



### **Information for Parents in Ms. Goya, Ms. Lynzie & Ms. Shallon's Casa Classroom**

We are so happy to have your child in our classroom for this school year, 2024-2025! Please let us know if you have any questions about the following information and thank you for your cooperation on these matters.

#### **CASA TEACHING STAFF:**

**Our Casa Directress, Ms. Goya**, has completed her Montessori Casa Director training from the North American Montessori Centre and has also completed her Casa Director accreditation through The Montessori Teachers College. Ms. Goya also has certification for Montessori Music and Art from The Centre for Guided Montessori Studies. Ms. Goya received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Tamkang University in Taipei, Taiwan and completed her ECE (Early Childhood Education) Certificate through SIAST. She has worked with children since 2000 in Kindergarten and Elementary schools and was also an EFL teacher overseas. She has been working on Decorative Painting for many years and has acquired a teaching certificate for decorative painting. You can see some of Ms. Goya's beautiful art work in our school yard and in our classrooms! Ms. Goya's hobbies are painting, gardening, biking, camping and hiking. Ms. Goya has been working at Brilliant Star Montessori School since 2013!

**Our Casa Assistant, Ms. Lynzie**, has completed her Montessori Casa Assistant diploma from The Centre for Guided Montessori Studies. She has also graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. majoring in Kinesiology with Great Distinction. Through the years, she has been involved with physical activity programs for children of varying ages and abilities. Some of these programs include PAAL (Physical Activity for Active Living), Special Olympics and teaching dance for 7 years. She has taken training through "The National Coaching Certification Program" and "Sports Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan" for multi-sport training and safety certifications. Ms. Lynzie has been the Elementary Physical Education Instructor at our school for five years and the Casa assistant for one year. She is an energetic individual who is passionate about a healthy lifestyle and having fun through physical activity. She is overjoyed to be returning back to the Casa assistant role this school year.

**Our Casa Assistant, Ms. Shallon**, attained a B.Ed from the University of Saskatchewan in 2020. She has many years of experience working with children in various settings, including instructing Irish dancing and leading environment-based youth programs at a non-profit organization, Friends of Riding Mountain National Park. Ms. Shallon studied in the French Immersion program in Saskatoon throughout elementary and high school, and is eager to put that experience to use at Brilliant Star. She has enjoyed travelling to many places, including Ghana, Ireland, Jamaica, and Iceland, gaining new perspectives in each place she has visited. Being an Auntie is one of the most fulfilling aspects of her life, and she is constantly learning from her nieces and nephews. Ms. Shallon enjoys writing, singing, hiking, playing games, making puzzles, and diving into topics related to psychology and personal development. She is excited to be joining the Brilliant Star team again this year and looks forward to connecting with the community.

### **ILLNESS AND ABSENCE:**

Please do not send your child to school if they are running a fever, have a bad cough, thick runny nose, a contagious rash, a contagious eye infection or have vomited within the last 24 hours. You or your emergency contact will be called to pick up your child if they exhibit any of these conditions.

### **SNACK:**

Please bring a container filled with a snack, for your child every day. This container can be kept in their backpack when they come to school and the container should be **labelled** with their name. If your child stays all day, they will need two snacks prepared for the day. Your child is free to decide when they would like to sit down at the snack table and eat their snack during the day. **Please send snacks that are fresh fruit or vegetables only.** Please be sure that fresh produce has been washed and prepared so that it is ready to eat in bite size pieces. Your child would love to help you prepare this food! Be sure to include them in this process when you are able.

### **LUNCH:**

Lunch time will be at 12:00-12:40 each day. Please remember that ALL foods sent for lunch must be NUT and DESSERT free. We ask that you do not include any sweets, candy, chocolate, cake, potato chips, pop nor items with high sugar content in your child's lunch. Send a lunch box with containers of food. At our school, we prefer the children to drink our filtered tap water for a lunch time beverage.

### **BACKPACKS:**

The Casa student's backpack should be **labelled** and have sufficient room for your child's belongings: daily work, snow pants, snack container, water bottle and lunch bag. (Lunch box, if they stay all day). If the backpack is too small, your child will find it challenging to pack. Please leave toys, hand-held games and non-school snacks at home or in your car, rather than the backpack. Please purchase a backpack without superhero, skull and cross bones nor Disney characters on it please.

### **WATER BOTTLES:**

Your child's water bottle will be sent home each day to be cleaned and refilled with water before sending it back to school the next day.

### **EXTRA CLOTHES:**

Please send one complete set of spare clothes, including socks and underwear, in a large clear plastic Ziploc bag with your child's name on it. Make sure each piece of clothing is **labelled** with your child's name. If your child comes home wearing any of his/her spare clothes, please be sure to replenish our supply as soon as possible. When their extra clothes are used, we always try to make it a habit to send home a note indicating your child needs to replenish their extra clothes at school.

### **CLOTHING:**

For everyday activities, children should wear clothes that are comfortable, do not restrict their movement during gym class, and allows them to sit comfortably cross-legged during circle time. **One important thing we ask for is clothing and footwear without superhero, skull and cross bones nor commercial characters or fantasy creatures. We prefer realistic images of animals.** Check the Parent Handbook for more information about suitable clothing for your child.

### **INDOOR SLIPPERS AND GYM SHOES:**

Please be sure your child has a pair of comfortable fitting slippers with no open toe and good back support. These should be **labelled** with their name. Also needed is a pair of gym shoes that are **labelled** and easy to put on independently and fit well. Please make sure there are no superhero, skull and cross bones nor Disney characters on footwear. This footwear needs to be labelled with your child's name.

Only send lace up or zip up gym shoes if your child can tie and zip them independently, please. Closures with Velcro work the best for shoes!

### **OUTSIDE SHOES/BOOTS:**

Your child needs to wear appropriate footwear for the weather conditions. Please **label** their footwear. The shoes should be sensible, closed toed and with a good backing. Only send lace up shoes or zippered shoes/boots, if your child can tie and zip them independently. Closures with Velcro work the best for shoes or boots. Please make sure there are no super hero, skull and cross bones nor Disney characters on the footwear.

### **DROP OFF:**

Drop off time for the morning is 8:45-9:00, and afternoon drop off time is 12:45-1:00. Please escort your child to the school front door and see that they enter the school entrance doorway.

A quick goodbye is always helpful and appreciated. That quick goodbye will be especially appreciated if you are late and dropping off after 9:00 or 1:00, as the Director and Assistant will be involved with student's work and the running of the classroom at that time. Remember, your child is missing valuable work time if they are late. Please remind them to enter the school quietly.

### **PICK-UP:**

Half-day Casa students are picked up at dismissal at the school front door at 11:30 a.m. For double-session and Kindergarten students, pick-up time is from the school backyard between 3:30 and 3:40 p.m. Please remember if you are later than 3:40 p.m. there will be a late pick-up fee.

\*For Morning pick up, please be mindful that our staff will have to fit in class work and sometimes supervision over the noon hour as well as time for their own lunch, so quick pick-ups are appreciated.

### **RECESS:**

Casa students who stay all day will go outside from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day for recess. Please ensure that your child always has appropriate and **labelled** outdoor clothing and footwear. **Please note, that during weather that is not above 10°C**, your child must have pants and a coat.

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:**

The Casa Birthday Circle is a thoughtful and concrete way for the children to feel connected with their place in the world. It is a lovely and simple class event honouring a student's life during their Birthday month.

During the celebration, the child walks around the sun, symbolized with a candle, holding a globe, which represents the rotation of the earth for each year of their life. There is a Medicine Wheel Circle displaying pictures of the four seasons of the year encircling the sun symbol, which the child assembles on the floor before the celebration begins. The class sings a song together each time the child walks around the sun marking each year's rotation of the earth to the present year. We ask parents to please send one photo of the child standing for each year so we can see their growth. These photos will be put on a chart and set on the wall in the classroom so their friends can see what they looked like at each year as they do the walking around the sun.

On the day of the Birthday Celebration the child will be given a Virtue Card with a message inside describing virtues they possess. They enhance the card by colouring a picture of themselves, tracing their hand, and printing their name and the date inside the card.

If the child and family would like to send a Birthday gift for the Casa class or school, please look to our Wish List in the monthly Newsletter for ideas or we can discuss an alternative gift.

Please hand out any birthday invitations discreetly to parents or mail them. Birthday invitations can be sent through the mail/email using addresses of Brilliant Star Montessori families in the Family Directory. Please note that there will not be any cakes nor snacks sent to school to celebrate your child's birthday. Thank you for your support and understanding.

**SHARING:**

Each Wednesday, Casa students are invited to bring their own craft/art works/ books they like/ special photo to share at circle time. They will show the class their sharing item and may say a few words about it and/or you could send a written message with an explanation about the item and the Director will read this to the class.

**WISH LIST:**

A list of items that we would love to have donated to us will be posted in the monthly newsletter. Please check it in case there is something we would wish to have and you might be willing to provide for us.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Goya