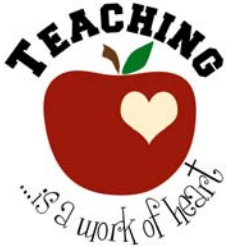




## MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - 2016



### NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 2 - May 6 is National Teacher Appreciation Week with May 3<sup>rd</sup> being National Teacher's Day! This is a great time to give your child's teachers an extra smile and a simple "thank you" to let them know that you appreciate all that they do!

Many parents ask the question "What can I do that would be special for my child's teacher?" Many classroom parents have grouped together to present a gift or memento if you would like to join in. In addition, a personal thank you note will be most welcome – or give them public kudos with a "thumbs up" or "yelp". Recognizing their hard work in educating your children as well as their loving care of your children would be most appreciated by any teacher.



### MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 8 is Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all of our wonderful mothers!



### MEMORIAL DAY

Reminder: Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.



### WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Week of the Young Child was great fun for one and all! All of the children enjoyed the many extra and exciting activities that were provided during the week including Franklin Haynes Marionettes, MR. FUNN the magician, Happy Hooves Petting Zoo, Toyland Express, Bubblemania and other activities. **A GIANT HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to Richard and Cheryl for providing such a fun-filled week for the children!!



## **CINCO DE MAYO AND JAPANESE CHILDREN'S DAY**

May 5 is "Cinco de Mayo" AND Japanese Children's Day. Any parent wishing to share information about these special days with their child's class, please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance



### **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES- DAY CARE ONLY**

During Parent-Teacher conferences, our head teachers are busy speaking with all of you about your children's progress. We realize that many parents work and would be thus impacted if we closed school on these days, however, as our head teachers are otherwise engaged, only child care will be provided. **Regular classes will not be in session!** Children will be spending most of their day outside and all children will have an extended rest time. This is a great "stay home" or "sleep in" day for children whose parents do not need day care.

*Parent-Teacher conferences for preschool, kindergarten and primary are scheduled:*

#### ***All Day Conference day - Wednesday, May 18***

Conferences will be scheduled for 20 minute sessions from 9-5:20 PM

#### ***Alternate morning Conference times - Friday, May 20***

Conferences will be scheduled for 20 minute sessions from 7-10:40 a.m.

(Kindergarten and Primary conferences will be scheduled from 7-8:40 am ONLY)

**Reminder: MONTESSORI CLASSES WILL NOT BE IN SESSION on Wednesday, May 18 or Friday, May 20. Outside day care activities** have been scheduled for children who need care.

Registration sign-up sheets will be posted in the FRONT OFFICE on Wednesday, May 4. We realize that parents sign up for conference times around their work schedules and need to return to their jobs at specific times. We will try to stay on schedule that day and request that all parents help us by arriving **5 minutes prior** to their scheduled conference as well as respecting the next person's conference time. Parents who do not arrive on time will have a shortened conference session or may miss their conference. On conference day we ask that you check in at the front desk *before* going to your child's classroom, so as not to disturb a conference in progress. A copy of your child's progress report will be in their Friday folders on Friday, May 13. By taking the time to review the progress report before your conference you can maximize your conference time with your child's teacher.

We encourage ALL parents to participate in parent conferences, as it is the perfect time to sit with the teacher and focus on YOUR CHILD without interruption. Regretfully, with June program preparations upon us, teachers will be unable to provide additional times to review your child's progress report following the formal conference date.

### **PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES FOR ACCREDITATION**

As parents we know that you are proud to have your child at an NAEYC accredited program. A VERY important component of our accreditation relies on positive feedback from our parents. We ask you to participate in this process twice each year. PLEASE take a moment at parent conference time to complete the required questionnaire to assist us in maintaining this important status within the community and providing us with your valuable feedback.

We have, through our continued self-study process, been able to meet all of the criterion being asked about on this parent questionnaire and thus you should be able to answer a "YES!" to all of the questions that pertain to your child/family. However, if you are hesitant to answer yes, PLEASE take a moment to ask our director how exactly this criterion is met.

We have learned that sometimes parents are unaware of how we rank a yes simply because they have not had the need or opportunity to experience it. Please do not leave an answer blank as

this lowers our percentage of “yes”. Some questions only apply to a small group of families, and there is a non-applicable (N/A) to mark. If there is not a non-applicable choice, please answer after finding out how we meet the criterion.

Thank you for helping us maintain our accreditation. Your child attends the ONLY NAEYC accredited Montessori program in Irvine!



***NAEYC accreditation is a feather in our parents' caps, too!*** Thank you for assisting us in maintaining this **honor for your child's school.**

### **SPRING CLEANING**

Please help!! May is “Spring Cleaning” month! Please send a spring set of extra clothes and a new bottle of sunscreen for your child (if you didn't in April). Please label everything! Also, it is time to take home all jackets, toys, etc. from the bin and shelves, and anything that may have been left at school. All articles remaining unclaimed at the school after May 23 will be donated to charity. Thank you for your help.

### **TEACHER “PREP” DAY**

On **Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** our teachers will be preparing and planning for our June performance and summer unit. It will be a modified schedule and regular Montessori classes will NOT be in session. Daycare activities will be planned for this day.



### **“A STAR SPANGLED SUMMER-OLYMPICS” SUMMER 2016**

This year our summer unit is A Star Spangled Summer-Olympics. Get ready for our special summer program, as it takes a closer look at the Summer Olympics 2016 and the many countries participating. The children will be learning about the different Olympic Games, countries and people.

Join us on a worldwide *Montessori Adventure* as the children travel and explore these wonderful countries and much, much, more. What fun it will be!

***Look for more information and a summer packet/schedule in late June.***

## **KINDERGARTEN – PRIMARY NEWS**



### **GRADUATION PICTURES**

Wednesday, May 11 both individual and group photos will be taken of our Kindergarten Graduates. PLEASE BE SURE YOU GRADUATE **ARRIVES BY 9:00** TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP PHOTO. No pre-payment is necessary. You will receive a proof sheet approximately 2 weeks after the photos are taken and can place orders at that time.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2-6	Teacher Appreciation Week
MAY 5	Cinco de Mayo and Japanese Children's Day
MAY 6	Teacher Conference Sign ups Posted
MAY 8	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
May 11	Kindergarten Graduation Pictures
MAY 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences- <b>DAY CARE ONLY</b>
MAY 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences- <b>DAY CARE ONLY</b>
May 27	<b>DAY CARE ONLY</b> - Teacher "Prep" Day
<b>MAY 30</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED *** Memorial Day Holiday</b>
<b>JUNE 13</b>	<b>YEAR – END ALL SCHOOL MUSICAL AND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION</b>
JUNE 24	Last day of the session
<b>JUNE 27-JULY 4</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED *** SUMMER RECESS</b>
Tuesday, JULY 5	First Day of the Summer Session



**May Staff Anniversaries:** Richard and Cheryll with to 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!

May 1<sup>st</sup>      Mr. Doug 8 years!!!!  
May 13<sup>th</sup>     Miss Corey 3 years!!!!

## FYI: Some fun facts; Not for the newsletter

Children's Day in Japan: Kodomo no hi



### Koinobori Song

*Yane yori takai koinobori  
Ookii magoi wa otousan  
Chiisai higo wa kodomotachi*

## *Omshirosouni oyoideru*

The koinobori are higher than the rooftops

The big black carp is the father

The small golden-red carp is the child

How pleasing it is to swim!

Children are stars. Fish fly. Schools have the day off.

Every May 5, it is Kodomo no Hi or "Children's Day" in Japan. Families fly koinobori banners in the shape of a carp (a type of fish) for each child in their house. In Japanese folklore, the carp is a symbol of determination and vigor, overcoming all obstacles to swim upstream. Samurai warrior figurines and samurai kabuto helmets are also displayed in homes to inspire strength and bravery.

Children indulge in kashiwa-mochi, sticky rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves, and other sweets. Around the country there are many events for children and families. Children take center stage in traditional Japanese plays. Thousands of children compete in the "Kids' Olympics" held at the National Kasumigaoka Stadium in Tokyo. Children also use the day to thank and show respect for the teachers, parents, and relatives who care for them.

Until 1948, May 5 was called Tango no sekku and only honored boys. A separate holiday called Hinamatsuri or "Dolls' Day" celebrated girls on March 3. Even now, on this day girls still receive dolls that had been passed down to their grandmothers and mothers. For many families, May 5 still centers on boys. Some people say that Hinamatsuri for girls should become an equal holiday instead of combining them into one. How about you? Would you want a holiday for all kids, or one for boys and another for girls?

### **Create Your Own Koinobori**

Materials:

- 24" x 18" piece of fabric or heavy paper.
- fabric paint, paintbrush, markers, and colored tissue paper
- glue
- ribbon
- stapler
- strip of thin cardboard (about 17 inches in length and between ½-1" wide)
- hole puncher
- string (about 16 inches in length)

Instructions:

1. Fold the fabric in half lengthwise (so it is 24" x 9").
2. Draw a fish with an opening for the mouth and tail (at least 6 inches wide at each end). The body should be about 12 inches at the widest.
3. Cut along your lines so you have two identical fish shapes.
4. Using paint, markers, glue and tissue paper, decorate both fish.
5. Wait until dry. If using fabric, lay one decorated fish face-up on a table. Lay the other piece decoration-down on top of it. (The two decorated sides will be touching each other.) Smear glue along the sides of the fish, creating a ½ seam. (Leave the mouth and tail with no glue so the wind can blow through.) When glue is dry, turn your koinobori right side out.
6. If using paper: lay first fish face-down on table and smear glue along edges, leaving mouth and tail with no glue so wind can blow through. Place other fish on top of first, face-up and press down along seams.
7. Glue pieces of ribbon to the end of the tail.
8. Fit the piece of cardboard around the inside rim of the koinobori mouth. Staple the ends together so it forms a circle.
9. Push the cardboard circle about an inch inside the mouth and secure with glue. Fold the inch or so of excess fabric or paper over and glue to the inside rim.
10. Using the holepunch, make a hole on either side of the fish mouth. Cut a piece of string or ribbon about 16 inches long. Tie each end of the string to the holes.

11. Hang your koinobori outside and watch it swim in the breeze!