



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE  
JANUARY 2017**

**WELCOME BACK**

Montessori Schools of Irvine welcomes all of our families back and we wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!



**THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH!**

Thank you so very, very much to all of the families who gave the gift of Christmas to "Toys for Troops"! Your generous sacrifice of gifts allowed these children and their families the warmth of your caring during the holiday season. Bless you all – from Montessori Schools of Irvine and the children of the deployed dads and moms at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base!

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 16** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a legal holiday.



**PRO CARE**

Montessori Schools of Irvine uses the Pro Care data base system. Please help us comply with state regulations by **checking 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! ALSO, please remember your key fob each day to help us with security!

**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.

**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, parents who are backing out of designated spots might accidentally hit your car! Also, please DO NOT leave siblings unattended in the car (even for a few minutes!). We ask everyone to drive slowly and carefully through the parking lot.



## **CHILLY WEATHER**

The chilly weather seems to have arrived! Please dress your child accordingly. A sweater, jacket or sweatshirt should be sent every day, and can be hung on the coat racks if it warms up. Although the sun may be shining, the air still gets cold, especially in the late afternoons. Please also remember to take your child's jacket home each night. Please label all jackets with the child's name.



## **HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR – YEAR OF THE ROOSTER**

Saturday, January 28 begins the Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year 2017 is the year of the Rooster! Happy New Year to all of our families! Please check the menu for our special lunch on January 27. Any parent wishing to share information about Chinese New Year with their child's class can make arrangements with your child's teacher.

## **NUTRITION CALENDAR**

Please remember to sign up your child to be host(ess) of the day by bringing in a special snack to prepare with their teacher for the class morning snack! Please be sure to list what snacks you are bringing, including something from at least two different food groups. A list of suggestions is in the front office next to the calendar. Please remember that snack is an important part of a child's daily nutrition. Please no juice, sugary snack or junk foods!

## **KINERGARTEN – PRIMARY GRADES OPTIONS NIGHT**

### **Presentation by Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director**

### **The Importance of the Next Four 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.

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 essential appropriate individualized learning is during the kindergarten through third grade years.

Cheryll will address the shift in development and the corresponding changes in the Montessori Curriculum that are more supportive of continued academic excellence than traditional, lock step learning. You will learn why Montessori Schools of Irvine children who continue into kindergarten have advantages over other students as they continue their education. Parents who attend will receive handouts of information that will assist them in understanding the academic curriculum for this older age group.

The program will be held at our **VILLAGE Montessori** (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612) school which is centrally located for the four schools. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** and will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 7:00. Due to the large amount of information and sharing that this presentation holds, it **WILL NOT** be repeated this year.

Please register at the front office so that ample seating can be provided. Baby-sitting will be available for children 3 years (no diapers) and older for a charge of \$5 per child. The teacher at the door of the childcare room can be paid as you drop off your child that night.

## **SCHOOL READINESS DOCUMENTATION**

A part of our NAEYC accreditation includes the good practice of formalized assessment for individualized curriculum planning and documentation (4.B). Each year Chancy & Bruce Educational Resources conducts readiness documentation for the children in our preschool and kindergarten programs. This evaluation is **REQUIRED** for children who plan to attend Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school term (children who turn five on or before **September 1, 2017**). An optional preschool development assessment is also available should a parent be interested. (Please contact Chancy & Bruce for additional information). The screening dates are January 19 & 26. More information and permission slips will be available in Friday Folders. Please return the permission slip and a check payable to Chancy & Bruce to the front office no later than Tuesday morning **January 10** as **each child's teacher must complete a portion** of the permission slip. Please mark your calendars- your child's screening results will be available at a parent meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 8.

## **BALLET CLASSES**

Ballet Session II begins on Wednesday, January 11. Please watch the front office for registration forms and more information. All new and continuing ballet students must complete a registration form. Please return completed form with a check no later than Tuesday, January 10. Thank you!

## **JANUARY BOOK CLUB ORDERS**

January book club orders will be available at the front desk soon. Please return all orders (with ONE check only, payable to Scholastic no later than Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>).

## **IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The City of Irvine and IUSD will present an information night for parents interested in learning more about the IUSD Kindergarten Program and enrollment process for the 2017-18 school year, to be held Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers at the Irvine Civic Center located at 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine. For more information and to view their standards for Kindergarten, visit their web site at [www.iusd.org](http://www.iusd.org).

\*\*\*\*\* **TODDLER TIDBITS** \*\*\*\*\*

## **PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES**

Our toddlers will be exploring transportation this month. Look for fun songs and art.

## **NUTRITION CALENDAR/MORNING SNACK**

Please remember to sign up your child to be host (ess) of the day by bringing a nutritious snack for the class! Please bring snacks from at least two different food groups. A list of suggestions is in the front office next to the calendar or feel free to ask the teachers for suggestions. Please remember that snack is an important part of a child's daily nutrition and also helps us teach your child grace and courtesy by sharing their favorite snack with their friends at school. Please no juice, sugary snack or junk foods!

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 1            Happy New Year!!  
January 3            Welcome Back!

January 10 Ballet begins again (Forms due by January 10)  
 January 12 Book Orders are due  
 January 13 Chancy and Bruce Kindergarten readiness forms DUE  
 January 16 SCHOOL CLOSED - Martin Luther King's Birthday  
 January 19 Kindergarten Primary Options Night **at Village Montessori** (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612)  
 January 19 & 26 Chancy and Bruce Developmental Screenings  
 January 28 Happy Lunar New Year  
 February 8 Chancy and Bruce Developmental Screening Results Meeting



**STAFF BIRTHDAYS - January**

January 10 Miss Maddy  
 January 20 Miss Shawna  
 January 28 Miss Jenna (preschool)



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**JANUARY** 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!

January 3 Miss Pennee 27years!



## **Chef's Corner by Chef Cyndi**

### ***January Menu Feature - EASY BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP***

3 T Olive Oil  
3 C. butternut squash (cut into cubes, seeds removed about 1 medium squash)  
1 large apple, cored, cut into cubes  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 tsp dried thyme

6 C. vegetable stock (Chicken stock can be used if not vegetarian)  
½ C whole milk  
Salt and butter to taste  
Croutons and Cheese (optional)

Toss squash in 1 T of olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake squash for 30 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Toss apple in 1 T of olive oil, salt and pepper. Add the apple to the squash and continue baking for 30 more minutes. In a pot, heat 1 T olive oil. Add onions and cook until translucent (5 minutes). Add thyme. Add baked squash and apple, breaking them up with a spoon. Add stock and bring to a boil. Lower heat and cook for about 15 minutes. Using an immersion blender, puree the mixture and adjust the seasonings. Add milk and heat through, but not to boiling. Serve with croutons and cheese if desired.