



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE
JANUARY 2016**

WELCOME BACK

Montessori Schools of Irvine welcomes all of our families back and we wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!

THANK YOU SOOOOO MUCH!

Thank you so very, very much to all of the families who gave the gift of Christmas to the Salvation Army. Your generous sacrifice of gifts allowed these special children and their families a glimmer of hope and the warmth of your caring during the holiday season. Bless you all – from Montessori Schools of Irvine and the Salvation Army!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 18** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a legal holiday.

NAEYC UNANNOUNCED RANDOM VISIT

The National Association for the Education of Young Children, the agency that holds the ability to accredit our schools with the highest standards dropped in with a surprise random visit at University Montessori shortly before the holidays! We got our results and passed with straight "A's"!! Just thought you would like to know that we continue to do our best to keep our mission and promise to our families to provide the

Best Montessori early childhood education and care...anywhere!

UPDATE REMINDER . . .

Please remember to **update** your child's ID EMERGENCY information at the front desk. Updated information includes if you have moved, changed jobs, or changed **any** phone numbers or people with permission to pick up your child. Please remember to also update your child's immunization record if they have received any new vaccinations or health information. Thank you.



CHILLY WEATHER

The chilly weather seems to have arrived! Please dress your child accordingly. A sweater, jacket or sweatshirt should be sent every day, and can be hung on the coat racks if it warms up. Although the sun may be shining, the air still gets cold, especially in the late afternoons. Please also remember to take your child's jacket home each night. Please label all jackets with the child's name.

NUTRITION CALENDAR

Please remember to sign up your child to be host(ess) of the day by bringing in a special snack to prepare with their teacher for the class morning snack! Please be sure to list what snacks you are bringing, including something from at least two different food groups. A list of suggestions is in the

front office next to the calendar. Please remember that snack is an important part of a child's daily nutrition. Please no juice, sugary snack or junk foods!

BALLET CLASSES

Ballet Session II begins on Wednesday, January 6. Please watch the front office for registration forms and more information. All new and continuing ballet students must complete a registration form. Please return completed form with a check no later than Tuesday, January 5. Thank you!

KINERGARTEN – PRIMARY GRADES OPTIONS NIGHT

Presentation by Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director

The Importance of the Next Four Years and Why These Are Critical for Your Child's Ongoing Academic Success

Miss Cheryll, Executive Director of the Montessori Schools of Irvine, will be hosting a special meeting to work with parents as they make this important lifetime decision for their children.

Many parents have questions regarding the choices for Kindergarten and primary grades. Based on our many years of experience and watching the increased success of our children who remain with Montessori through the crucial kindergarten through third grades, we would like to share with you some of the insights about how essential appropriate individualized learning is during the kindergarten through third grade years.

Cheryll will address the shift in development and the corresponding changes in the Montessori Curriculum. You will learn why Montessori Schools of Irvine children have gained an advantage from the Montessori primary curriculum that lasts throughout their formal education and into their adult lives.

The program will be held at our **VILLAGE Montessori** (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612) school which is centrally located for the four schools. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 21st** and will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 7:00. Due to the large group that usually attends and the amount of information being shared, this meeting **WILL NOT** be repeated this year.

Please register at the front office so that ample seating can be provided. Baby-sitting will be available for children 3 years (no diapers) and older for a charge of \$5 per child. The teacher at the door of the childcare room can be paid as you drop off your child that night.

SCHOOL READINESS DOCUMENTATION

A part of our NAEYC accreditation includes the good practice of formalized assessment for individualized curriculum planning and documentation (4.B). Each year Chancy & Bruce Educational Resources conducts readiness documentation for the children in our preschool and kindergarten programs. This evaluation is **REQUIRED** for children who plan to attend Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school term (children who turn five on or before **September 1, 2016**). An optional preschool development assessment is also available should a parent be interested. (Please contact Chancy & Bruce for additional information). The screening dates are January 21 & 28. More information and permission slips will be available in Friday Folders. Please return the permission slip and a check payable to Chancy & Bruce to the front office no later than Tuesday morning **January 12** as **each child's teacher must complete a portion** of the permission slip. Please mark your calendars- your child's screening results will be available at a parent meeting, which will be held on Thursday, February 10.

IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The City of Irvine and IUSD will present an information night for parents interested in learning more about the IUSD Kindergarten Program and enrollment process for the 2016-17 school year, to

be held Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Irvine Civic Center located at 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine. For more information and to view their standards for Kindergarten, visit their web site at www.iusd.org.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE EXPERIENCE-"Annie"

Reminder: The Kindergarten-Primary Grade classes will be traveling to Fullerton College to view a performance of "Annie" by the Children's Theater Experience of Southern California on Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Permission slips went out in December. No rainbow tee shirts for this field trip. The dress code is "Sunday best". See the front office with any questions. Thank you!

***** **TODDLER TIDBITS** *****

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

Our toddlers will be exploring transportation this month. Look for fun songs and art.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 1 Happy New Year!!
- January 4 Welcome Back!
- January 6 Ballet begins again (Forms due by January 5)
- January 12 Chancy and Bruce Kindergarten readiness forms DUE
- January 13 Kindergarten-Primary Field Trip
- January 18 SCHOOL CLOSED - Martin Luther King's Birthday
- January 21 Kindergarten Primary Options Night **at Village Montessori** (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612)
- February 10 Chancy and Bruce Developmental Screening Results Meeting



STAFF BIRTHDAYS - January

- January 10 Miss Maddy
- January 20 Miss Shawna
- January 24 Miss Mindy



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

JANUARY Staff Anniversaries:

Richard and Cheryl THANK our wonderful and loyal staff members! Your dedication and contributions to the children and families you work with are appreciated more than words can express!

- January 3 Miss Pennee 26 years!



Chef's Corner by Chef Cyndi

January Menu Feature - EASY BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

3 T Olive Oil
3 C. butternut squash (cut into cubes, seeds removed about 1 medium squash)
1 large apple, cored, cut into cubes
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 tsp dried thyme

6 C. vegetable stock (Chicken stock can be used if not vegetarian)
½ C whole milk
Salt and butter to taste
Croutons and Cheese (optional)

Toss squash in 1 T of olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake squash for 30 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Toss apple in 1 T of olive oil, salt and pepper. Add the apple to the squash and continue baking for 30 more minutes. In a pot, heat 1 T olive oil. Add onions and cook until translucent (5 minutes). Add thyme. Add baked squash and apple, breaking them up with a spoon. Add stock and bring to a boil. Lower heat and cook for about 15 minutes. Using an immersion blender, puree the mixture and adjust the seasonings. Add milk and heat through, but not to boiling. Serve with croutons and cheese if desired.