



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - APRIL 2016



The National **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD** is **April 11-15**. We have scheduled a week full of fun to celebrate the joy of childhood with all of your children! All activities are scheduled for the morning. The activities are planned for our children only. Sorry, we are unable to accommodate siblings and all of the parents who might want to watch and participate! Our schedule of activities is as follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 11: Pajama /Backwards Day - This is an easy morning - everyone comes dressed in their pajamas or can wear their clothes backwards. All aboard the **Toyland Express**. The train will be here giving our children a fun ride. Breakfast will be served for lunch, with waffles, strawberries & whipped cream for PM snack. Sorry, **no slippers** on this day as the children will be playing outside! PJ /Backwards Day is also Movie Day, TBA.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12: Rainbow Day - Wear your MONTESSORI RAINBOW SHIRTS! Franklin Haynes Marionettes will be here for a **puppet show!** We will be celebrating with rainbow pasta for lunch, rainbow goldfish for snack and rainbow snow cones for a special treat.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13: Magic Day – “MR.FUNN- The magician” will be here to thrill the children with a **magic show!** We will serve “Trix” cereal & apple slices for PM snack.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14: “Bubbles All Around” Day - Lunch will be served carnival/picnic style. We will have a special visit from **Bubblemania** in the morning!! Carnival pretzels & cream cheese will be served for PM snack.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15: All About Animals – Jungle and safari jobs will reign for this day. The “**Petting Zoo**” will be visiting us and bringing along some interesting friends! Gorilla cheese sandwiches will be served for lunch. Animal crackers & bananas will be served for PM snack!

BOOK CLUB ORDERS

April Book Club orders are available at the front desk. All orders are due no later than Friday, April 8. Reminder: Please make one check only, payable to Scholastic or order online with our Westpark code **HJNJD**. Thank you.



ALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Individual spring photos will be taken on Tuesday, April 5 of our children. Our spring photos DO NOT require prepayment. You will receive a proof sheet approximately 2 weeks after the photos are taken and can place orders at that time. There is a sign posted in the front office which shows what the backdrop will look like. Photos will be taken in the morning before lunch only.

PARKING LOT REMINDER

Please help us keep our school safe for everyone! Please drive slowly through the parking lot, enter and exit the lot in the appropriate manner, and be sure not to park on red curbs or in handicapped spaces.

NEW SUNSCREEN NEEDED!

Now that spring has arrived and we are enjoying longer sunny days, please bring in a NEW bottle of sunscreen (labeled with your child's name) for them to keep at school. We routinely throw away last year's supply at this time of year to ensure that all children are getting the safest and most effective coverage. As a reminder, please apply sunscreen to your child at home in the morning before school and we will reapply before afternoon playtime.

REMINDER: Please do not bring in "spray" sunscreens. THANK YOU!

MY CHILD NEEDS TO NAP – DON'T LET MY CHILD NAP!

It is the time of year for this common parent quandary to surface once again. Our teachers begin to hear either "Don't let my child nap" or "Make my child nap." While most children gradually stop napping in the year before kindergarten, it is important to recognize that this is a biologically individual progression for each child. When children are ready to "give up" their nap, it typically comes gradually; with a move into a still much needed down time even if they do not sleep. Children may start giving up naps at home on the weekends, but may still need a nap during a busy day at school. Often times, the transition involves laying down for nap and sometimes sleeping and other times just resting.

While all of our preschoolers have a rest period, it is impossible to force children to stay awake or fall asleep. The best way to determine if a child is ready to "give up" their nap is to watch their behavior. Tired children are unable to cope with every day activities and challenges. They become more negative and have social altercations with their friends and have decreased cognitive engagement. Some children who have been changed to a "rester" to avoid naps will also simply follow the biological calling and fall asleep in a chair or on a rug where they are doing a job!

Spring time often brings with it requests from parents for their child not to take a nap but become a "rester" instead. It also often accompanies the time change when it stays light longer making it even more difficult for children to give up the excitement of the day and go to bed. If the quest is to make bedtime easier, it is important to know that it is much more difficult to put an overtired child to sleep than one who is generally finished with the day. The key is to have quiet time before bed and perhaps a relaxing warm bath and story at a routine time. The routine nature of bedtime will start the process and the necessary sleep should follow easily.

If you think your child is actually maturing and "giving up" their nap, please consult with their teacher to determine if it is beneficial on the days that they are at school before making a decision that may make their afternoons with their friends more difficult. Your child's teacher will help you know when your child is beginning to transition into the mature pattern of resting instead of sleep.

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!

END OF CONTINUING REGISTRATION

The enrollment deadline for continuing registration for ALL children was at the end of February. We have begun to fill openings from our waiting list and we want to be sure that your child's enrollment is considered first. Just a reminder, if you registered that your child will be leaving at the END of the summer, you have confirmed that you will be completing your tuition contract through the month of August as enrollment for the summer will close based on your confirmation and another child will not be enrolled to take your child's spot should you change your mind. Please notify the office IMMEDIATELY if there is an error. Thank you for assisting us in meeting your needs in a timely manner.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of May 2-6, 2016 is National Teacher Appreciation Week! An extra smile and "thank you" for your child's teacher are greatly appreciated gifts.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



TANAKA FARMS – STRAWBERRY FIELDS

On Friday, April 15 in the afternoon our Kindergarten class will be traveling to Tanaka Farms to experience a real working farm. Their tour will include a guided wagon ride around the farm, learning about vegetables and fruits, seeing BIG farm equipment and ending in the strawberry fields picking delicious strawberries! Registration forms were distributed in Friday Folders on March 18 and were due back no later than Thursday, March 31.



GRADUATION PICTURES

Images for Kids will be at the school on Wednesday, **May 11** to take pictures of our kindergarten children in their Caps and Gowns. Both individual and group pictures will be taken. Proofs will be available in a few weeks and you will place your order at that time. Mark your calendars!

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

APRIL "TEACHING THEMES"

April's teaching theme for the ONE'S AND TWO'S is: Fruits and Vegetables.

TWOS' TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL

Preschool is an exciting milestone for children. It marks the beginning of the transfer from the "unconscious absorbent mind" to the "conscious" one. Preschool is a time where children begin to participate in a larger group, use more refined motor skills, make self-directed choices about their activity and take responsibility for their moment-to-moment actions. The Montessori preschool class is designed for children from ages 3 to 6 years old. As your two year old begins to show signs of being able to cope with this milestone of their lives, their teachers will be monitoring their progress and preparing them for this important transition. While we know parents are also anxious to see their

child transition, we ask that you allow them the important gift of the last few months of development. The transition to preschool takes place much closer to the third birthday than it does to 2 ½ years old and toilet taught. These final months provide your child with the skills and confidence that solid developmental readiness brings to a true preschool child.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5 Spring Photos
April 8 Book orders due
April 15 K-Primary Field Trip to Tanaka Farms
April 11-15 WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD (See schedule of activities)
April 22 Earth Day

May 2-6 National Teacher Appreciation Week
May 18 & 20 Parent Teacher Conference Days (Daycare activities)
May 30 Memorial Day – SCHOOL CLOSED!

June 15 Kindergarten Graduation & Preschool Musical
June 27-July 4 SCHOOL CLOSED for Summer Recess



APRIL STAFF BIRTHDAYS

April 23 Miss Ina
April 27 Miss Anh

APRIL Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi

April Fool's Day "Cupcakes" – (Really Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes!)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 cup crushed saltine crackers
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 cups mashed potatoes
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese



1. Mix ground beef, saltine crackers, onion, green bell pepper, milk, egg, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, black pepper, and seasoned salt together in a bowl.
2. Stir ketchup and brown sugar together in a bowl.
3. Spoon ketchup mixture into the bottom of each muffin cup of a 6-cup muffin tin.
4. Fill muffin cups with beef mixture, leaving 1/2-inch space on the top.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until no longer pink in the center, about 30 minutes.
6. Drain fat from muffin cups.
7. Top each 'cupcake' with mashed potatoes and Cheddar cheese.
8. Continue baking until cheese is melted, about 10 minutes.