



St. Christopher's Montessori School September Newsletter

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Upcoming Dates:

September 21 – Back to School Get Together: We'll meet at Windsor park playground at 3:30. This is an informal time for everyone to gather and catch up after the summer break. Everyone is welcome including siblings.

September 26 – School photos: Afternoon classes (info packages will be sent home)

September 27 – School photos: Morning classes and Kindergarteners (info packages will be sent home)



Important

The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative

You may have heard about the Ministry of Children & Family Development's child care fee reduction initiative announced last spring. While we support any initiative to help parents, many factors about the program remained unclear. Some centres that applied for the program were rejected. Miss Claudette and I have spent the past few months in correspondence with the Ministry and other schools to work out the logistics.

The good news is that St Christopher's has been approved to participate in this program! This translates to a monthly fee reduction of **\$50 for three and four year olds and \$100 for Kindergarten children**. You will notice an adjustment on your September bank withdrawals. This will also include a retroactive reimbursement for April, May and June if your child attended last year. For those of you who have alternative payment methods - such as prepaying for the whole year - Miss Claudette will be in touch with you.

The fee reduction levels are determined by the Ministry. The school is given an equivalent increase via a Child Care Operating Grant to offset the reduction – so there is no concern about our school's budget being negatively impacted. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Ricky.



*Interested in serving on the School's **Board of Directors**?*

Board members serve for a two-year term, with meetings held monthly at the School.

*For more information or to apply, please email board@stcmontessori.ca
To apply, please submit a written submission expressing your interest and a copy of your resume by September 30.*

Parking: Please respect parking and zoning bylaws. Last year a vehicle at pickup time was parked illegally in front of the dentist office. The dad became verbally abusive to the dental staff when asked to move his car. This is unacceptable and I will report any abusive parent to the authorities.



Dogs: Remember that our canine friends are NOT permitted on school grounds. Please don't tie up dogs right outside the gates; use the bike rack in the parking lot if needed.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities will be posted throughout the year.



Summer Renovations: The school was a hub of activity throughout the summer with several projects made possible by your generous fundraising donations.

Wasp Nest: Don't be alarmed by the large wasp nest in our maple tree! It has been treated and is dormant. It will disintegrate over time.

Butterfly Garden: The final stages of our butterfly themed patio garden are underway. This promises to be a lovely memorial to Aubrey and Chloe. We'll remove the cones soon and you can walk on the ground cover as it grows in.

Swings: As part of our multi-year playground upgrade, our tired swings have been removed. The wood framing has been slowly rotting, becoming unsteady and a home for wasps. In addition, a few years ago VIHA licensing limited our frame to only two swings. This is a lot of real estate for only two children to enjoy at a time while others sit and wait their turn! We'll be transforming this area into an interactive playspace that more children can enjoy at the same time. If your child asks about swings, there are plenty of parks with swings to enjoy.

