



MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - JUNE 2016

NATIONAL DONUT DAY!

June 5th is National Donut Day!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO VILLAGE MONTESSORI!!!

Village Montessori's **40th birthday** is on Wednesday, June 8th! Please join us in celebrating our special day by wearing your **Rainbow T-Shirt on this day**. "Rainbow" Pasta Salad will be served for lunch and yogurt w/fruit and rainbow "sprinkles" for afternoon snack.

KEY FOBS

Just a reminder: Those families withdrawing are asked to return their key fobs on their last day to avoid the \$50 per fob fee as per the signed agreement. Thank you in advance for the return of these fobs. We appreciate your help in keeping our school safe. Again, thank you so much!

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION and PRESCHOOL MUSICAL

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 14th** for our Preschool and Primary Year-end Musical Extravaganza and Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony! **The ENTIRE school closes at 5:00** on this day and the **PERFORMANCE BEGINS** on the playground at **5:15 p.m.** LATE FEES BEGIN AT 5:00 AND ARE \$1 PER MINUTE PER CHILD!!! Please note: Our infant-toddler program also closes at 5:00 pm on this day! Families are invited to stay for the program. This is a very special event as all of our preschool, kindergarten and primary children participate. **PLEASE READ all of the following information about open house as it is very important!**



SCHOOL CLOSSES at 5:00 ON TUESDAY, JUNE 14- SEE LATE FEE BELOW

Please make a note: SCHOOL WILL CLOSE EARLY ON **June 14** for our **YEAR-END MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AND GRADUATION CEREMONY**. Be sure to pick up your child **no later than 5:00**. **\$1 per minute late fees will begin at 5:01 for all ages of children**. Remember that parking on this night may be a problem! Regretfully, you may not park in the neighborhood! If you wish to purchase a permit for the parking structure at the bottom of the hill, you may do so at the kiosk near the entrance to UCI on East Peltason (near Campus Drive).

After picking up your children on this day, we invite you to adjourn to the playground area to supervise them. Our teaching staff will be remaining in the atrium area with children who are waiting for their parents. We are sorry, but due to the confusion that can cause safety issues, parents are asked to move from the atrium area to the playground until 5:00 once they have picked up their child so that the remaining children can be properly supervised. At 5:00 you will take your child back to their classroom and then have a seat for the show.

Parents who arrive late to pick up their child **after 5:00** can pick up them up from the side office. **Please pay the late fee to the teacher on duty**. Please understand that we are unable to release children back to their teachers since the teachers are stationed in their classrooms focusing on musical preparations. We thank you for your understanding and hope that you will enjoy our program!



YEAR-END MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

Our annual year-end program is scheduled to **begin at 5:15**. As some last minute preparations must be made by the children, we ask that children be **taken to their classroom** teachers **by their parents no later than 5:05**. Parents can at this time make their way to the performance area.

Our children are already practicing selected songs for their "on stage" performance. After each classroom sings, our kindergarten children will then graduate, followed by a grand finale performed by all the classrooms (preschool and older). This is a show you won't want to miss! Cookies and lemonade will be served after our grand finale. If for some reason your child cannot attend, please be sure to let your child's teacher know. Thank you to our music teacher, **Miss Margaret**, who has been assisting both the children and teachers with their songs!

We ask parents to be courteous and responsible by supervising all **siblings** and young children during the program. Please be sure they do not disturb others who are trying to watch the show. Also, as the **children use sidewalk areas during the program, please refrain from blocking their pathways and remain in your seat or on the toddler playground. Thank you for being a great role model for your child and a courteous parent!**

After our program, ALL CHILDREN will be dismissed by class. Parents will be asked to step forward as their child's class is being dismissed, so that their child can spot them. We ask that parents and children **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM RE-ENTERING THE CLASSROOMS** after the performance, as we will be locking the building for security purposes at this time. The children's papers, belongings, etc. will be available for pick up the following morning if you forget them. - Thank you for helping us out!

PLEASE HELP THE STAFF AND YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH YOUR COURTESY AND COOPERATION DURING THE OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM. THANK YOU!

YOUR CHILD'S REHEARSAL SCHEDULE!!!!

Our year end musical extravaganza doesn't just happen – it takes a little practice! Rehearsals provide your child with the familiarity that allows them to feel comfortable when the big night comes. It helps them feel comfortable with where they stand, what they do, and how to feel safe even before they are in front of parents, siblings and the many other people they will notice on performance night! Please help them by bringing them to school **by 9:00 a.m.** for their rehearsal days during the next few weeks. Formal rehearsals with musical accompaniment are scheduled at ***on Wednesday, June 1, Tuesday June 7 and Tuesday, June 14 (also performance day!)***

PERFORMANCE AREA – SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Parents of the kindergarten graduates **ONLY** have been assigned priority seating (2 seats per family). Additional seating is available on a first come, first served basis. We suggest that parents begin to find seats no later than 5:05 after they leave their child in the classroom. The performance and graduation ceremony are extremely important milestone events for our children and their families. Each year we receive *many* complaints from parents about those families who refuse to display courtesy during the performance and stand in the performance area, block the children's walkways and stand in (thus destroying) the landscape as well as allowing their older children to run loudly around the school without supervision.

Please note that in response to the many courteous parents and in the best interest of the children, parents who interrupt the performance in this way will be asked to leave the performance area. Parents who wish to have a better view by standing may do so at the back or on the toddler playground. Please keep your family together as unsupervised children will be asked to leave the premises. Please also

note that the play equipment is off limits during this evening. Children are not allowed on the structures. Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Each year we have our music extravaganza and graduation professionally filmed. This allows each family to have a special memory of their child's performance as well as provide their child with a record of their endeavors with their friends at school. This year the performance will be recorded on DVD with titles and ***professional quality*** editing and is available at a cost of \$30 each. Graduating kindergarten children will receive one copy of the DVD as a gift from the school.

As parents will be asked to leave walkways and avoid standing even if it is their child's time to perform, this **is** the best shot! Forms to order the video will be in Friday folders on June 10 and are available at the front desk. Deadline to order is June 17.

The professional video cameras will be positioned to obtain the best possible "shots" of the children. Parents who also wish to take photos are asked to do so while seated or from the toddler playground only and avoid interfering with the professional photographers.

Please remember that parents are to **REMAIN SEATED DURING THE PERFORMANCE** to avoid blocking the view of other proud parents as well as the camera crew! **PLEASE DO NOT** hold up large video devices, such as iPads, etc. from the seating area during the performance as these block the view of those behind you, as well as they may interfere with the professional videographer. Once again, if you wish to stand, please remain on the toddler playground. **THANK YOU!**

"The knowledge, friendships and memories we leave with are priceless . . ."

Denean Chase, Associate Director at her son Kelsey's kindergarten graduation from University Montessori School in 1994.

Thank you in advance for making this memorable moment a cherished one.

Note from Cheryl Ruszat, Executive Director

As this time of the year approaches, some children begin to experience some normal excitement over the chance to perform with their friends for their families as well as think about some of their friends moving to different classrooms or schools this summer or this fall.

As parents you may notice some extra wiggles and giggles as well as questions about some of the changes they may experience from day to day. Children who are verbal are likely to share their observations of events and plans they hear "the grown-ups" talking about. Children who are quiet may demonstrate their observations with behaviors such as small complaints about their friends or activities.

Parents may wonder if this is something to worry about but these behaviors are common during life's transition times. First of all, it makes for great conversation! These are meaningful experiences for children and provide important platforms for parents to provide time for sharing these experiences with them.

What exactly is a parent to do? Listen with an open heart but a mind that understands that this behavior is "inside the box" for young children. Children who move on will make new friends and settle into their new classrooms. Meanwhile, those who remain in preschool get to be the leaders and build their self-confidence as they welcome new children to their classroom family. What children seek in these interactions with "the grown-ups" is a time to share their thoughts and receive reassurance that the grown-ups will really remember the new schedules and that these experiences will provide fun, happy memories, and new friends! Relax and enjoy the process of growing with your child!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Thank you to all of the parents who completed our NAEYC surveys! A summary of the results will be posted in the front office in July as we finish tallying. Please feel free to ask us about further information regarding the results.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

Sunday, June 19 is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all of you great Dads!

BALLET END OF THE YEAR RECITAL

Just a reminder: The end of the year ballet recital will be on Saturday, June 4. The performance will be at 5:00 p.m. at the Woodbridge Community Church, 5000 Barranca Pkwy. Please check with the director if you have any questions, or feel free to e-mail Miss Merle, Miss Robynne or Miss Bridget at contact@academyofdance.org.



"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 Our Beautiful Country, 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!

We have already begun to prepare our special unit. We have an on-site field trip as well as a bus trip. Bus Field trips are open to children 4 years and older. Preschool children under 4 may attend if accompanied by a parent as a chaperone. Sign up information will be released on the first day of summer school.

Look for more information and a summer packet/schedule in early July.

SUMMER CERAMIC PAINTING – "A STAR SPANGLED SUMMER & OLYMPICS"

Flyers for this summer's ceramic painting by Klay Kids will be available at the front desk. The ceramic painting is for preschool-primary children who are enrolled in both the months of July and August. The ceramic pieces need to be ordered prior to the start of the summer session, therefore we are asking you to return the order forms promptly, by the date TBA. Thank you!

A.M. SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR ALL CHILDEN

(DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE AND THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY!)

We will begin our summer A.M. schedule on Monday, June 20. During the warmer months, we have an outdoor playtime each morning to compensate for the occasional afternoon heat when it is too hot to play outside. This schedule will begin on June 20 but the normal schedule will resume for the first two weeks of the summer session to assist our new children's transition into school.

The schedule below will be in effect for the last week of June and begin again for the duration of the summer beginning the third week of July. During the first two weeks of the new session children will transition to the classroom from the atrium each morning to help the new children acclimate to school.

7:00-7:55 Atrium
7:55-8:05 Atrium clean up
8:05-8:55 Outside playground time
8:55 Transition into Montessori Core Program

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the Lost and Found Bin (and shelves) for any lost items. Lost and Found items will be laid out after Open House and then donated to charity on Wednesday, June 22.

BROWN PAPER BAGS

Please bring a BROWN PAPER BAG (with your child's name on it) to school by Wednesday, June 22. All project, papers, etc. will be sent home in these bags on Friday, June 24!

“NEW STUDENTS” MEET THE TEACHER SCHEDULED

Thursday, June 23rd is “Meet the Teacher Day” for all **new** students. Teachers will be introducing themselves and speaking about their classrooms from 8:30 to 9:00 with informal visitation from 9:00 to 9:30.

During Meet the Teacher enrolled children will have outdoor daycare. Parents who do not want their children to have an extended outdoor playtime on this morning are encouraged to bring their child to school at 9:30 a.m.

SUMMER RECESS

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** June 27 – July 4 for Summer Recess. The first day of the summer session is **Tuesday, July 5**. Happy Fourth of July!!!

JULY AND SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM CHANGES

In July and August, our preschool and primary classes experience some changes due to the transitioning in and out of children moving to older age groups. While we realize that all families are anxious to know when their child will actually transition into the kindergarten or primary classes, we are unable to post these changes until the last week of the session due to the number of changes which occur for the many families involved. Thank you for your continued trust and patience and remembering that all of our decisions are based on the best interests of each individual child's placement. The class lists for July will be posted on Tuesday, June 21 and for the fall term on Tuesday, August 30.

At this time we are working with the staff to meet their requests for team building in the classrooms. Final staff assignments will be posted for September at the end of August. Thank you for being patient with us during this important process for the coming school term.

***** **TIDBITS FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND TWOS** *****

JUNE TEACHING THEME'S

One's and Two's: Father's Day and Community Workers

TODDLER BIRTHDAY!

Toddler birthdays may be celebrated at school with a “simple” healthy morning snack such as muffins. Please refer to our “birthday policy” and refrain from sending sugary cakes, donuts, cookies, party favors, hats, and decorations to school.

GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL - TUESDAY, JUNE 14

While our babies and toddlers are too young to join in the “on stage” performance, we invite all families to watch the show and join us for refreshments! Remember, school closes at 5:00 p.m. on this day!

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 14

JUNE 19

JUNE 22

JUNE 22

JUNE 24

JUNE 27-JULY 4

Tuesday, JULY 5

GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL * School closes at 5:00*****

Happy Father's Day!

Bring a brown paper bag to school, labeled with your child's name

All Lost and Found items will be donated to charity

Ceramic forms DUE

SCHOOL CLOSED/Summer Recess

First day of summer school!



JUNE STAFF BIRTHDAYS:

June 17

Miss Aurelia

June 24

Miss Natasha

June 25

Miss Nancy

June 28

Miss Ingrid

JUNE 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.

June 2

Miss Stephanie

8 years

June 4

Miss Ingrid

19 years

June 12

Miss Laura

16 years

June 24

Miss Alma

2 years

***Chef Cyndi's Kitchen* - Berry Patriotic Kabobs**



Ingredients:

Blueberries

Raspberries

Mini Marshmallows

10" Wooden Skewers

Directions:

Thread 4 blueberries, 1 mini marshmallow, 1 raspberry, 1 mini marshmallow and 1 raspberry on each of 5 wooden skewers.

On the remaining 7 skewers thread; 1 raspberry, one marshmallow, 1 raspberry, one marshmallow, 1 raspberry, one marshmallow. End with a raspberry.

Place on a clear or white platter