



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Mini Pidaca – Mini Scientists

Week 6: August 8th – August 12th, 2022

Welcome to Week 6 – Mini Scientists! My name is Madison Southwick, and I am the Director of Mini Pidaca this summer. On behalf of all our staff members, we are very excited to offer your child a safe, enjoyable environment to play games, make cool crafts, new friends, and have fun at camp! We have planned many activities and theme days aimed at ensuring your child has a wonderful camp experience! Please read the attached information carefully and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Campers coming to Camp with a Parent/Guardian

Mini Pidaca operates in the Creative Centre at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex. Camp will start at **9:00 am** and finish at **3:15 pm** each day. For the safety of all campers, we ask that you walk your child to the outdoor entrance to the Creative Centre when dropping them off and return to the outdoor entrance to the Creative Centre to pick them up. This entrance is located at the side of the Recreation Complex, facing Diefenbaker Ct. Please ensure that you check your child in and out with the designated staff person. If someone else is picking up your child, please inform the staff in the morning. **Anyone that you have designated as an alternate pick up person will be required to show Photo ID to camp staff prior to your child being released into their care. Please ensure that they are aware of this protocol and that your child is picked up on time.**

Parent/Director Communication

Communication between the camp director and parents is vital to the success of our camp operation, especially with this summer being the first camp experience for many of our Mini Campers. This summer we would like to introduce the use of a communication app called Remind. This app is downloadable through both Apple App Store and Google Play stores, as well as accessed through an internet browser (however the app is definitely easier to access). Each session will have its own unique code which allows you to join a class to receive updates and messages about camp, as well as contact myself directly via instant messaging. If you have any questions about how to set this up, please do not hesitate to email me and I can help you with further instruction! (Download Remind app, create account/login, join class, enter class code).

The Class Code for Week 6 – Mini Scientists is: **@minisci6**

Absenteeism / Safe Arrivals

If you know in advance that your child will be absent from camp, please send a note stating the camper's name and the date that they will be away. You can also **contact me directly via email at msouthwick@pickering.ca, the Remind app, or through the camp office phone at 905.420.4660 ext. 3246**. Attempts will be made to contact parents of campers who are absent without prior notification.

Lunches / Snacks / Drinks

Campers are required to bring their own peanut free lunch with them to camp every day. We also ask that lunches are packed in **non-breakable containers** (no glass). Each day campers will have two snack times and a lunch time. Please send your child to camp with a **reusable water bottle** so they stay hydrated throughout the day. Please ensure that if you pack any baked goods, crackers, cookies, muffins etc. in a container other than the original packaging, that a note listing ingredients accompanies it to ensure full knowledge of any possible nut traces. If our staff are unsure about snacks, campers will not be allowed to eat it at camp. Fruits and vegetables are always a healthy and allergy safe snack! It is recommended that they pack an extra drink and snacks in case they need it throughout the day.

Allergies – Important Notice!

Please be sensitive to any food allergies that may be brought to your attention (e.g., peanut allergies that can be life threatening). For this reason, **please do not pack peanuts, peanut products, or any products containing traces of nuts in your child's lunches for camp**. As mentioned above, if our staff are unsure of snacks (e.g., granola bars), campers will be asked not to eat them at camp. Please feel free to send a copy of the ingredients of any items we may be unsure of (e.g., cookies). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Clothing

All campers are advised to wear comfortable clothing and asked **not** to bring valuables to camp, as they will be responsible for their own belongings. All campers are required to be toilet-trained, however an extra set of clothes is always good to have on hand. Please label campers belongings (i.e. lunch bag, extra clothing, water bottles etc.). This helps us avoid confusion if a camper misplaces something. Hats, sunscreen and other summer outerwear are a good idea for when we go outdoors.

Water Activities

Water activities are a super fun way to stay cool in the summer! We will go outside and engage in water activities on Wednesday afternoon if the weather permits. Thus, it is encouraged that your child comes to camp with their bathing suit, towel, spare change of clothes and any other water items they wish to use on Wednesday. Please send a hat and apply sunscreen as applicable for your child.

Theme Days

The following is a list of Mini Pidaca theme days and special events:

Monday August 8 th	Tuesday August 9 th	Wednesday August 10 th	Thursday August 11 th	Friday August 12 th
<p>Mini Monday!</p> <p>Mini Introductions!</p>	<p>Terrific Tuesday!</p> <p>Get ready to create cool themed crafts & play a fun variety of games!</p>	<p>Water Wednesday!</p> <p>Campers will get to have an afternoon of water play fun and Tie-Dye! Please send a white clothing item.</p>	<p>Theme Day Thursday!</p> <p>Wear your best Scientist attire! OR Wear White! OR Wear your tie-dye!</p>	<p>Fun Friday!</p> <p>Campers will have a fun themed movie afternoon!</p>

The following attachments will be provided to your child(ren) on the first day of camp. Please complete and return on the second day of camp:

1. 2022 Camp Medication Form.
2. City of Pickering, Photo/Model Release Form – allows staff to take pictures for City / Camp promotions

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me, Madison Southwick, directly via email at msouthwick@pickering.ca, the Remind app, or through the camp office phone at 905.420.4660 ext. 3246.

Looking forward to a great summer!

Madison Southwick
Director, Mini Pidaca