

CASA ORIENTATION

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

- Encourage your child to get a good night's sleep.
- Encourage your child to eat a nutritious breakfast.
- Your child may be feeling a range of emotions regarding a return to school and in-person learning. Listen to your child, ask them how they are feeling, and validate their emotions.
- Prepare your child by explaining what is going to happen. (Ex. We will park the car, you will walk on the path, you will go into the playground etc.) Go through your routine for the first day of school ahead of time and talk them through what to expect.
- Prepare your child for the expectation that they will walk up to school independently beside you.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED?

- Indoor shoes to be kept here that are gym-appropriate. Please limit to a single pair.
- A reusable placemat to be used for lunch on a daily basis.
- An extra set of clothing including socks, individually labelled, is to be kept at school.
- Please ensure that your child dresses in weather-appropriate clothing, including layers to keep them warm and dry to accommodate changing weather conditions.
- A respectful head-covering to be kept at school for Jewish rituals.
- A white shirt to wear on Fridays for Kabbalat Shabbat (the ritual of welcoming Shabbat).
- We encourage the giving of tzedakah (charity) on Fridays for Kabbalat Shabbat.
- A water bottle that they can carry, open and close independently.
- A weekly flower list will be sent out in September. Children will take turns bringing in flowers as a way to care for their environment and to embellish our Jewish rituals.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS AROUND FOOD?

- Per CWELCC, a kosher dairy hot lunch is offered to all Casa students daily. If you wish to opt out of this service, please contact the office. Please see below for information on packed lunches and snacks should you decide to provide your own food items. **Lunch must be packed with an icepack and all items must be clearly labelled.**
- We are a **nut-safe school** and do indeed have children in the school with serious allergies. It is very important to make sure that **no peanuts or tree nuts**, or anything containing these ingredients, are sent to school. This information must be shared with anyone who may be helping to prepare and pack lunches for your child.
- As a Jewish school, we ask for **kosher-style lunches** to honour both Jewish customs and different practices at home. Specifically, please avoid shellfish or pork, as well as meat and milk in the same meal.
- A healthy snack will be provided on a daily basis.

HOW DO BIRTHDAYS WORK?

- In Casa, children are encouraged to bring a gift such as a plant, a book or another meaningful cultural item to present to the community.
- Your child may bring fruits or vegetables to share with the class. We ask that pre-cut fruit be store-bought. If you would like to provide whole fruits, we will cut them at school.
- Your child's teacher will be in contact close to your child's birthday to invite you to the classroom celebration.

HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AND KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CLASS AND WITH OUR CHILD/REN?

- In addition to our occasional class emails, we are happy to communicate with you via private email to keep us up to date or to express minor concerns. We will also call you within the first few weeks of school to say hello and check in. Please keep in mind that the window for a response to email is 48 hours, so if you have a pressing issue, please contact the Front Office at (416) 784-5071 ext. 1.
- **Please come to our Parent Evening for an opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of the Casa classroom.**
- We will be using **Transparent Classroom** to send you pictures and messages about what your child is working on.
- **Parent-Teacher conferences will be held in the Fall and a Parent-Teacher check-in in the Spring.**
- We are available to book individual meetings as needed.
- You will receive Progress Reports in December and June.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch. We can't wait for the new school year to begin, and we look forward to seeing many of you and your children over the coming days!