



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE - 2016



NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 2 - May 6 is National Teacher Appreciation Week with May 3rd 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.

BOOK Fair

Scholastic book fair is back! We will be having a Book Fair during the first week in May. The Book Fair will be open in the afternoons from 3:00-5:45. The children will also have a chance to shop with their classes. Look for more information soon. We accept cash (small bills are appreciated), checks and credit cards. We earn scholastic dollars with each book bought at the fair which allows us to buy library quality book with these dollars. Look for teacher "Wish Lists" if you want to donate a book to your child's class.

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 27th** 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 NEWS



GRADUATION PICTURES

Wednesday, May 11 both individual and group photos will be taken of our Kindergarten Graduates. 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. (may 11: V, W may 21: N)



TODDLER NEWS

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

See our first article in this newsletter ☺

MAY "TEACHING THEMES" FOR THE TODDLERS AND TWO'S

This month the toddlers and Two's will be learning about Bugs and Flowers!

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2-6	Teacher Appreciation Week, Book Fair
MAY 5	Cinco de Mayo and Japanese Children's Day
MAY 6	Parent/Teacher Conference Sign ups Posted
MAY 8	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
May 11	Kindergarten Graduation Pictures
MAY 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences- DAY CARE ONLY
MAY 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences- DAY CARE ONLY
May 27	DAY CARE ONLY - Teacher "Prep" Day
MAY 30	SCHOOL CLOSED *** Memorial Day Holiday
JUNE 15	YEAR – END ALL SCHOOL MUSICAL AND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION
JUNE 24	Last day of the session
JUNE 27-JULY 4	SCHOOL CLOSED *** SUMMER RECESS
Tuesday, JULY 5	First Day of the Summer Session



MAY Staff Birthdays

May 23

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