



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - JULY 2016

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

Welcome to all new and returning students and their families! We hope everyone had an enjoyable Fourth of July holiday week.

SUMMER MORNING ATRIUM SCHEDULE

Starting **Monday, July 11** (*second week of school*) the morning schedule is as follows:

7:00 - 7:55	Atrium
7:55 - 8:05	Clean-up
8:05 - 8:55	Outside play
8:55	Transition inside for class time
9:00	Montessori core program begins- all children in their classrooms



NEW STUDENTS...

MONTESSORI PARENT ORIENTATION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHERYLL RUSZAT

Welcome to all of our new families! Please let your child's teacher or the director know if we can help you and your children in any way.

Cheryll our Executive Director will have a special Montessori Parent Orientation meeting for our new parents from 4:30-5:30 p.m. @ Wednesday July 20. Cheryll will welcome parents to the Montessori Schools of Irvine family and help parents understand their child's transition into the world of Montessori educational teaching strategies. She will introduce important information for parents about how true Montessori education benefits their children for life. She will also answer questions parents may have as they begin their own journey as Montessori parents.

Also watch for "Montessori 101" in September where more information about the Montessori Method of education will be presented on the UCI campus exclusively for the parents of Montessori Schools of Irvine families.

Light refreshments will be served at all these events. As always, there are no charges for our parent seminars!



"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 bus trips. 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 the first week of summer school.

***Watch for more information on signing up for special events on Tuesday, July 5!
Sign-ups begin on Friday, July 8!!***

HELPING YOUR CHILD BEGIN SCHOOL

Beginning school, as with all new experiences, creates both excitement and a bit of anxiety for children. Help your child transition into their new daily routine by smiling when you speak about school, reassuring them that you know that they are worried but you KNOW they will have fun, and being positive when you part from them. During the first few days of drop off, plan a non-hurried transition so that any rush you may have about work or obligations is non-existent. It is helpful for you to hand your child directly to one of the staff members in the classroom. Be sure to let the teacher know that YOU are ready to let go! Teachers will try to help you only when you signal them that you are ready to leave.

During the first few weeks of school many parents like to stay and take advantage of the observation booth. Please be courteous in recognizing that both time and space will need to be shared by others. Keep voices down so that it does not disturb the classrooms as this tends to scare our children. In observing your child, remember that our first goal is to assist the child in acclimating to their new environment. Please note that teachers will respect the child's signals. In some cases this means allowing the child to stand aside without assistance, in others it requires direct comforting, and in some other cases it requires the child to vent their emotions through tears, tantrums and a refusal to participate. Even children, who begin the process in a joyful way, will sometimes need to take a step back and take a deep breath. Thus, if you have questions or concerns about YOUR child's adjustment, please speak immediately with your child's teacher and/or the school director so that we may begin our parent-school partnership with the positive sharing of information to best help your child.

Parents are invited to attend the parent orientation on July 20th at 4:30. Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director will acquaint parents with the Montessori Method, what the children's day is like, and answer general questions.

KEY FOBS

All parents are given two key fobs per family. Remember that it is EACH person's responsibility to have their key fob with them at all times in order to enter the school. For security reasons, it is not always possible to "buzz" you in, nor wait for another family to arrive and let you in the front door if you have forgotten your key fob. Please help us keep the building secure by carrying and using your key fob daily. Thank you.

Also, if your family is leaving the school this summer, remember to turn in your key fobs on your last day or you will be charged the \$50 replacement fee per key fob. Thank you!



PRO-CARE

Montessori Schools of Irvine uses the Pro Care data base system. If you have not yet been registered into the school system, see *Miss Pennee* immediately. Please **check your child in and out each** day using your thumb/fingerprint. Please be sure to press "finish" at the end to complete the process. If there is a message or note for your child, you will be notified through Pro Care as you check in/out each day. You may find written notes in the "Parent Box" located on the front desk, filed by your child's LAST NAME. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let us know!



SAFETY ON THE PLAYGROUND- No Crocs or Flip Flops. Please!

Please help us stay safe on the playground! Send your child to school in shoes that provides ankle and heel support, stay on when running, and protect the toes, such as tennis shoes. This will minimize potential injuries that occur during outside play. Thank you for your help in keeping your child and our playground safe!



SUMMER SUN

Parents are encouraged to send their child to school with sunscreen applied every day, as well as a hat and additional protective clothing for those with very fair skin. We will reapply sunscreen later in the day as a matter of the children's daily routine, but it is impossible to monitor children's sunscreen application as they arrive. Personal bottles of sunscreen should be left with your child's teacher but be sure to LABEL THE BOTTLE (AS WELL AS HATS) WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME. Please do NOT send spray sunscreen. Thank you!



PARKING

For the children's safety, there is ***NO PARKING ON ANY RED CURB***. This curb is for emergency vehicles only, and if cars are parked there, it is difficult to see children crossing the driveway to the school! We ask everyone to drive slowly and carefully through the parking lot. Park in marked spaces only. Please do not leave siblings unattended in the car.



LABEL ALL ITEMS

PLEASE remember to label ALL items that are brought to school - clothes, nap items, sunscreen, swimming items, sharing items, etc.

OOPS REPORTS

Just a reminder for our parents: STATE LAW requirement – when you receive an OOPS report for your child, please **read, sign,** and ***leave it in the front office with the director.*** Please do not take them home! We will be happy to make a **copy for you if needed.** Thank you!

AM SNACK

The morning (AM) snack calendars are located on the front office windows. Please feel free to sign your child up for snack once a month. A "healthy" snack suggestion list is available at the front desk. Reminder: Montessori Schools of Irvine has a "no nuts" policy, and we also ask you to refrain from sending juice to drink. Please mark your child's snack date down on your calendars at home and feel free to fill out a "snack reminder" slip located underneath the snack calendars. Thank you!

BALLET CLASS

Registration forms for the summer ballet and jazz sessions are now available at the front desk. All new AND returning students must register.

GYMNASTICS, VIOLIN AND YOGA

There are currently a few openings in our extra-curricular activities. Gymnastic classes are held on Tuesdays or Fridays. Violin classes are held on Mondays and Fridays. Yoga classes are held on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested, information and registration forms are available at the front desk. Once the classes are full, we will wait list all other children.

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.

STAFF INSERVICE WEEK – SCHOOL CLOSED ON FRIDAY, September 2!

Monday, August 29-Thursday, September 1 is Staff In-service Week. Monday-Thursday Montessori Schools of Irvine will offer *daycare only*. As our head teachers will be preparing for the coming school term, the Montessori Classroom Program will not be in session. Children will be participating in games, theme days and outdoor activities throughout each day.

Friday, September 2 the school will be CLOSED. This allows the school to provide a full staff in-service day. During this time staff participates in additional training sessions for updated information, curriculum coordination and other professional enrichment. As they will be meeting for training together, staff will not be available to provide day care to the children. Thank you for realizing that this important working and learning day for our staff helps make the school an even better place for your child!

WATCH FOR OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watch for our annual “**Family Spaghetti Dinner Night**” on Thursday, September 15! Our Spaghetti dinner is our welcome to both new and continuing students as well as a great way to meet other Montessori parents. Our Executive Directors, Cheryl and Richard Ruszat will also be there to welcome our families.

KINDERGARTEN – PRIMARY NEWS

The information in this section of the newsletter is for our kindergarten students.

TIDBITS FOR TODDLERS AND TWO'S

WATER PLAY DAYS

Toddlers will have water play days on Friday mornings throughout July and August. A note about water play and what to bring was sent out in June. Please see our Toddler teachers if you have any questions.



SUMMER SUN

Just a reminder: Please check your child's sunscreen supply, water play clothes, extra clothes, and sun hats. As you know the One's and Two's spend a good part of their day outside on the playground. We encourage all parents to apply sunscreen BEFORE your child leaves home every morning. Thank you!

SELF-HELP SKILLS

A large part of our toddler program is encouraging independence. Please remember to encourage your toddler to take on and off their own shoes, pull up and down their pants, feed themselves, wipe their own nose, and wash hands independently. As we work together to encourage the children to gain these important skills, we see large leaps in self-esteem. Thank you for working with us to teach the children these important life skills.

DATES TO REMEMBER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WESTPARK MONTESSORI!!!

Westpark Montessori's 26th birthday is on Friday, July 15! Please join us in celebrating our special day by wearing your **Montessori Rainbow T-Shirt on this day!**

JULY 4

Happy Independence Day! – SCHOOL CLOSED

JULY 5

Welcome back!

July 8

Registration begins for Field Trips

July 27

Field Trip to Tanaka Farms – Watermelon Tour

August 11

On-Site Field Trip: A Visit with Abraham Lincoln

August 18

Field Trip to Discovery Cube OC

AUGUST 29-Sept. 1

Teacher In-Service Week- OUTSIDE DAYCARE ONLY

SEPTEMBER 2

Montessori Schools of Irvine **CLOSED** for Staff In-Service

SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 6

First day of the Fall Term

SEPTEMBER 15

SPAGHETTI DINNER



STAFF BIRTHDAYS

July 6

Miss Trinh

July 19

Miss Erin

JULY STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Richard and Cheryll 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.

July 5

Miss Erin

11 years

July 25

TJ

10 years

Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi



July is National "Ice Cream" month!



***On behalf of the culinary team we would like to thank all of the parents for the smiles and appreciative hearts. We look forward to another great year!
Chef Cyndi, Miss LaShone, Miss Barbara and Chef Oscar***

