

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Our Kindergarten Team



Amy Craze: Teacher

My name is Amy Craze and I am delighted to be your child's kindergarten teacher! I have known that teaching was my vocation since I was 8 years old. Upon completing my Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Queen's University, I moved to California, in order to record an album. After accomplishing this goal, I returned home to Toronto where I obtained my Lower Elementary Montessori Teaching Certifications and also my Bachelor of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

I have been fortunate enough to have taught the primary grades for the Toronto District School Board for the past 15 years. I have also had the opportunity to teach workshops at OISE for three years on how to foster leadership in the primary classroom. As the mother of three I understand how important it is for students, parents and educators to work together to enrich the educational experience of each child. I feel so fortunate to be returning to Mountview Alternative School again to be working with such a wonderful community.

To learn more about my teaching pedagogy, please visit our classroom website:

<http://www.mountviewcommunitykindergarten.com/>



Jane Jiang: Early Childhood Educator

My name is Biao Jane Jiang. I was a teacher in China. I immigrated to Canada in 2005, earned my Early Childhood Education diploma from Centennial college. After I graduated from ECE program, I became an Registered Early Childhood Educator. I believe that each child is unique. They are like fresh sponges, absorbing what they see, what they hear, and what they feel from school, family and society which are like the water surrounding them. Early childhood education in school is the foundation for helping children to develop their physical, emotion, social, and learning skills. I have been working at Mountview Alternative school for three years. I really appreciate the way teachers teach, and families support and create a lovely environment for school. I look forward to continuing to work with Mountview Teachers and families in the kindergarten program!



Hyma Corbette: Early Childhood Educator

I'm enthusiastically looking forward to working with the families and team at Mountview Alternative School. I am a cheerful, energetic and empathetic professional with over eighteen years of experience working as a Designated Registered Early Childhood Educator. I've worked for the Toronto district school board for eight years in different kindergarten classrooms, the other years I worked in childcare settings. I am a huge believer in respecting the rights of the child. I believe in honouring children's learning style, and meeting children where they are. I am also a strong believer in using all forms of art to extend the learning experience. One of my passions is dramatic art, so look forward to me sprinkling some of that into the program. I can't wait to meet you, have a great summer.

Easing the Transition

Starting Junior and Senior Kindergarten can be a big transition for your child. Here are a few things you can do to help your child.

Over the Summer:

- Walk to school and have your child become familiar with the school building
- Establish bedtime and morning routines
- Practice a fun goodbye routine for the first day of school
- Help your child practice their name in fun ways such as writing it out in the sand, with sidewalk chalk or build their names using natural items in the park such as twigs, leaves or stones.
- Extend their play by counting things out (blocks in their tower, steps, shells at the beach)
- Encourage your child to complete the following activities independently:
 - put on and take off their shoes
 - eat without assistance (unzip their lunch bag, open and close small containers and feed themselves)
 - take care of their personal needs (washroom, putting on their jacket when they are cold, getting a snack when they are hungry)

On the First Day of School:

- Introduce your child to a new friend in their class
- Reassure your child that you will be back at the end of the day and cannot wait to hear about all of their new adventures
- Give your child a kiss and a hug and say goodbye. Please note: When you linger it makes it harder for your child to transition and harder for other students' whose parents have already left. ***We promise we will help your child feel confident and secure in our class!***

Items Needed for the First Day of School

The following are items your child will need to bring to school:

- **Backpack** (lightweight and a *comfortable size* for your child). **Large enough** to hold their Borrow-A-Book bag and their Special Daily Folder.
- **Snack/Lunch-bag** (to keep backpack clean)
- **Healthy Snacks & a Water Bottle**-Children are asked to bring two healthy, **NUT-FREE** snacks in reusable containers (i.e., veggies, fruit, yogurt, crackers, and cheese) and a water bottle to accompany their lunch each day.
- **Boomerang Lunch**- As Mountview is an Eco School we have adopted a "**Boomerang Lunch**" for children in the lunch program. **Everything that comes to school goes home.** All garbage, food waste etc. goes home. We are trying to reduce the amount of garbage accumulated at school.
- **Indoor shoes**-Your child will need indoor **running shoes** that they can keep at school. They must be safe for the gym and easy for your child to put on. Velcro shoes are recommended. Please avoid laces unless your child can tie them independently and quickly. Please ensure that the shoes are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- **Extra clothing** sent in a **labelled Ziploc bag** for "life's little accidents," food spills etc. (this is to be kept at school).

***Please **LABEL** all of your child's belongings (e.g., shoes, clothing, backpack, snack pack, water bottles etc.).

Cubbies: Each child will have a cubby and hook to place their backpack, indoor shoes and clothing.

Parent Communication & Involvement

Parent-teacher communication is essential to your child's growth and development. As the start of each day will focus on tending to your child's needs here are ways we can best keep in touch:

Special Daily Folder

Your child will be provided with a plastic folder which will be used as a means to send correspondence between home and school. Please check the Folder on a *daily* basis. You may also leave notes for us, as we will be checking the folders daily. Please go through the bag every night and send it back to school the following day. We ask for your help in encouraging your child's independence by reminding your child to remove the 'Daily Folder' from their backpack.

Telephone, Email & Meeting in Person

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to call the school or send a note in your child's Special Folder and we can arrange a meeting. You may also reach our team through the contact page on our classroom website.

Classroom Blog

Over the course of the year, we will be posting a weekly blog to keep you informed of your child's learning. This is a wonderful way to engage with your child about what they have learned in school. To access this blog, please visit our classroom website at:

<https://www.mountviewcommunitykindergarten.com/classroom-blog>

Class Parents

Two parents will be selected to help liaison between home and school. These individuals may contact you with regards to offering support around volunteering in the classroom, school-wide fundraising and other special classroom occasions.

Happy Monday Messages

In addition to our classroom blog, your child will receive an individualized thank you from our team once a week for positive contributions they have made to the class. To find out more about our Happy Monday Messages, please visit the Happy Monday page of our classroom website:

<https://www.mountviewcommunitykindergarten.com/happy-monday-messages.html>

Volunteering in the Class

After the first month of school when the students have settled into our classroom routines it is wonderful to have parent volunteers in the classroom. Our classroom learning centres can always benefit from an extra pair of hands to help extend the learning that takes place. We also will have special events and field trips where parental volunteers are essential!

Other Ways to Contribute

We can always use extra supplies/products for our classroom. If you are interested in donating any of the following items to our classroom, please send them to school with your child.

- Materials for our little artists: feathers, q-tips, buttons, pompoms, stickers, glue, markers & wipe-board markers
- Material for playdough: cream of tartar, salt, flour
- Soap, wet-wipes and Kleenex

Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be held in the month of September. During the evening we will be providing additional information and discussing the program in more detail. We will also answer any questions.

Classroom Routines

The Kindergarten Program

Our Junior and Senior Kindergarten program is a child-centered, play-based program that reflects the developmental needs of young children. Classroom activities and challenges are modified to meet the individual needs of each learner. This program is designed around the Ontario Kindergarten Program which is available online at:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten.html

Snack Time

The students will have an opportunity each morning and afternoon to sit down at the snack centre for a snack. We will be discussing healthy food choices so I encourage you to provide your child with a **healthy** snack and beverage.

Birthdays

We will be celebrating birthdays of children in the classroom. In order to acknowledge your child's birthday, the class will celebrate by singing the Birthday Song, reading a Birthday story and various other birthday themed activities. If your child's birthday falls on the weekend we will celebrate the Friday before. Summer birthdays will be celebrated the last week of June.

As we have various **life-threatening allergies** in the class, please refrain from sending in baked goods on your child's birthday. If you would like to send in something special for your child's birthday to share with the class, please consider sending in a wrapped copy of your child's favourite book to add to our classroom library. Another idea is sending a wrapped puzzle, toy for our imaginary play area (play food, tea-set etc.), or building materials to add to our classroom centres. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns regarding birthday celebrations.

Helper of the Day

Starting the second week of school we will be having a Student Helper of the Day. This student will be responsible for helping me with a variety of jobs such as taking the attendance and helping me to lead our daily routines.

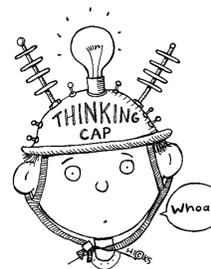
Mystery Object

When your child is the Helper of the Day they will be responsible for bringing a mystery object from home. Please send your child's mystery object to school in a concealed bag. The other students in the class will use their deductive reasoning skills as they attempt to infer what this mystery object is using five specific questions. The purpose of this activity is to foster self-confidence, questioning and answering skills, problem solving and leadership in our students. I recommend that children choose a household object which sets the stage for the use of clues and inspires class discussion. The fun is in the guessing!

These five questions will be asked of your child:

1. What letter does it start with?
2. What colour is it?
3. What material is it made of?
4. Where can you find it in your home?
5. Do you use it or see it every day?

You can help your child to prepare for their mystery object presentation at home by reviewing these questions with them.



Daily Schedules

Being On Time:

At Mountview Community School we believe in teaching our students that we all work together as a team to help run the daily routines and learning structures. To ensure that your child feels a part of the classroom and can learn the routines so they may take on a leadership role **please ensure they are on time every day.**

Entry Time and Location:

The first day of school we will be meeting in the Kindergarten yard at 8:35am. As entry time is at 8:50 am this will allow the students to play and meet their new classmates and have time for a few photos before we go inside.

Lunch Time:

Lunch time in the Kindergarten Program is from 11:20-12:40pm. Having this extended lunch time for those wanting to go home for lunch and gives the students a nice break in the day.

Dismissal Time/Procedure:

Pick up time for your child will be at the same location as their drop off. We end our day at 3:10pm. In order to ensure *safe dismissal*, the children will be dismissed one at a time to a parent or caregiver.

If someone else will be picking up your child other than the designated person, please notify me by sending a note in your child's Special Daily Folder or sending me an email. In order to ensure your child's safety, your child will **not be released to anyone unless I have written notice** of any changes.

Tell Us About Your Child:

We are very excited to get to know your child this year and help them grow and learn. Please help us create the best atmosphere possible for their growth and development. We would appreciate some significant details about your child so we can meet their needs. This information includes allergies, additional needs, interests and pickup information. In this form we also ask for a picture of your child and a photo of your family. The family photo will be posted on our family wall inside our class. This picture of their family can provide some extra comfort to your child during the transition into kindergarten. The photograph of your child will be used to label your child's cubby and name for the word wall so they can see themselves in the classroom the very first day. It also helps them take charge of our morning routines by giving them a visible space for their belongings.

Follow the following link to fill in this information about your child. Please fill it in by August 1st.

<https://form.jotform.com/201675031446046>

COVID 19- Updates

We realize that based on government enforced regulations regarding school reopenings after COVID 19 the structure of the day may change. We will keep you in the loop in terms of how we will respond to new regulations as soon as they are announced. Overall, please know we will work tirelessly to ensure your child feels secure, safe, engaged and loved in our classroom environment.

We look forward to having a wonderful year together!

Your Kindergarten Team

Amy, Jane & Hyma