



Westpark Montessori Schools of Irvine – August 2016



"A STAR SPANGLED SUMMER & OLYMPICS" SUMMER 2016

Our summer unit "A Star Spangled Summer & Olympics" is off to a great start. The children have been learning about the different Olympic Games, countries and people. The children have begun their worldwide *Montessori Adventure* and are exploring our wonderful country and much, much, more. What fun it has been so far!

We have an on-site field trip this month with Abe Lincoln and a bus field trip to Discovery Cube. Sign-ups are available in the front office. Please check with the Director for availability.



ART DISPLAYS AND BROWN PAPER BAGS

Watch for the children's end of summer art show, "Art Affair" on Thursday, August 25 in the afternoon. On this day, the children will be displaying art projects from the summer program. All projects will be sent home on Friday, August 26. Please send a brown paper bag, labeled with your child's name on it, by Thursday to hold these precious items!

KEEPIN' IT GREEN!

The monthly newsletters are available online and if needed, you can print from home. A printed copy will be posted in the front office and at each classroom for "quick" reference. If you need an immediate paper copy, please ask at the front desk. Thank you for helping us "Go Green"!

TEACHER IN-SERVICE WEEK

Friday, August 26 is the last day of the regular summer session. The week of August 29-September 1 (Monday-Thursday) is TEACHER IN-SERVICE WEEK. Montessori classes **will NOT** be in session during this week. Day care for continuing students is available. A good part of our days will be spent outside having the last of the summer fun! Since so much of our time is spent playing outside, please be sure to apply plenty of sunscreen to your child before they come to school, and feel free to have them wear a hat! Lunch and both AM and PM snacks will be served by the school. Montessori Schools of Irvine are **CLOSED** Friday, September 2, 2016.

CONTINUING STUDENTS - FORMS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

As autumn approaches, it is time to update your child's records and fill out state required forms. Packets will be put in the children's Friday Folders on August 19.

Each fall, we ask families to complete a new ID Emergency form to ensure that we have current information for your child. Also, the State checks your child's immunization records to verify that they are properly immunized. Please bring in a copy of any NEW immunizations your child may have received since beginning their enrollment at Montessori Schools of Irvine. As these immunizations are required by the State for enrollment, children showing deficiencies will need to receive the required dosage in order to continue attending school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY– SCHOOL CLOSED!

Just a reminder: **Friday, September 2** school will be **CLOSED**. This day is an in-service training session for ALL staff members!



LABOR DAY HOLIDAY AND FIRST DAY OF THE FALL TERM

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 5 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Tuesday, September 6, 2016 is the first day of the fall term.

FAMILY SPAGHETTI DINNER NIGHT

Welcome to all of our new families! Please let your child's teacher or the office staff know if we can help you and your children in any way. Also, watch the September newsletter for more information on our annual "**Family Spaghetti Dinner Night**" on Thursday, September 15. Spaghetti dinner night is a great way for both new AND continuing students to meet other Montessori families and enjoy dinner at school, as the school provides a fantastic spaghetti dinner for all of our families! Sign up to bring a desert to share and bring a picnic blanket for your family.

RACE FOR THE CURE---SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Montessori Schools of Irvine is proud to sponsor for our 17th year our own team, "Montessori in Motion", for the Susan B. Komen Orange County Race for the Cure at Fashion Island on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

All parents, families and friends are invited to join our staff and be part of this wonderful and moving experience. Miss Betsi (Village Montessori) is our team captain and will be in charge of registration and tee shirt distribution. Look for more information in the coming weeks. Can't make it on Race Day? No problem! Register as a Sleep In for the Cure participant!

Registration can now be processed online at: www.komenoc.org/race (Team Name: **Montessori in Motion**) If you register online, please let YOUR school director know so that Miss Betsi can bring your race materials to the correct school.

Miss Denean (All Schools) and Miss Betsi will bring all the participants race day materials (tee, bibs, etc.) to your school for you prior to September 25 so that you will be ready for RACE FOR THE CURE day!

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important annual event!!!



SCHOOL HOURS REMINDER!



Montessori Schools of Irvine open at 7:00 AM for our early childhood programs and **7:30 AM for our infant toddler program**. Please be so kind as to allow our staff to open the school before dropping off your children for safety and security reasons. School closes at 6:00 PM. After 6:00 PM, our late fees are \$1 per minute paid to cover the staff time of those who remain after this time with your child.

2016-2017 TUITION RATES

All of us at the Montessori Schools of Irvine thank you for the privilege of sharing the precious moments of your child's early childhood years with us. We take our partnership very seriously.

Our mission is to provide the highest quality of Montessori early childhood education and care available – *anywhere*. We continue to be an NAEYC accredited school and an American Montessori Affiliated Program. Compromising on the quality of your experience is not an option for us. This requires an extraordinary, stable staff of highly qualified professionals as well as an environment that is both beautiful and enriched with a multitude of appropriate materials.

Our tuitions are set annually for the school year which begins September 1 and ends August 31. This year our program has been impacted, just as many other businesses have been, by the increased cost of providing health care benefits to our staff as well as changes in employment law. This year we are budgeting a 14 % increase in health benefits for our staff which is on top of an 18% increase last year. We also work hard to remain competitive in salaries that attract and keep quality teachers for your child.

Additionally, the cost of procuring healthy foods in order to provide nutritional fresh lunches and snacks daily also adds to our operating costs.

Thank you again for your continued patronage. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Ruzsat, Executive Director of Business Management at the school office or (949) 854-6030.

Tuition Rates for the 2016-2017 School Term – Effective Sept. 1, 2016

Infants \$1695/mo. (3 mos. – 1 yr./walking)

Toddlers \$1645/mo. (walking to 3 years)

Full Day Preschool \$ 1385/mo.

Kindergarten-Primary \$1425/mo.

All tuitions continue to include extended child care, lunch and afternoon snack



WOW! – YOU CAN HELP!

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE GIVE A FULL TUITION TO DISCOVERY CUBE (Children's Science Center) TO HELP STEM EDUCATION!

Each year Montessori Schools of Irvine allows Discovery Cube to auction a full year of tuition to either a caring already enrolled family or a family who is on our waiting list who will gain immediate entry into the program at the school of their choice. The value of the tuition for either preschool or Kindergarten/Primary Grades is between \$16,620 and \$17,250.

This auction item is **now available for live bidding in time to utilize it for this coming year.** *All proceeds from this auction item go directly to Discovery Cube!*

Bidding is done by contacting Lacy White at lwhite@discoverycube.org or (714) 913-5021. Bids will be taken on a first come first serve basis so don't hesitate if you're interested to bid at a price you are comfortable with. The "buy it now" auction price is \$18,000.

If still available, live bidding will take place on September 24, 2016 at the Discovery Cube Gala. (Reservations for this Gala can also be made through Lacy White. This year's theme: Wild West at the Cube!)

RED, and BLUE JEANS

As we continue to celebrate and learn about our summer unit, Star Spangled Summer, our staff may look a little more casual than usual. Our August dress theme will be "Red, White & Blue Jeans"!

FOR OUR PARENTS.....

Each year we like to share the results of our parent questionnaires with our parents. The results are tallied and placed on a spread sheet so that our parents can have the full report of the results. This spreadsheet is posted in the front office for your convenience. There is an open parent advisory board meeting (check the September newsletter for the date) where Cheryl Ruszat, Executive Director will share how the results are used in our implementation of on-going improvement of our program in all areas.

NEW STUDENTS, "MEET YOUR TEACHER"

Thursday, September 1 at 8:30 a.m. is "Meet Your Teacher" for all new students. This time is set aside for all **NEW** students (September start date) and their parents to stop by the classrooms to meet their teachers for the first time. Continuing parents who have already met their child's teacher are not required to attend.

We would like to remind ALL new parents that our entire staff is prepared to assist your child with entering their group of children each morning. Please feel free to go to any staff person in the classroom or on the playground to transfer your child into the school day. Please be sure to let the teacher at hand know that YOU, the parent, are *ready* to relinquish your child for the day. Teachers will not interfere with the separation process if they feel you are not ready to let them help you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 11	Abe Lincoln on-site Field Trip
August 18	Discovery Cube Field Trip
August 25	Children's art display, "Art Affair"
August 26	Last day of the summer session
August 29-Sept. 1	Teacher In-service Week - "Outside Daycare Only"
September 1	"Meet the Teacher" for all NEW incoming students
SEPTEMBER 2	SCHOOL CLOSED - Staff Development Day
SEPTEMBER 5	SCHOOL CLOSED - Labor Day Holiday
September 6	First Day of the 2016-2017 School Year!
September 15	Family Spaghetti Dinner Night
September 25	Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure

AUGUST STAFF BIRTHDAYS:

August 9	Miss Lety
August 29	Miss Mayra
August 30	Miss Vannesa



AUGUST 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!

August	1	Miss Dona	25 years!
August	1	Miss Ina	11 years
August	21	Mr. Tomas	15 years (Our Handyman)
August	23	Miss Trinh	8 years
August	23	Miss Corene	6 years

Chef Cyndi's Kitchen

Quinoa Salad



Ingredients:

For the Quinoa: also be used

½ c. quinoa
1 c water or stock

For the Salad:

1 c. shelled edamame
1 c. loose corn
½ c Diced tomato
½ c. chopped fresh cilantro

For the Salad Dressing: (note: bottled dressing can

¼ c. fresh Lime juice
2 t. olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:

1. Prepare Quinoa by simmering in the liquid approximately 15 minutes until water is absorbed then remove from heat and cool
2. Toss quinoa with salad ingredients
3. Combine dressing ingredients to make the dressing
4. Thoroughly mix the dressing and ingredients
5. Chill before serving