



MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - JUNE 2017

NATIONAL DONUT DAY!

Friday, June 2nd is National Donut Day!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO VILLAGE MONTESSORI!!!

Village Montessori's **41st birthday** is on Thursday, June 8th! Please join us in celebrating our special day by wearing your **Rainbow T-Shirt on this day**. "Rainbow" Pasta Salad will be served for lunch and yogurt with fruit and rainbow "sprinkles" for afternoon snack.

KEY FOBS

As some of our families prepare to transition their older children to new programs, we want to thank you for having chosen Montessori Schools of Irvine. We have been honored to share these most important early childhood formative years with you.

Families who will be transferring to our Village Montessori or another one of our location can have their key fobs changed to allow access into their new program. Please contact Miss Cecelia so that she can do this for you before you leave.

If your last day in our programs is approaching, we want to remind you to return your key fobs in on your last day of school so that you can avoid the \$50 per fob fee as per your signed agreement. Thank you very much for the return of these fobs. We appreciate your help in keeping our school safe. Again, thank you so much!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Thank you to all of the parents who completed our NAEYC surveys! A summary of the results will be posted in the front office in July as we finish tallying. Please feel free to ask us about further information regarding the results.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

Sunday, June 18th is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all of you great Dads!

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION and PRESCHOOL MUSICAL

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 20th** for our Preschool and Primary Year-end Musical Extravaganza and Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony! **The ENTIRE school closes at 5:00** on this day and the **PERFORMANCE BEGINS** on the playground at **5:15 p.m.** **LATE FEES BEGIN AT 5:00 AND ARE \$1 PER MINUTE PER CHILD!!!** Please note: Our infant-toddler program also closes at 5:00 pm on this day! Families are invited to stay for the program. This is a very special event as all of our preschool, kindergarten and primary children participate. **PLEASE READ all of the following information about open house as it is very important!**



SCHOOL CLOSSES at 5:00 ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20- SEE LATE FEE BELOW

Please make a note: SCHOOL WILL CLOSE EARLY ON **June 20** for our **YEAR-END MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AND GRADUATION CEREMONY**. Be sure to pick up your child **no later than 5:00**. **\$1 per minute late fees will begin at 5:01 for all ages of children (including Infant-Toddler)**. Remember that parking on this night may be a problem! Regretfully, you may not park in the neighborhood! If you wish to purchase a permit for the parking structure at the bottom of the hill, you may do so at the kiosk near the entrance to UCI on East Peltason (near Campus Drive).

After picking up your children on this day, we invite you to adjourn to the playground area to supervise them. Our teaching staff will be remaining in the atrium area with children who are waiting for their parents. We are sorry, but due to the confusion that can cause safety issues, parents are asked to move from the atrium area to the playground until 5:00 once they have picked up their child so that the remaining children can be properly supervised. At 5:00 you will take your child back to their classroom and then have a seat for the show.

Parents who arrive late to pick up their child **after 5:00** can pick up them up from the side office. **Please pay the late fee to the teacher on duty**. Please understand that we are unable to release children back to their teachers since the teachers are stationed in their classrooms focusing on musical preparations. We thank you for your understanding and hope that you will enjoy our program!



Kids Are Kids the Whole World 'Round

YEAR-END MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

Our annual year-end program is scheduled to **begin at 5:15**. As some last minute preparations must be made by the children, we ask that children be **taken to their classroom** teachers **by their parents no later than 5:05**. Parents can at this time make their way to the performance area.

Our children are already practicing selected songs for their "on stage" performance. After each classroom sings, our kindergarten children will then graduate, followed by a grand finale performed by all the classrooms (preschool and older). This is a show you won't want to miss! Cookies and lemonade will be served after our grand finale. If for some reason your child cannot attend, please be sure to let your child's teacher know. Thank you to our music teacher, **Miss Margaret**, who has been assisting both the children and teachers with their songs!

We ask parents to be courteous and responsible by supervising all **siblings** and young children during the program. Please be sure they do not disturb others who are trying to watch the show. Also, as the **children use sidewalk areas during the program, please refrain from blocking their pathways and remain in your seat or on the toddler playground**. **Thank you for being a great role model for your child and a courteous parent!**

After our program, ALL CHILDREN will be dismissed by class. Parents will be asked to step forward as their child's class is being dismissed, so that their child can spot them. We ask that parents and children **PLEASE REFRAIN FROM RE-ENTERING THE CLASSROOMS** after the performance, as we will be locking the building for security purposes at this time. The children's papers, belongings, etc. will be available for pick up the following morning if you forget them. - Thank you for helping us out!

PLEASE HELP THE STAFF AND YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH YOUR COURTESY AND COOPERATION DURING THE OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM. THANK YOU!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE!!

YOUR CHILD'S REHEARSAL SCHEDULE!!!!

Our year end musical extravaganza doesn't just happen – it takes a little practice! Rehearsals provide your child with the familiarity that allows them to feel comfortable when the big night comes. It helps them feel prepared with where they stand, what they do, and how to feel safe even before they are in front of parents, siblings and the many other people they will notice on performance night! Please help them by bringing them to school **by 9:00 a.m.** for their rehearsal days during the next few weeks. Formal rehearsals with musical accompaniment are scheduled **on Tuesday, June 6, Tuesday June 13 and Tuesday, June 20 (also performance day!)**

PERFORMANCE AREA – SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Parents of the kindergarten graduates ONLY have been assigned priority seating (2 seats per family). Additional seating is available on a first come, first served basis. We suggest that parents begin to find seats no later than 5:05 after they leave their child in the classroom. The performance and graduation ceremony are extremely important milestone events for our children and their families. Each year we receive *many* complaints from parents about those families who block their view during the performance and stand in the performance area, block the children's walkways and stand in (thus destroying) the landscape as well as allowing their older children to run loudly around the school without supervision.

Please note that in response to the many courteous parents and in the best interest of the children, parents who interrupt the performance in this way will be asked to leave the performance area. Parents who wish to have a better view by standing may do so at the back or on the toddler playground. Please keep your family together as unsupervised children will be asked to leave the premises. Please also note that the play equipment is off limits during this evening. Children are not allowed on the structures. Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Each year we have our music extravaganza and graduation professionally filmed. This allows each family to have a special memory of their child's performance as well as provide their child with a record of their endeavors with their friends at school. This year the performance will be recorded on DVD with titles and ***professional quality*** editing and is available at a cost of \$30 each. Graduating kindergarten children will receive one copy of the DVD as a gift from the school.

As parents will be asked to leave walkways and avoid standing even if it is their child's time to perform, this **is** the best shot! Forms to order the video will be in Friday folders on June 9 and are available at the front desk. Deadline to order is June 21.

The professional video cameras will be positioned to obtain the best possible "shots" of the children. Parents who also wish to take photos are asked to do so while seated or from the toddler playground only and avoid interfering with the professional photographers.

Please remember that parents are to **REMAIN SEATED DURING THE PERFORMANCE** to avoid blocking the view of other proud parents as well as the camera crew! **PLEASE DO NOT** hold up large video devices, such as iPads, etc. from the seating area during the performance as these block the view of those behind you, as well as they may interfere with the professional videographer. Once again, if you wish to stand, please remain on the toddler playground. **THANK YOU!**

"The knowledge, friendships and memories we leave with are priceless . . ."

Denean Chase, Associate Director at her son Kelsey's kindergarten graduation from University Montessori School in 1994.

Thank you in advance for making this memorable moment a cherished one.

Note from Cheryl Ruzat, Executive Director

As this time of the year approaches, some children begin to experience some normal excitement over the chance to perform with their friends for their families as well as think about some of their friends moving to different classrooms or schools this summer or this fall.

As parents you may notice some extra wiggles and giggles as well as questions about some of the changes they may experience from day to day. Children who are verbal are likely to share their observations of events and plans they hear “the grown-ups” talking about. Children who are quiet may demonstrate their observations with behaviors such as small complaints about their friends or activities.

Parents may wonder if this is something to worry about but these behaviors are common during life’s transition times. First of all, it makes for great conversation! These are meaningful experiences for children and provide important platforms for parents to provide time for sharing these experiences with them.

What exactly is a parent to do? Listen with an open heart but a mind that understands that this behavior is “inside the box” for young children. Children who move on will make new friends and settle into their new classrooms. Meanwhile, those who remain in preschool get to be the leaders and build their self-confidence as they welcome new children to their classroom family. What children seek in these interactions with “the grown-ups” is a time to share their thoughts and receive reassurance that the grown-ups will really remember the new schedules and that these experiences will provide fun, happy memories, and new friends! Relax and enjoy the process of growing with your child!



DANCE END OF THE YEAR RECITAL

Just a reminder: The end of the year ballet and dance recital will be on Saturday, June 3. The performance will be at the Woodbridge Community Church, 5000 Barranca Pkwy. There are two different show times, please check with the director if you have any questions, or feel free to e-mail Miss Merle, Miss Robynne or Miss Bridget at contact@academyofdance.org.

WATER BOTTLES

In keeping with our NAEYC accreditation guidelines, we have purchased brand new carts to hold the daily assortment of children’s water bottles and special diet lunch boxes that come and go from school each day. We will label the cart daily with the DATE. Each day water bottles and special dietary lunches can be placed on these 3 tiered carts and picked up at the end of the day. This helps us be sure that water is fresh daily and also kept in an appropriate place that is easy for parents to locate. Bottles that are not picked up will be removed to the parent shelf for later retrieval so that the cart content is always fresh daily. Thank you for helping us help your children!



“Creepy, Crawly Summer (Insects)” SUMMER 2017

This year our summer theme is Creepy, Crawly Summer. Get ready for our special summer program, as it takes a closer look at the wonderful world of insects! The children will be learning about the different types of insects and how they live in our world.

Join us on for a *Creepy Crawly Summer* as the children learn about the exciting world of insects and much, much more. What fun it will be!

Look for more information and a summer packet/schedule in late June.

SUMMER CERAMIC PAINTING

Flyers for this summer’s ceramic painting by Klay Kids will be available at the front desk. The ceramic painting is for preschool-primary children who are enrolled in both the months of July and August. The ceramic pieces need to be ordered prior to the start of the summer session, therefore we are asking you to return the order forms promptly, by the date TBA. Thank you!

A.M. SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR ALL CHILDREN

(DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE AND THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY!)

We will begin our summer A.M. schedule on Monday, June 26. During the warmer months, we have an outdoor playtime each morning to compensate for the occasional afternoon heat when it is too hot to play outside. This schedule will begin on June 26 but the normal schedule will resume for the first two weeks of the summer session to assist our new children's transition into school.

The schedule below will be in effect for the last week of June and begin again for the duration of the summer beginning the third week of July. During the first two weeks of the new session children will transition to the classroom from the atrium each morning to help the new children acclimate to school.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00-7:55 | Atrium |
| 7:55-8:05 | Atrium clean up |
| 8:05-8:55 | Outside playground time |
| 8:55 | Transition into Montessori Core Program |

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the Lost and Found Bin (and shelves) for any lost items. Lost and Found items will be laid out after Open House and then donated to charity on Wednesday, June 28.

BROWN PAPER BAGS

Please bring a BROWN PAPER BAG (with your child's name on it) to school by Wednesday, June 28. All project, papers, etc. will be sent home in these bags on Friday, June 30!

"NEW STUDENTS" MEET THE TEACHER SCHEDULED

Thursday, June 29 is "Meet the Teacher Day" for all *new* students. Teachers will be introducing themselves and speaking about their classrooms from 8:30 to 9:00 with informal visitation from 9:00 to 9:30.

During Meet the Teacher enrolled children will have outdoor daycare. Parents who do not want their children to have an extended outdoor playtime on this morning are encouraged to bring their child to school at 9:30 a.m.

SUMMER RECESS

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** July 3-7 for Summer Recess. The first day of the summer session is **Monday, July 10**. Happy Fourth of July!!!

JULY AND SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM CHANGES

In July and August, our preschool and primary classes experience some changes due to the transitioning in and out of children moving to older age groups. While we realize that all families are anxious to know when their child will actually transition into the kindergarten or primary classes, we are unable to post these changes until the last week of the session due to the number of changes which occur for the many families involved. Thank you for your continued trust and patience and remembering that all of our decisions are based on the best interests of each individual child's placement. The class lists for July will be posted on Thursday, June 29 and for the fall term on Tuesday, August 29.

At this time we are working with the staff to meet their requests for team building in the classrooms. Final staff assignments will be posted for September at the end of August. Thank you for being patient with us during this important process for the coming school term.



JUNE TEACHING THEME'S

One's and Two's: Father's Day and Community Workers

TODDLER BIRTHDAY!

Toddler birthdays may be celebrated at school with a "simple" healthy morning snack such as muffins. Please refer to our "birthday policy" and refrain from sending sugary cakes, donuts, cookies, party favors, hats, and decorations to school.

GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL - TUESDAY, JUNE 20

While our babies and toddlers are too young to join in the "on stage" performance, we invite all families to watch the show and join us for refreshments! Remember, school closes at 5:00 p.m. on this day!

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|----------------|--|
| JUNE 18 | Happy Father's Day! |
| JUNE 20 | GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL *** School closes at 5:00*** |
| JUNE 24 | Ceramic forms DUE |
| JUNE 28 | Bring a brown paper bag to school, labeled with your child's name |
| JUNE 30 | All Lost and Found items will be donated to charity |
| JULY 3-7 | SCHOOL CLOSED/Summer Recess |
| JULY 10 | First day of summer school! |



JUNE STAFF BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| June 17 | Miss Aurelia |
| June 24 | Miss Natasha |
| June 25 | Miss Nancy |
| June 28 | Miss Ingrid |

JUNE 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.

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------|
| June 2 | Miss Stephanie | 9 years |
| June 8 | Miss Sarah | 2 years |
| June 12 | Miss Laura | 17 years |
| June 14 | Miss Ingrid | 20 years! |
| June 20 | Miss Carla | 1 year |
| June 24 | Miss Alma | 3 years |

Chef Cyndi's Kitchen - Berry Patriotic Kabobs



Ingredients:

Blueberries
Raspberries

Mini Marshmallows
10" Wooden Skewers

Directions:

Thread 4 blueberries, 1 mini marshmallow, 1 raspberry, 1 mini marshmallow and 1 raspberry on each of 5 wooden skewers.

On the remaining 7 skewers thread; 1 raspberry, one marshmallow, 1 raspberry, one marshmallow, 1 raspberry, one marshmallow. End with a raspberry.

Place on a clear or white platter