



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE OCTOBER 2016

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KHOSLA FAMILY!

Congratulations and a big THANK YOU to the Khosla family who purchased the Montessori Schools of Irvine tuition which is donated annually to benefit Discovery Cube in Santa Ana. 100% of the proceeds for this year's tuition goes directly to the Discovery Cube for scholarships in science for children who might not otherwise be able to go to the Cube.

Purchasing this tuition allowed the Khosla family to bypass the waiting list and begin their child, Collin, 3.5 years old, at the Northwood Montessori School of Irvine. Collin has joined the Montessori family of children in Ms. Karina's Class. Welcome Collin and family!

NEWS AND BOOOOOOOO'S

October is a very busy month! Keep your October Newsletter handy as a reference and remember to watch the front office windows for reminders of upcoming events.



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Reminder: Save Tuesday, October 4 for School Picture Day. Images 4 Kids will be taking individual photos of all enrolled children in our school atrium on this day. There is no prepayment necessary. Proofs will be available at the school approximately 3-4 weeks following picture day. You may purchase photo packages at that time.

If your child is absent on picture day, there will be ONE make-up picture day for children from all four schools on Wednesday, October 19 at our Westpark Montessori beginning at 9:00 a.m. and only as long as needed. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from Westpark for the make-up picture day.

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.

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB ORDERS

October book club orders are now available at the front desk. Please write **ONE** check only to Scholastic for all orders. Orders are due Friday, October 14. If you prefer to order on-line, go to the scholastic website and use the code **HJNJD**. The book club deliveries do not always arrive on the same date, so orders will be distributed as they arrive. (Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery)



PUMPKIN PATCH FIELD TRIP

Again this fall we will be traveling to Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch and vegetable gardens, located in Irvine. The Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch allows children to pick their own pumpkins right off the vines. The field trip also includes a wagon ride, petting zoo and a corn maze! The field trip to Tanaka Farms will take place on Thursday, October 20. The cost of the trip is \$21.00 for children and the entrance fee for parent chaperones is \$7.00 (The chaperone fee does NOT include a pumpkin.)

Permission slips were distributed last month. Preschool children under 4 must have a parent chaperone! Registration is done on a first come/first serve basis and the trip will close once the bus is full. **All children attending must wear a Montessori rainbow t-shirt!** Tennis shoes or closed toed shoes are suggested, as it makes walking in the pumpkin patch field easier to navigate.

Parent chaperones: Please bring a back pack and also wear "comfy" shoes for walking in the pumpkin patch. As always, we ask that you turn off your cell phones while chaperoning on this trip. Thank you.



ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

Our annual Halloween party and parade has been scheduled for **Monday, October 31 at 3:30 p.m.** Parents are invited to sign up in the front office to bring in special Halloween goodies on this day. Sign-ups will be posted in the front office on Wednesday, October 19.

Children should come to school with their **school clothes on** and their costume in a **PAPER bag**. The bag and **ALL parts of the costume must be labeled** with your child's name. Please be aware that regretfully, sometimes even with labeling, mix-ups can occur! Children will be dressed in their costumes following their afternoon snack.

Please, NO MASKS or WEAPONS! These items frighten many young children.

Parents are welcome to join us for the parade, which takes place in the parking lot. The parking lot (and drop off area) will be blocked off from 2:30 – 4:30. PLEASE, DO NOT park in the lot as the children will use the parking lot for the parade! Find your "photo spot" and wait for the children to reach you. They will be pausing periodically for photos along the way.

***DISMISSAL:** Parents who are taking their children with them after the parade are asked to PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE until all children have returned to their classrooms for dismissal so that we can keep them safe and be sure that all are accounted for after the parade. Once the children are safely inside, parents are asked to sign their child out before proceeding to pick them up from their classroom.

PLEASE NOTE: If the ghosts and goblins bring rain on this day, the parade will be canceled. If this happens, parents will be invited to take pictures in the classroom from 3:30-3:45 only.



***IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING DISMISSAL ON HALLOWEEN!!**

Parents, please be advised that it has been our experience that most parents take their child home with them after the parade to prepare for evening trick-or-treating festivities. Historically, this leaves but 3 or 4 children at school after 5:00. Parents concerned that their child may be disoriented by being one of the few children left, may want to consider planning on taking their child with them after the parade or picking them up by 5:00 on this special Halloween day.

MONTESSORI 101 (OCTOBER 6th)

Save the date for Montessori 101! We have found that it is about this time that parents would like to know more about what their children are doing and why. What is the thing with rolling rugs, carrying trays, and those pink blocks - when will they be reading and can they work with numbers?

Cheryll Ruszat, our Executive Director and the Program Director for the University Montessori Teacher Education Program at UCI will be doing a special parent presentation just for parents of the Montessori Schools of Irvine. Spaces are limited so please be sure to register with the school director to reserve your place. Please sign up in the front office of your child's school by Monday, October 3rd so we can plan appropriately.

The presentation will be held on October 6, 2016 from 5:30-6:30 PM at our Village Montessori School (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612) which is home to our primary program. Babysitting is available at registration time and a light snack will be available for parents as well as children.

Please contact Cheryll at 949-854-6030 if you have any questions regarding this presentation.

LOST AND FOUND WEEK

Tuesday, October 18 - Friday, October 21 (before NOON) is Lost and Found Week. The Lost and Found items will be displayed on the atrium bench. All unclaimed items will be put in the Salvation Army bin and donated to charity on Friday, October 21 in the afternoon.

FREE CHILDREN'S CONCERT

There will be a "Free" Children's Suzuki Festival Concert on Sunday, October 30 @ 2:00 PM. The concert will take place at St. Mark Presbyterian Church; 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660. See the Parent Information Board for a map.

SNACKS

Morning snack is a part of your child's "practical life" learning experiences at school and is a popular aspect of our parent participation program. Parents sign up for their child to be a host or hostess for the day and bring in a special nutritious snack for their child's class. When signing up, please **be sure to list** what snack items you are planning to bring (from at least 2 food groups). Please be sure to have snack at school **BY 8:30 a.m.** so it can be prepared and ready to serve by 9:00. Ideas for snack are available in the front office as is a full copy of our snack policy.

Please note: *Nut allergies pose a **potential FATAL effect** due to severe allergies to peanuts and nuts.* Even if the nuts are not eaten, sheer exposure can bring an allergic reaction. Thus **ALL PEANUTS, NUTS AND NUT PRODUCTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL.** Please check labels for peanut oil and by products.

PARENT CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Parent-Teacher conferences for preschool, kindergarten and primary grades are scheduled for 20-minute sessions twice a year. Parents sign up for a time that is convenient for them on a first-come-first-served basis. Two days have been scheduled for your convenience. Regular Montessori classes will not be in session during this time. Daycare activities will be available.

Wednesday, November 2 Conferences are scheduled from 9:00 a.m.- 5:20 p.m.

Friday, November 4 Conferences are scheduled from 7:00 a.m.- 10:40 a.m.

Registration for conferences will begin on Wednesday, October 26. All parents are encouraged to schedule a conference, as there *will not* be a scheduled make-up day. Please check the November newsletter for more information!

A copy of your child's progress report will be in your child's Friday folder on Friday, October 28. Please take the time to review this progress report BEFORE your scheduled conference time. Feel free to make notes or jot down questions to bring with you to your conference. With your child's progress report you will receive a parent questionnaire to share your thoughts about your child's school experiences and ensure that the teacher is able to address these during the conference. Please complete this form and return it to the front desk for your child's teacher before conference day. Please see below for additional information on our semi-annual family survey, which will also be distributed in Friday folders.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Watch for parent questionnaires to be distributed at conference time. This is a VERY important component of our NAEYC Accreditation process and we need your feedback! Please be sure to complete and return the questionnaire promptly, and ask us if you have any questions. Thank you for your input, and your support!

RACE FOR THE CURE 2016

Congratulations and a **BIG thank** you to all parents, children and staff members who participated (running, walking and donations) in the Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure". In this, our 16th year as an official team, we had 41 participants and we raised over \$1,400.

As always, a special "thank you" to our amazing team captain, Ms. Betsi (Village Montessori) and assistant captain Ms. Denean (all schools)!!



LEE NATIONAL DENIM DAY- BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Lee National Denim Day, this year on Friday, October 7, is the largest single-day fundraiser for breast cancer, a disease that impacts countless lives every year. Join our staff and help fight back by wearing jeans and making a \$5 contribution. With your \$5 donation, you will also receive a "pink" ribbon lapel pin. Please make checks out to: **Lee National Denim Day**, or \$5 cash. If you missed out on Race for the Cure, or if you just want to join us... please see your school director to sign-up. Thank you!

Note: Our staff already has "Jeans Day" on Fridays, so staff members who contribute will also be wearing jeans on Tuesday, October 11, with their pink lapel pin the following week!

A HELPING HAND . . .

Each Thanksgiving season our schools sponsor a canned food drive to help those who are less fortunate. This year Montessori Schools of Irvine will be coordinating our donations with "Families Forward". The goal of Families Forward (based in Irvine) is to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Families Forward does this through housing, counseling, education and other support services. We will be collecting canned food items (see list posted in front office) as well as toiletries. We are collecting from Friday, October 28 through **Monday, November 14. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

***** EXTRA NEWS FOR ONE'S AND TWO'S *****

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

Our Halloween parade will be on **Monday, October 31 at 3:15 p.m.** The One's and Two's will parade on the preschool playground. We invite all toddler parents and their children to stay and watch or join in the preschool parade. Please see above for more information on our Halloween parade.

The **parking lot will be blocked off from 2:30-4:30 on Monday, October 31**, so if you need to leave during this time, DO NOT park in the lot.

EXTRA CLOTHES

As we breeze into fall please remember to check your child's extra clothes supplies. Each child should have at least three extra sets of clothes to be kept at school at all times. Each set should include: socks, shirt, and long pants. Extra clothes should be put in a large zip lock baggie and **PLEASE LABEL EACH PIECE OF CLOTHING**. Early mornings are sometimes chilly, so you may want to leave a light coat in your child's bin.

ONE'S & TWO'S OCTOBER TEACHING THEME

The One's and Two's will be learning about Fall and Halloween this month.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 4 "Picture Day"
- October 6 Montessori 101 Parent Presentation at Village Montessori
- October 7 Lee National Denim Day
- October 14 Book Orders Due
- October 19 Picture make-up day at Westpark Montessori
- October 21 Any unclaimed Lost and Found items will be donated.
- October 31 ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY!!! **PARADE AT 3:30 P.M.**
TODDLER Parade at 3:15 P.M.

- November 2 & 4 Parent-Teacher Conferences- Daycare activities
- November 6 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Friday, Nov. 11 Veteran's Day observed *** SCHOOL CLOSED**
- November 14 Last day to donate to Families Forward food and toiletry drive
- November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Holiday*** SCHOOL CLOSED**

- December 14 Children's Winter Program- School closes at 5:00 P.M.
- December 19 - Jan. 2 Winter Recess *** SCHOOL CLOSED**
- January 1, 2017 Happy New Year!!
- January 3, 2017 Welcome Back



OCTOBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS

- October 1 Miss Ingrid
- October 19 Miss Genna
- October 22 Miss Margaret (our Music teacher)
- October 30 Miss Jennifer (Kindergarten)

November 1 Miss Barbara

OCTOBER 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!

October 31 Miss Barbara 20 years!!!

Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi



Spaghetti Dinner Recipe

3 T olive oil
1 yellow onion diced
1 T crushed garlic
½ c chopped basil
½ c chopped thyme
½ c chopped oregano
1 t cracked black pepper

1 c marsala wine
1 pound ground meat, browned and strained
2- 8 oz. cans of tomato sauce
1- 8 oz. can tomato juice
1 T tomato paste
1 pound pasta noodles, cooked

In a stock pot heat olive oil, add onions and garlic. Add all dry ingredients. Add marsala wine and boil until half of the liquid is reduced. Add beef, tomato sauce, tomato juice and tomato paste. Simmer for 20 minutes. Add sauce to noodles and mix. Cover and heat in the oven at 200° for 15 minutes. (Optional: top with fresh grated parmesan cheese)



Annual Halloween Party and Parade...
Helpful Hints!

1. Bring your child to school in school clothes.
2. Bring a BROWN PAPER BAG with your child's name clearly printed on the outside. Put their Halloween costume in the bag. Please LABEL all pieces!! NO masks please!
3. Preschool and Kindergarten children will parade in the parking lot at 3:30. Toddler children will parade on the playground at 3:15.
4. The parking lot will be blocked off from 2:30-4:30. Please do not park in the lot if you need to leave between these times!
5. We invite parents to take both still and video pictures on this day, however, please do so outside and during the parade only.
6. After the parade all children will **return to their classrooms**. For safety reasons, please DO NOT take your child from the parade. Please wait outside until ALL children have returned indoors, then you may enter the building to pick up your child.
7. Remember to sign your child out if you are taking your child home after the parade. Parents, please be advised that our experience has been that most parents take their child home with them after the parade to prepare for the evening trick-or-treating festivities. If you do not want your child to be with a very small handful of children who remain, please plan to pick up your child BY 5:00 p.m.
7. Just a reminder: If ghosts and goblins should bring rain on this day, the parade will be canceled. If the parade is canceled, parents are invited to take pictures in the classroom from 3:30-3:45 pm only.

PARADE BEGINS AT 3:30 p.m. Toddlers parade at 3:15 p.m.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31st
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

