



SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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Dear Parents,

Covid-19 case numbers are continuing to rise and schools show no sign of re-opening this school year. Mother of Carmel, with the best interest of the families in our care as our continued priority, will be moving forward with our Kindergarten Program.

We believe that children need to be around other children and benefit most from in-person learning. By offering Junior and Senior Kindergarten here at the Centre, we will be offering a safe, worry free alternative for those whose children will be starting JK or SK this school year. Our Kindergarten classroom would offer a safe, controlled environment, rich in learning and taught by trained staff and following provincial curriculum, and thereby provide an option to your children attending a Kindergarten program in a local elementary school.

As you are aware, Junior and Senior Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in Ontario and in these uncertain times, it would be the safest option to have your child enter the system at a later date.

The Pandemic and its uncertainties have brought about valid fears and taught us to re-evaluate. Many of you have voiced your concerns about sending your children to school for in-class or stay home for online remote learning. As a result, we have developed our Kindergarten Program

We have put together a curriculum which is parallel to the current Provincial expectations. Children will have all the structure and experiences they would have in school, but in a safe environment, within our Centre. Consider the following:

- 1) The Centre is privately owned and operated by The Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which allows us to provide a higher degree of disinfection and hygiene all around and in this, more accountability. This is critical during Covid-19.
- 2) There is a healthier level of daily communication with staff, thereby keeping you updated on your child's progress, needs and experiences.
- 3) There would be no worries for packing lunches and snacks as this would be included in the single fee of \$200 per week.

- 4) In Schools, ratio is currently 1 teacher to 24 students on average. We can **provide a ratio of 1- 10 students**. Smaller class size ensures a better relationship, better learning.
- 5) Children would only travel in their own family vehicle. There would be no need for an additional school bus cohort to consider. This eliminates the need to expose your child to dangerous and hazardous microbes.
- 6) There would essentially be only 1 drop off and pick up for families, eliminating the worry of having your child travelling by bus and/or buses being late, or worse yet, wrong drop off's taking place.
- 7) No additional worries for PA Days, March break or other days off as this would be included as well. Basically, learning takes place all year round, and a full day's care from 7am to closing.
- 8) Your children are already familiar and secure with the Centre and staff. They know they are loved and welcome here.

We do require to have a minimum of 10 children attending. These children would be of Jk/Sk age (4-6 years). The room would run on its own schedule, curriculum would follow a set schedule and include learning experiences in language arts, mathematics, science, art, and music. With cross learning opportunities taking place in geography, history, religion and social studies.

We believe that this would be a wise effort, not only to protect your child and family from Covid-19 exposure, but to provide your child with a rich learning experience.

Security and a sense of belonging are two of the strongest building blocks we can provide our children. Continuing their formative years in a place they know so well would nurture this.

Please contact us by either email or phone to communicate your interest, concern, or questions. We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Sr. Elsie D'Cunha
Director