will be going directly to those who need it. This winter we are asking that when you come for your child’s Christmas party (or anytime until December 20th), you bring in any children’s clothing or a toy(s) –new or used- so we can help those less fortunate in Montreal. Clothing and toys will be distributed to the Children’s medical clinic that we support in the Philippines and to the Mission Cattolica Latino Americana de Montreal which supports new immigrants and refugees arriving in Canada; many with absolutely no possessions. T