



MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - APRIL 2017



ATRIUM MANNERS!

It has come to our attention that some parents may not be aware that *the ATRIUM is a WORKING CLASSROOM!* Montessori works to advance your child's necessary executive skill development. We ask that you please assist us when you are in the Montessori School by helping us model these lessons of grace and courtesy for your children. Additional guidance and information can be found in the letter that will be in FRIDAY FOLDERS this Friday.



ALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Individual spring photos will be taken on Friday, April 7 for all of our children. Our spring photos DO NOT require prepayment. You will receive a proof sheet approximately 2 weeks after the photos are taken and can place orders at that time. There is a sign posted in the front office which shows what the backdrop will look like. Photos will be taken in the morning before lunch only.

BOOK CLUB ORDERS

April Book Club orders are available at the front desk. All orders are due no later than Friday, April 7. Reminder: Please make one check only, payable to University Montessori. Thank you!



ANNUAL SPRING EGG HUNT

Our Annual Children's Spring Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Thursday, April 13. What fun! All "egg hunters" must be here no later than 9:00 AM, as we will hunt early!

HAPPY EASTER

Sunday, April 16th is Easter Sunday. We wish all our families who celebrate a happy Easter!

END OF CONTINUING REGISTRATION

The enrollment deadline for continuing registration for ALL children was at the end of February. We have begun to fill openings from our waiting list and we want to be sure that your child's enrollment is considered first. Just a reminder, if you registered that your child will be leaving at the END of the summer, you have confirmed that you will be completing your tuition contract through the month of August as enrollment for the summer will close based on your confirmation and another child will not be enrolled to take your child's spot should you change your mind. Thank you for assisting us in meeting your needs in a timely manner.



The National **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD** is **April 24-28**. The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. We have scheduled a week full of fun to celebrate the joy of childhood with all your children! All activities are scheduled for the morning. The activities are planned for our children only. Sorry, we are unable to accommodate siblings and all the parents who might want to watch and participate! Our schedule of activities is as follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 24: Rainbow Day - Wear your MONTESSORI RAINBOW SHIRTS! Franklin Haynes Marionettes will be here for a **puppet show!** We will be celebrating with rainbow pasta for lunch, rainbow goldfish for snack and rainbow snow cones for a special treat.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25: Magic Day – “MR.FUNN- The magician” will be here to thrill the children with a **magic show!** We will serve “Trix” cereal & apple slices for PM snack.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26: “Bubbles All Around” Day - Lunch will be served carnival/picnic style. We will have a special visit from **Bubblemania** in the morning!! Carnival pretzels & cream cheese will be served for PM snack.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27: All About Animals – Jungle and safari jobs will reign for this day. The “**Petting Zoo**” will be visiting us and bringing along some interesting friends! Gorilla cheese sandwiches will be served for lunch. Animal crackers & bananas will be served for PM snack!

Watch for A special treat from a new author Lisa Weihebrink and her fabulous book about caring for a puppy that shows off the child's inner super hero... their kindness! Lisa will read to the children and will autograph copies for those who wish to purchase a copy. Samples will be available before the week of the young child in the front office.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28: Pajama /Backwards Day - This is an easy morning - everyone comes dressed in their pajamas or can wear their clothes backwards. All aboard the **Toyland Express**. The train will be here giving our children a fun ride. Breakfast will be served for lunch, with waffles, strawberries & whipped cream for PM snack. Sorry, **no slippers** on this day as the children will be playing outside! PJ /Backwards Day is also Movie Day, TBA. Montessori Teacher, UCI alum and “new” author, Linda Rogers will be reading her children’s book “When Grandma Comes to Play” to the children.



ISLANDS RESTAURANT

A BIG thank you to Islands Restaurants for donating the “Golden Pineapple Awards” to our preschool-primary children. The certificates will be in Friday Folders on Friday, April 28th! The certificate entitles each child to a “free” kids meal at the location listed on the certificate. A shout out to restaurant managers Chad & Garret in Irvine, and Jeff in Newport Beach!

NEW SUNSCREEN NEEDED!

Now that spring has arrived and we are enjoying longer sunny days, please bring in a NEW bottle of sunscreen (labeled with your child’s name) for them to keep at school. We routinely throw away last year’s supply at this time of year to ensure that all children are getting the safest and most effective coverage. As a reminder, please apply sunscreen to your child at home in the morning before school and we will reapply before afternoon playtime.

REMINDER: Please do not bring in “spray” sunscreens. THANK YOU!



SAVE THE DATES... FOR THE ANTI-CANCER CHALLENGE!

Montessori Schools of Irvine are sponsoring a team to walk, run, bike or even just donate at the June 10-11 UCI **Anti-Cancer Challenge at Angel Stadium**.

100% of all proceeds go to cancer research!

Teams will form in May and additional information is available at the front desk in a small pamphlet outlining some information. Watch our May newsletter and the front office for team sign up information!

PARKING LOT REMINDER

Please help us keep our school safe for everyone! Please drive slowly through the parking lot, enter and exit the lot in the appropriate manner, and be sure not to park on red curbs or in handicapped spaces. ALSO – please do not block exits and **DO NOT PARK AT AN ANGLE AT THE PARALLEL PARKING DROP OFF CURB!**

MY CHILD NEEDS TO NAP – DON'T LET MY CHILD NAP!

It is the time of year for this common parent quandary to surface once again. Our teachers begin to hear either “Don’t let my child nap” or “Make my child nap.” While most children gradually stop napping in the year before kindergarten, it is important to recognize that this is a biologically individual progression for each child. When children are ready to “give up” their nap, it typically comes gradually; with a move into a still much needed downtime even if they do not sleep. Children may start giving up naps at home on the weekends, but may still need a nap during a busy day at school. Often, the transition involves laying down for a nap and sometimes sleeping and other times just resting.

While all our preschoolers have a rest period, it is impossible to force children to stay awake or fall asleep. The best way to determine if a child is ready to “give up” their nap is to watch their behavior. Tired children are unable to cope with every day activities and challenges. They become more negative and have social altercations with their friends and have decreased cognitive engagement. Some children who have been changed to a “rester” to avoid naps will also simply follow the biological calling and fall asleep in a chair or on a rug where they are doing a job!

Spring time often brings with it requests from parents for their child not to take a nap but become a “rester” instead. It also often accompanies the time change when it stays light longer making it even more difficult for children to give up the excitement of the day and go to bed. If the quest is to make bedtime easier, it is important to know that it is much more difficult to put an overtired child to sleep than one who is generally finished with the day. The key is to have quiet time before bed and perhaps a relaxing warm bath and story at a routine time. The routine nature of bedtime will start the process and the necessary sleep should follow easily.

If you think your child is maturing and “giving up” their nap, please consult with their teacher to determine if it is beneficial on the days that they are at school before making a decision that may make their afternoons with their friends more difficult. Your child’s teacher will help you know when your child is beginning to transition into the mature pattern of resting instead of sleep.

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!



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of May 1-5, 2017 is National Teacher Appreciation Week! An extra smile and “thank you” for your child’s teacher are greatly appreciated gifts.

KINDERGARTEN – PRIMARY NEWS



TANAKA FARMS – STRAWBERRY FIELDS

On Friday, April 21 in the afternoon our Kindergarten-Primary Grade classes will be traveling to Tanaka Farms to experience a real working farm. Their tour will include a guided wagon ride around the farm, learning about vegetables and fruits, seeing BIG farm equipment and ending in the strawberry fields picking delicious strawberries! Registration forms were distributed in Friday Folders on and were due back no later than Thursday, March 31.



GRADUATION PICTURES

Images for Kids will be at the school on Friday, May 11 to take pictures of our kindergarten children in their Caps and Gowns. Both individual and group pictures will be taken. Proofs will be available in a few weeks and you will place your order at that time. Mark your calendars!

***** **INFANT/TODDLER TIDBITS** *****

WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming Danny Grill (big sister Elliott is in Miss Rita’s class) to the infant room this month!

INFANT ROOM VISITS

Please help us maintain the integrity and hygiene of the infant room environment by picking up your infants first and their older siblings afterwards. We try to maintain a minimum of outside interactions in our infant room so that our babies can feel safely “at home”. If an older sibling follows you to the infant room, please have them wait in the hallway until you and your baby are ready to leave the school.

APRIL “TEACHING THEMES”

April’s teaching theme for the TODDLERS AND TWO’S is: Nature and Insects

TWOS’ TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL

Preschool is an exciting milestone for children. It marks the beginning of the transfer from the “unconscious absorbent mind” to the “conscious” one. Preschool is a time where children begin to participate in a larger group, use more refined motor skills, make self-directed choices about their activity and take responsibility for their moment-to-moment actions. The Montessori preschool class is designed for children from ages 3 to 6 years old. As your two year old begins to show signs of being able to cope with this milestone of their lives, their teachers will be monitoring their progress and preparing them for this important transition. While we know parents are also anxious to see their child transition, we ask that you allow them the important gift of the last few months of development. The transition to preschool takes place much closer to the third birthday than it does to 2 ½ years old and toilet taught. These final months provide your child with the skills and confidence that solid developmental readiness brings to a true preschool child.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7	Spring Photos
April 7	Book orders due
April 21	K-Primary Field Trip to Tanaka Farms
April 22	Earth Day
April 24-28	WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD (See schedule of activities)
May 1-5	National Teacher Appreciation Week
May 15-19	National Police Week: A Visit with Officer Ayala, Officer Eric & Officer Hom
May 17 & 19	Parent Teacher Conference Days (Daycare activities)
May 29	Memorial Day – SCHOOL CLOSED!
June 20	Kindergarten Graduation & Preschool Musical

July 3-7 SCHOOL CLOSED for Summer Recess

APRIL STAFF BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Chef Cyndi
April 6	Miss Steph
April 20	Miss Lindsey
April 20	Miss Karla
April 23	Miss Adrienne



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 14	Miss Grace	3 years
April 21	Miss DeeDee	1 year

APRIL Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi ***April Fool's Day "Cupcakes" – (Really Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes!)***

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

1 pound ground beef	4 cups mashed potatoes
1 cup crushed saltine crackers	1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped onion	
1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper	
1/3 cup milk	
1 egg	
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce	
2 cloves garlic, chopped	
1 teaspoon ground black pepper	
1 teaspoon seasoned salt	
1/2 cup ketchup	
1/2 cup brown sugar	



1. Mix ground beef, saltine crackers, onion, green bell pepper, milk, egg, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, black pepper, and seasoned salt together in a bowl.
2. Stir ketchup and brown sugar together in a bowl.
3. Spoon ketchup mixture into the bottom of each muffin cup of a 6-cup muffin tin.
4. Fill muffin cups with beef mixture, leaving 1/2-inch space on the top.
5. Bake in the preheated oven (350 degrees F) until no longer pink in the center, about 30 minutes.
6. Drain fat from muffin cups.
7. Top each 'cupcake' with mashed potatoes and Cheddar cheese.
8. Continue baking until cheese is melted, about 10 minutes.