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## Castlebar Junior School

70 Chartwell Road, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 4G6

• Tel: (416) 394-2080

Colleen Bellehumeur, Principal

September 2, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! Our amazing caretaking team has been working throughout the summer to ensure that Castlebar looks amazing. The teachers have been working in their classrooms to get ready for the first day of school and beyond. We are excited about the 2022-2023 school year and look forward to reconnecting with our beloved students and welcoming our new Castlebears.

Included in this letter is some helpful information to make the first day of school successful.

### **School Hours**

8:25 AM – Supervision begins in the Kindergarten and Primary/Junior Yards

8:40 AM – School Bell Rings for all grades

8:45 AM – Instructional Day Begins for all grades

9:55 – 10:05 AM Recess (Grades 1-5)

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Kindergarten Lunch

11:25 AM – 12:25 PM Grades 1-5 Lunch

12:30 PM – Instruction Begins for all grades

2:10 – 2:20 PM Recess (Grades 1-5)

3:00 PM – Kindergarten Dismissal

3:10 PM – Grades 1-5 Dismissal

### **Entry/Class Placements (Grades 1-5)**

On the first day of school, please bring your child to the backyard of the school (primary/junior yard). There, you will find the teachers have placed class lists on the windows, including the grades and students' names. Staff will also have class lists to help direct you and your child to the correct class line. The classroom teachers will also have their homeroom class list and can help determine which class your child has been placed in. Teachers will have name tags to identify themselves. Teachers will be in the yard at 8:25 am to begin welcoming students.

If your child rides the school bus to school, they will be met at the front of the school and escorted to the backyard. A teacher will help them find the correct classroom. If your child attends the Before School YMCA program, the YMCA staff will accompany your child to the backyard and wait to ensure your child knows who their classroom teacher is and will be supervised until the classroom teacher takes the children inside.

### **Kindergarten Entry for the First Day**

We ask that you enter the kindergarten yard which is located at the front southeast corner of the building on Chartwell/Ambleside. The teachers and Early Childhood Educators (ECE) will be in the yard to assist with class placements and entry. Parents will be permitted into the Kindergarten yard on the first day. Due to safety concerns, parents will not be permitted to enter the building with the children.

Each class will line up in a specific area of the yard. Painted paw prints mark where the students are to stand. Please help your child find a paw print and wait to enter the building with the teacher and/or the Early Childhood Educator (ECE).

Beyond the first day, please be prepared to say goodbye to your child at the kindergarten yard gate. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. Supervision in the kindergarten yard begins at 8:25 am.

### **Lunch – Gymnasium (Grades 1-5)**

Students staying for lunch will eat in the gymnasium. The students will be supervised by the Lunch Room Supervisors. The students will have 20 minutes to eat lunch and then will head outside from the lunchroom to the primary/junior yard to play and socialize. As an eco-friendly school, students are expected to bring a litterless lunch, which means all unconsumed items and/or packaging is returned home each night in their lunch bag. This helps parents to see how much your child eats as well as allows for packaging to be reused. Lunch ends at 12:25 pm. Students going home for lunch will be dismissed to a parent/guardian in the backyard playground area at 11:25 am. Please ensure you have made contact with the teacher before leaving the school as we want to keep your child safe at all times. Children going home for lunch can be dropped off at 12:25 pm at the primary/junior yard.

### **Kindergarten Lunch**

The kindergarten students eat lunch in their classroom. The students are supervised by a Lunch Room Supervisor and the Early Childhood Educator over the lunch period. Over the lunch break, students will have the opportunity to eat lunch and play and socialize outside.

### **Dismissal (Grades 1-5)**

Students being picked up by a parent/guardian will be picked up in the primary/junior playground area. The yard will be supervised until 3:25 pm. Students taking the bus will be escorted to the bus. Please ensure there is someone to pick your child up from the bus stop. Students not met by an adult will be brought back to Castlebar and will need to be picked up from the school. Students attending the YMCA After School program will be picked up by the YMCA staff.

### **Dismissal (Kindergarten)**

The teachers will be out promptly at 3:00 pm to dismiss the children. Each class will dismiss at a specific gate. Ms. Best's class dismisses at the gate near the Castlebar Front doors. Ms. Fung/Sharma's class dismisses onto the sidewalk on Chartwell. Ms. Delivuk's class is dismissed at the gate on Ambleside. The teacher/ECEs do a hand-to-hand dismissal. Please do not leave with your child until the staff has seen and acknowledged that you have your child.

## **COVID-19 Protocols at Castlebar**

Our top priority at Castlebar continues to be health and safety as well as mental health and well-being. The TDSB continues to follow the health and safety guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Education, and Toronto Public Health. We understand that joining a new class can be exciting but also cause some butterflies. We will be spending the month of September focusing on building relationships and community in each classroom as well as supporting mental health and well-being. Staff will spend time introducing new routines and participating in fun and engaging activities.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES (K-5)**

***\*Please do not spend money on “back to school” supplies.\**** **Please do not send your child to school with any supplies. Everything will be provided by the school and students will be asked to keep personal items like pencil cases and personal writing tools at home.**

## **Masks**

Castlebar is a mask-friendly school. The school has additional masks should your child require a mask during the day.

## **HEPA Filters**

Every student-occupied classroom, the library, and the gym have been outfitted with an institutional grade HEPA filter at Castlebar. These filters were cleaned over the summer and are ready for use.

## **Bottle Filling Station**

Castlebar has a water bottle filling station that can be used for refilling water bottles only. Students are encouraged to carry individual refillable water bottles that come filled from home.

## **\*Allergy Awareness\***

**Castlebar is a PEANUT/TREE NUT and SESAME Free School.** Lunch items must not contain these items.

We thank you for your cooperation. Please click on the following link to learn more about foods that may contain sesame products.

[https://foodallergycanada.ca/allergies/sesame/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI77OJksTb8gIVYzizAB1Azg\\_nEAAYASAAEgKCu\\_D\\_BwE](https://foodallergycanada.ca/allergies/sesame/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI77OJksTb8gIVYzizAB1Azg_nEAAYASAAEgKCu_D_BwE)

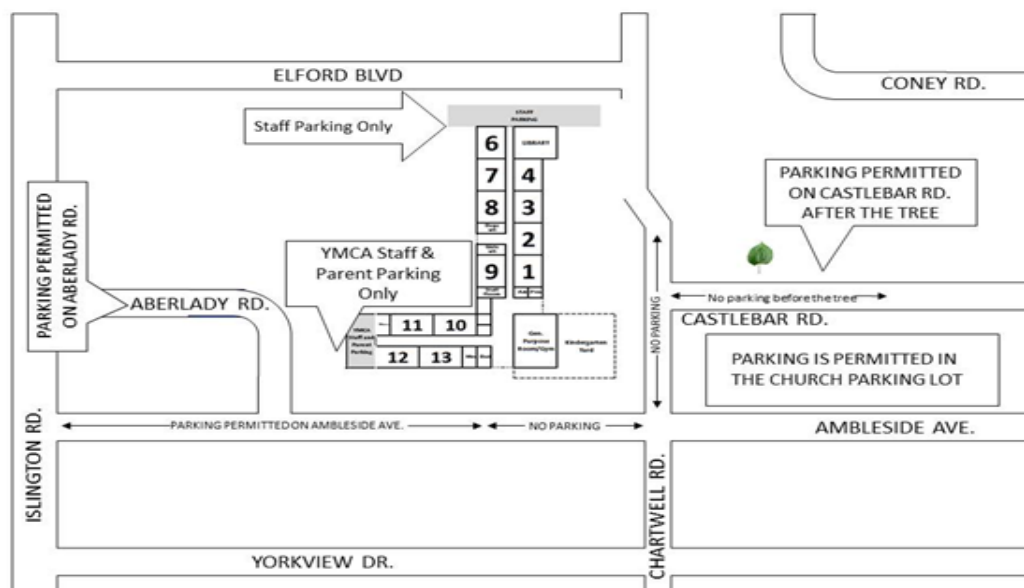
Please see the map below for areas to park. We ask that you walk or bike to and from school whenever possible

## Parking

We strongly suggest that you walk to school whenever possible as parking is limited. You can park in the Church parking lot. Mark, our friendly Crossing Guard is posted on Chartwell and Ambleside to help you cross the street safely. On Castlebar Road, we ask that you park a minimum 10 metres from Chartwell on either side to allow drivers turning from Castlebar to Ambleside to see the oncoming traffic.

Please do not park in the school parking lots. These lots are reserved for Castlebar staff and the YMCA Before and After School Program staff and families.

To ensure the safety of students, parents and staff, please refer to the map below for permitted parking areas.



If you have any questions regarding the 2022-2023 school year, please feel free to contact the school at 416 394 2080.

## Upcoming Events

September 22 – Picture Day  
September 30 – Orange Shirt Day  
November 2 – Picture Day Retakes

Sincerely,

Ms. Bellehumeur and The Castlebar Team  
Principal, Elementary  
Castlebar Junior School