**CHAVITOS NATURE SCHOOL’S FOREST KINDERGARTEN**

**Clothing Requirements 2020-2021**

**Lending Library**

We have a big lending library of clothing that is on the required list. If you are interested please let us know. Clothing will be available during the monthly potlucks. You may borrow the item(s) for one year and then return them or replace them at the end of the year. Also, we are always looking for hand-me-downs that your child has outgrown that would be a perfect fit for another child.

**Boots**

You are required to send your child in Bogs Boots or Play boots as they are the best for keeping kids feet warm and dry while playing outside in the Pacific Northwest winter.

**Socks**

Silk, wool or some form of thermal socks work best. We highly recommend SmartWool.

**Head**

A well-fitting wool hat is best. Please do not rely on hoods as they inhibit a child’s ability to hear. Also we notice that hats with the ball on top make it hard to keep hoods on.

**Neck**

A neck warmer such as a Buff or Turtle Fur brand.

**Mittens and Gloves**

Preschool students are required to wear mittens. They keep hands warmer and are easier to get on than gloves. You are required to send your child in Gordini, Head, or Outdoor Research mittens that have a zipper up the back of the hand. It's called the sleeping bag style. This makes it easier to get the mittens when little hands are cold and wet. Elementary students are allowed to wear gloves. The above brands also have waterproof glove options. The Oaki wear neoprene are another option but they don’t keep hands very warm and are one option for rainy warm days. During the winter your child needs two sets of mittens or gloves accessible in their backpack. We find that we often have to change pairs after snack.

**Under layers**

It is helpful to have a range of under layers to keep your child warm and comfortable in various temperatures.

*Base layer*: a thin layer of silk, wool or Capilene long underwear.

*Mid-weight*: a middle weight layer of wool or Capilene

*Heavy weight*: a thick layer of wool or stretch fleece leggings.

When it is fairly warm, you will find that a base layer under rain pants and fleece or raincoat is sufficient. During the really cold months, using all three layers under the rain pants is necessary to keep your child warm and dry. On top, a base layer and mid-layer are helpful under a fleece coat and raincoat. Please don’t use jeans as an underlayer. They aren’t sufficient in keeping your child warm.

**Pants**

Rain pants are a crucial layer and are required for the months of October through April. They keep your child comfortable even when it’s not raining because the ground will be cool and/or damp. We highly encourage true rain pants and not “snow pants”. Snow pants are warm but tend to absorb water easily. It is **crucial** that the pants have a closure (Velcro, elastic, cord and toggle) at the ankle to cinch the pants tight over boots to keep water out. You must send your child in Oaki, REI or Lands End rain pants.

**Coat**

Layers are important here. A fleece coat is a great layer that works in cold weather and warmer weather. In addition, your child will need a good waterproof coat. They work together well for warmth and to keep dry. It is **crucial** that the waterproof coat have a system for cinching at the wrist to keep water out. We require that your child have an rain jacket in moderately cold temperatures and a Columbia Omnitech or Bugaboo winter coat in very cold weather.

**General suggestions**

Layers, layers, layers! The ideal way to keep your child comfortable as they romp through the woods. Make sure the layers are loose fitting so the child’s own insulating layer of body heat will not be constricted.

Please put your child in pants with elastic waistbands - no zippers, snaps, belts or suspenders as these greatly complicate pottying!

**Washing**: It is best with waterproof outdoor clothing to not over-wash them. It greatly reduces the waterproof quality. We recommend simply wiping or hosing off really dirty clothes and only occasionally machine washing raincoats and pants. Do **NOT** put waterproof clothing in the dryer. It is also good to avoid putting silk, wool or Capilene in the dryer as well.If the rain on the coat soaks in and doesn’t puddle up on the jacket, it’s time to reapply a waterproof spray. Spray can be found at all outdoor stores. We got ours at REI.

**Extra clothes:** You are required to keep a full set of extra clothes in your child’s cubby in case a change of clothes is needed during the school day. These extra clothes do not need to be the name brands mentioned above and can be purchased at a second hand store to save on money. The type of extra clothes needed will change as the seasons change. Please factor this in when purchasing clothes. For example, an extra set of long underwear, mittens, and fleece coat are needed during the cold months.

**Brands we recommend:**

Bogs, Columbia, Oaki, Outdoor Research, REI, Lands End, Gordini, SmartWool, Head mittens.

**Discounts**:

Oaki has given our school a discount for 25% orders over $29.99. The code is chavitos, (not case sensitive).