



Parents,

As we get closer to the new year and the colder season we wanted to send a few important reminders. As a general philosophy, independence is encouraged across all our programs. With this in mind, we feel it is important for us to set expectations and guidelines that will lead to successful outcomes in the classroom.

***School Bags:** Being able to care for and organize your belongings is an important first step towards independence. The only items needed and that should be brought to school are the following: folders on the first day of class for the week, lunch box if your child stays for lunch, and a hat and pair of gloves. This allows for enough room for any extra clothing needed due to accidents. Toys, stuffed animals, and water bottles (unless your child needs one for lunch) are not needed and should be left at home. Water is always available in the classroom and is a part of our daily self-care routine. A good rule of thumb to remember is that any extra items in your child's bag can become a distraction and/or hinder their success when retrieving or putting items in their bags as needed throughout the day.

***Winter Coats:** We understand the car seat safety concerns of wearing winter coats in the car during colder months. We will do our best to remember which child wears their coat in the car and which does not. **We ask that you refrain from sending 2 coats to school with your child.** We are finding that it is difficult for the children to manage. Our goal is to go outside daily. Please send their outdoor coat to school with them each day.

***Snow Pants:** We feel it important to go outside whenever possible. We ask that you send snow pants, hats, and waterproof mittens to school each day your child attends in a separate bag your child is able to manage. Those children who stay a full day will need 2 pairs of mittens for days we are able to go outside both in the morning and the afternoons. I have included a link for a style of bag that works well for children across all our age groups allowing for independence. [Snowpant bag](#)

Toddler Parents: As much as we love heading out in the snow, a 3-hour program does not always allow for time to take the toddlers outdoors. Gross motor time will continue to be a part of each day, however Michelle will give more guidance on outdoor play after the first snowfall.

***Please Label:** When sending snow clothes to school it is important to label all your child's belongings. On any given day we could have 2 or 3 of the exact same pair of size 5 Cat and Jack boots.

Outdoor Shoes: During the winter months it is suggested that your child wear their snow boots to school so they are not managing 3 pairs of shoes throughout the day (indoor, outdoor, and snow boots). Since all students change into indoor shoes we do not have to worry about wearing boots or tracking snow/water through the classrooms.

As always we thank you for your assistance in guiding your children towards a path of independence when away from home. These are essential skills in their development, self-confidence, and self-esteem. Please begin practicing these skills at home. Children feel an amazing sense of accomplishment the first time they are able to dress themselves for the outdoors. All of our Primary students and many toddlers are able to put their coats on (using the "montessori flip") and their shoes at this point in the year. We encourage them to dress in the following order so they are successful; snowpants, boots, coat, hat, and gloves. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher.

For your reference this document can be found on our website parent page.

Thank you,
Jodi