



## DECEMBER 2016 - MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE

### TO ALL OUR FAMILIES:

As the holiday season approaches, we want to thank each of you for the gift you have given us by allowing us to teach and care for your wonderful children. We know that your children are most precious to your hearts and we are honored that you would share your families and these early years of your children's development, learning, and joy with us.

Sincerely,

*Cheryll and Richard Ruszat, Executive Directors  
And the staff of the Montessori Schools of Irvine*



### THANK YOU TO CHEF CYNDI, MISS BARBARA, MISS LASHONE AND CHEF OSCAR

A "BIG" thank you to all of the Chefs at Montessori Schools of Irvine! The Thanksgiving Feast with all of the trimmings was delicious! The staff and children appreciate all of the prep and work that goes into making this special meal a success!!



↓↓↓↓↓↓↓ VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ! ↓↓↓↓↓↓

**School closes at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 13!**

### **HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

On this special day each year our program **CLOSES at 5:00 pm.** as our staff is otherwise in their classrooms for open house and the children's program (see next page).

**Thus ALL CHILDREN must be picked up by 5:00!**

**LATE FEES OF \$1 per minute will be charged to all parents whose children remain after 5:00.**

This event brings whole families to the atrium and classrooms to see the children sing in their classrooms and our ***children anxiously wait to be picked up from the front office.*** It is thus safest for us to close child care at 5:00 so that children can be kept safely with their parents and not be overwhelmed and upset by the unusual crowd.

**Thank you for assisting us in keeping your child safe and happy on open house night**

As you arrive, please remember to pick up your child **BEFORE** proceeding to the classroom for the program. Children will be brought to the front office as the number of on-site families grow and can be picked up there. Children cannot proceed to their classrooms to sing without their parent.

**Cookies will be served in the atrium after the performance and  
candy canes handed out at the door as you leave for home.**

## **YOU ARE INVITED! - CHILDREN'S WINTER PROGRAM**

You are invited to our annual Children's Winter Program on **Tuesday, December 13**. Children will be singing in their classrooms according to the schedule below. **Please arrive early to allow time for parking delays and be in the classroom approximately 10 minutes before their scheduled time to sing!** This allows the teacher time to gather the children and prepare them for their performance. We apologize, but as each class is performing at a **scheduled time**, we will not be able to wait for your child if you are late as it would delay all the other classes. *(Please note: some classes may perform at the same time).*

**5:00 – SCHOOL CLOSES- All children must be picked up by their parents!**

### **Toddler Sing-Along - 4:45-4:55**

**Miss Brooke's class** opens at 4:45 – **Performance at 5:05-5:15**

**Miss Nancy's class** opens at 4:45 - **Performance at 5:05-5:15**

**Miss Emily's class** opens at 4:45 - **Performance at 5:05-5:15**

**Miss Lindsey's class** opens at 4:45 - **Performance at 5:20-5:30**

**Miss Natasha's class** opens at 5:00 - **Performance at 5:35-5:45**

**Miss Elizabeth's class** opens at 5:15 - **Performance at 5:45-5:55**

After your child's performance, **please exit through the atrium, and enjoy some refreshments!**

Please let your child's teacher know if he or she will be unable to attend the program.

## **Parking for the Winter Program**

Due to the large number of full families and multiple cars arriving in a short period of time, we are cautioning parents to plan on additional time to find parking. In addition to the school parking lot and street in front of the school, you can also park along Gabrielino Dr. Please be aware that there is no parking allowed on the residential streets. Parking passes for the parking structure on Peltason and Anteater can be also be purchased at the kiosk as you enter the campus on Peltason and Campus Drive.

## **CHILDREN'S PARTY**

**Thursday, December 15** is the day of our annual children's classroom holiday party. Parents are invited to sign up on the PARTY snack list to bring treats on that day. The PARTY snack sign up will be posted on Thursday, December 8.

## **A "BIG" THANK FOR THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER DONATIONS!**

A big thank you to all of the families who donated candy to "Operation Gratitude" and canned goods to "Families Forward"! Your kindness and generosity is appreciated by both charities. Our donation bins were overflowing with candy and canned goods!



### **TOYS FOR TROOPS**

Each year Montessori Schools of Irvine holds a toy drive for children in need. This year we will be collecting toys for "Toys for Troops". Toys for Troops will collect new, unwrapped toys for children of actively deployed units from Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Our toy collection begins now, the last day to donate is: Friday, December 9!

Gift Ideas? Below is taken from the Toys for Tots website:

**Q: Is there a list of toys available to guide me with my donation?**

Toys for Tots does not publish a list of appropriate toys to donate. If such a list were created, most would follow it, resulting in a limited selection of items to distribute in each community. We would rather our donors consider what might be an appropriate gift for their own child/relative, purchase the item, and donate to Toys for Tots.

## POLAR EXPRESS DAY

**Monday, December 5** is the day of our annual Polar Express Day. The children come to school in pajamas (No Slippers Please). Each class will then be reading *The Polar Express* and enjoying a cup of "hot" cocoa with marshmallows in the afternoon.



## DECEMBER IS MULTI-CULTURAL!

December is a month of many holidays and festivities. December brings with it many festive celebrations from all over the world. Montessori Schools of Irvine invite our families to share their rich heritage and family traditions with their children's classmates. Please help us include all those who wish to participate by scheduling your presentation with your child's teacher. Thank you for your enriching gift of time and heritage during this special time of the year.

## *KlayKids* Pottery Paint Day!

Projects made by your little ones will make wonderful holiday gifts...Don't miss out - sign up by completing the form at the front desk. The painting date will be Thursday, December 8th.

## JACKETS, SWEATERS AND COATS

We do encourage your child to put on their coat when the weather is cooler, however, they do not always leave them on. Please help us by reinforcing this message at home.

## WINTER RECESS! - Schools Closed

Please remember that Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** from **December 19, 2016-Monday, January 2, 2017**. We wish all of you and your family a fun-filled recess. School resumes on **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**.

### *What will you do on recess? Here are a few ideas:*

1. Go to **Build a Bear** – then **donate it** to the Salvation Army who will give to a child "in need". Salvation Army has a church at 10200 Pioneer Road Tustin, CA 92782 - 714.832.7100. They would LOVE to have a few bears!
2. Invite 2 other families over and bake different kinds of cookies! Then have a **cookie exchange**.
3. Use your Ipad and record a children's play **starring your child!**
4. Have a family pizza party – with **homemade pizza (or almost homemade)**. Make or buy pizza dough and top it with all your favorites. (Don't forget the veggies!)
5. Go to a public library and show the children **how a real library works!** Get a free library card!
6. Go to an art museum! Museums expose children to new ideas and visions and help develop **higher critical and creative thinking skills!**
7. **Ride the train to Los Angeles** and shop in **Chinatown**. Eat dim sum at Express Pavilion or Ocean Seafood where you can pick what you want from steaming carts. Then shop for cheap knick-knacks and souvenirs. Even have desert from one of the great bakeries!
8. When was the last time you went **bowling?!** It is a hoot with the children! Try Bowlmor- at the District.
9. Buy some Prismacolor colored pencils from Michael's and learn some special techniques at <https://www.art-is-fun.com/colored-pencil-instruction/> - Children can make their own **thank you notes** to send!
10. Get out some blankets, put on your jammies, pop some HOME MADE POPCORN and snuggle up in front of the TV to **watch the Polar Express** – maybe even **ride the Polar Express** – there is a great one in

Arizona (Grand Canyon Railway Express - <https://www.thetrain.com/special-events/the-polar-express/>).  
The Ruszat's and their younger son's family did this - BEST family weekend EVER!

Brainstorm a few other things to do and share them with us when you return in January.



### **BROWN PAPER BAG DAY- Friday, December 16**

Friday, December 16 is our last day of session until Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Please send a **BROWN PAPER GROCERY BAG** to school on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14** so that all holiday projects can be taken home.

### **DAY CARE DAY – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Friday, December 16 is our last day of school for 2016! As our teachers use that day to prepare for the coming semester, our children's activities will be focused on play and fun and will function as a "daycare only" day for all children. Snacks and lunch will be served as usual. Montessori lessons and daily routines will begin again upon our return in January 2017!

### **EXTRA CLOTHES – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16!**

On Friday, December 16 all extra clothes will be sent home. Please check your child's bag and make sure the clothes still fit your growing children and are appropriate for colder weather. Please send replacements back on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 and be sure to put your **child's name** on all items!

### **LOVE BITES**

Some of our youngest children are growing up and moving from our toddler area into our preschool classrooms. These youngest children, while quite used to being at school are now in a room with many more children and a multitude of new activities to explore. As they make this important transition, they are also making new friends. During these times, as they problem solve when things do not work out as they think they would, for example when they are not sure how to ask another child to play with them, they may become stressed or resort to acts such as biting to get a child's attention. This toddler behavior sometime resurfaces during transition times but disappear as the adjustment to preschool settles in. Teachers work closely with the families to reinforce proper social engagement and using language for problem solving. Please be patient with our youngest friends if they have chosen to "love bite" your child. We promise we are working through these times in the most appropriate ways.

Our policy for injurious behavior is to first redirect the behavior but when it is ongoing a child may be asked to suspend their attendance until they can cope in the classroom. Parents who wish to know who a child that is having difficulty is, we apologize, but due to privacy issues we are unable to share that information. Please trust us to know that we are acting on it.

### **COLD AND FLU SEASON**

It is that time of year again. We hope that your family will have a healthy winter! However, if your child does come down with a cold or flu, please remember that state licensing does not permit us to allow children to attend school if they show **ANY** signs of illness. **CHILDREN MUST REMAIN HOME THE ENTIRE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DAY (WITHOUT EXCEPTION) AFTER BEING SENT HOME DUE TO SIGNS OF ILLNESS.** The additional rest time helps them to fully recover, builds their resistance, and also helps prevent the spreading of illness to other children. All children who are healthy enough to be at school must be able to participate in both inside *and* outside activities and should thus be dressed accordingly.

School officials can administer **prescription medication** (such as ongoing antibiotics for bacterial infections) **only!** If your child requires continued medication during the day upon their return to school,

parents will need to complete a medication form at the front desk. Please note that ALL information must be completed and the forms signed by the parent before we are allowed to dispense the medicine. Over-the-counter medication that masks signs of illness will require school personnel to send the child home due to the contagious nature of symptoms these medications attempt to cover.



**KINDERGARTEN – PRIMARY GRADES OPTIONS NIGHT**

**The Importance of the Early Elementary Years and Why These Are Critical for Your Child’s Ongoing Academic Success**

Miss Cheryll, Executive Director of the Montessori Schools of Irvine will be hosting a special meeting to work with parents as they make this important lifetime decision for their children. The program will be held at our **VILLAGE** Montessori school which is centrally located for the four schools and home to our early elementary program. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 19** and will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 7:00. Cheryll will have a special presentation on the Montessori curriculum, special methods, advantageous ratios, class size and the wealth of materials that makes up the Montessori program and answer questions about how our program compares to California educational systems found in public programs and other private schools.

Many parents have questions regarding the choices for Kindergarten and primary grades. Based on our many years of experience and watching the increased success of our children who remain with Montessori through the crucial kindergarten through third grades we would like to share with you some of the insights about how children learn and why Montessori children have the advantage throughout their education and their lives.

This is a great time to learn about the exciting world of learning that awaits your growing child as well as have your questions about “what’s next” answered. Due to the large group that usually attends and the amount of information being shared, this meeting **WILL NOT** be repeated.

Please check the January Newsletter for sign-up information.

\*\*\*\*\* **EXTRA NEWS FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND TWO’S** \*\*\*\*\*

**TODDLER SING-ALONG**

Our annual Children’s Winter Program will be held on Tuesday, December 15. The Toddlers and Two’s will again have a combined “Sing-A-Long” in the Two’s Room from 4:45-4:55 PM. Please join our staff and your children for this joyous event. Please remember to plan extra time for parking!



**DECEMBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS**

December 15      Miss Cheryll

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 5	Polar Express Day
December 10	Last day to donate toys to "Toys for Tots"
December 8	Children's Party AM Snack Sign Ups
December 13	<b>WINTER PROGRAM- ****SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 5:00!****</b>
December 15	Children's Holiday Party
December 16	Bring in a <b>BROWN PAPER BAG</b>
December 16	Last Day of School!
December 19-January 2, 2017	<b>Winter Recess *** SCHOOL CLOSED***</b>
January 1, 2017	Happy New Year!
January 3, 2017	School Resumes
January 19, 2017	Kindergarten-Primary Options Night at Village Montessori

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**Chef's Table by Executive Chef Cyndi Paulson**



*Wishing you a Joyful Holiday Season*

*From your food service staff:*

*Executive Chef Cyndi,*

*Village Miss LaShone, Westpark Miss Barbara, and Northwood Chef Oscar*



**WHITE CHOCOLATE TING-A-LINGS**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3½ c. chow mein noodles
- 2½ c. salted cocktail peanuts (optional) or raisins
- 32 oz. white chocolate candy coating, vanilla chips or candiquik
- Holiday candy sprinkles

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Mix chow mein noodles and peanuts in a large bowl.
2. Melt white chocolate over low heat until smooth; add chow mein noodles and peanuts and mix well.
3. Drop by spoonful onto wax paper; top with candy sprinkles.
4. Cool completely and store at room temperature.