



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - JULY 2017

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS

Welcome to all new and returning students and their families! We hope everyone had an enjoyable Fourth of July holiday week.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WESTPARK MONTESSORI!!!

Westpark Montessori's 27th birthday is on Saturday, July 15! Please join us in celebrating our special day on Friday, July 14 by wearing your **Montessori Rainbow T-Shirt!**

SUMMER MORNING ATRIUM SCHEDULE

Starting **Monday, July 17** (*second week of school*) the morning schedule is as follows:

7:00 - 7:55	Atrium
7:55 - 8:05	Clean-up
8:05 - 8:55	Outside play
8:55	Transition inside for class time
9:00	Montessori core program begins- all children in their classrooms



"Creepy, Crawly Summer (Insects)" SUMMER 2017

Our summer theme is Creepy, Crawly Summer. Get ready as we crawl into this special summer program. Creepy, Crawly Summer will take a closer look at the wonderful world of insects and much more! The children will be learning about the different types of insects and creatures that crawl and how they live in our world.

There will be two "on-site" field trips for preschool and older; Wild Wonders and Education Through Nature's program "Incredible Insects". There is also one bus trip for our Kindergarten children to the Long Beach Aquarium. There will also be sign-ups for summer ceramic insect painting with Miss Sandy from KlayKids. See more details in our summer program sign-up packets. ***Sign-ups begin on Wednesday, July 12!!***

NEW STUDENTS...

MONTESSORI PARENT ORIENTATION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHERYLL RUSZAT

Welcome to all of our new families! Please let your child's teacher or the director know if we can help you and your children in any way.

Cheryll Ruszat, our Executive Director, will have a special Montessori Parent Orientation Presentation to meet new parents and introduce them to the world of Montessori Education! You will learn about your child's transition into the Montessori Schools of Irvine, the lifelong benefits of your child's experience as well as how the curriculum is presented to each child and what to expect over time from being a Montessori parent. Parents are encouraged to bring their own questions as she will open the gathering for questions as well. The presentation will take place on Monday, July 24 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. As always, there are no charges for our parent seminars!



PRO-CARE

Montessori Schools of Irvine uses the Pro Care data system. If you have not yet been registered into the school system, see *Miss Pennee* immediately. Please **check 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 anything, please let us know!

KEY FOBS

All parents are given two key fobs per family. Remember that it is EACH person's responsibility to have their key fob with them at all times in order to enter the school. For security reasons, it is not always possible to "buzz" you in, nor wait for another family to arrive and let you in the front door if you have forgotten your key fob. Please help us keep the building secure by carrying and using your key fob daily. Thank you.

Also, if your family is leaving the school this summer, remember to turn in your key fobs on your last day or you will be charged the \$50 replacement fee per key fob. Thank you!

HELPING YOUR CHILD BEGIN SCHOOL

Beginning school, as with all new experiences, creates both excitement and a bit of anxiety for children. Help your child transition into their new daily routine by smiling when you speak about school, reassuring them that you know that they are worried but you KNOW they will have fun, and being positive when you part from them. During the first few days of drop off, plan a non-hurried transition so that any rush you may have about work or obligations is non-existent. It is helpful for you to hand your child directly to one of the staff members in the classroom. Be sure to let the teacher know that YOU are ready to let go! Teachers will try to help you only when you signal them that you are ready to leave.

During the first few weeks of school many parents like to stay and take advantage of the observation booth or window. Please be courteous in recognizing that both time and space will need to be shared by others. Keep voices down so that it does not disturb the classrooms as this tends to scare our children. In observing your child, remember that our first goal is to assist the child in acclimating to their new environment. Please note that teachers will respect the child's signals. In some cases this means allowing the child to stand aside without assistance, in others it requires direct comforting, and in some other cases it requires the child to vent their emotions through tears, tantrums and a refusal to participate. Even children, who begin the process in a joyful way, will sometimes need to take a step back and take a deep breath. Thus, if you have questions or concerns about YOUR child's adjustment, please speak immediately with your child's teacher and/or the school director so that we may begin our parent-school partnership with the positive sharing of information to best help your child.

Parents are invited to attend the parent orientation on July 24 at 4:30. Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director will acquaint parents with the Montessori Method, what the children's day is like, and answer general questions.



SAFETY ON THE PLAYGROUND- No Crocs or Flip Flops. Please!

Please help us stay safe on the playground! Send your child to school in shoes that provides ankle and heel support, stay on when running, and protect the toes, such as tennis shoes. This will minimize potential injuries that occur during outside play. Thank you for your help in keeping your child and our playground safe!



SUMMER SUN

Parents are encouraged to send their child to school with sunscreen applied every day, as well as a hat and additional protective clothing for those with very fair skin. We will reapply sunscreen later in the day as a matter of the children's daily routine, but it is impossible to monitor children's sunscreen application as they arrive. Personal bottles of sunscreen should be left with your child's teacher but be sure to LABEL THE BOTTLE (AS WELL AS HATS) WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME. Please do NOT send spray sunscreen. 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, it is difficult to see children crossing the driveway to the school! We ask everyone to drive ***slowly and carefully through the parking lot***. Also, please DO NOT leave siblings in the car while you run in to get your child.



LABEL ALL ITEMS

PLEASE remember to label ALL items that are brought to school - clothes, nap items, sunscreen, swimming items, sharing items, etc.

OOPS REPORTS

Just a reminder for our parents: STATE LAW requirement – when you receive an OOPS report for your child, please **read, sign,** and ***leave it in the front office***. Please do not take them home! We will be happy to make a copy for you if needed. Thank you!

AM SNACK

The morning (AM) snack calendars are located on the front office windows. Please feel free to sign your child up for snack once a month. A "healthy" snack suggestion list is available at the front desk. Reminder: Montessori Schools of Irvine has a "no nuts" policy, and we also ask you to refrain from sending juice to drink. Please mark your child's snack date down on your calendars at home and feel free to fill out a "snack reminder" slip located underneath the snack calendars. Thank you!

BALLET & JAZZ LESSONS

This summer we are offering a Jazz dance class in addition to our regular ballet class. Registration forms for the summer ballet and jazz sessions are now available at the front desk. All new AND returning students must register.

GYMNASTICS, VIOLIN & YOGA

There are currently a few openings in our extra-curricular activities. Gymnastics classes are held on Tuesday or Friday depending on your child's age. If you are interested, information and registration forms are available at the front desk. Once the classes are full, we will wait list all other children.

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.

STAFF INSERVICE WEEK – SCHOOL CLOSED ON FRIDAY, September 1!

Monday, August 28-31 is Staff In-service Week. Monday through Thursday Montessori Schools of Irvine, Montessori classes will not be in session as our head teachers will be preparing for the coming school term. Day care and lunches will be provided. Children will be participating in games, theme days and outdoor activities throughout each day.

Friday, September 1 the school will be CLOSED. This allows the school to provide a full staff in-service day. During this time staff participates in additional training sessions for updated information, curriculum coordination and other professional enrichment. As this includes all of our teaching staff, none will be available to care for the children, thus our schools are closed for this day. Thank you for realizing that this important working and learning day for our staff helps make the school an even better place for your child!

WATCH FOR OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watch for our annual "**Family Spaghetti Dinner Night**" on Thursday, September 14! Our Spaghetti dinner is our welcome to both new and continuing students as well as a great way to meet other Montessori parents. Our Executive Directors, Cheryl and Richard Ruszat will also be there to welcome our families.

KINDERGARTEN – PRIMARY NEWS

The information in this section of the newsletter is for our kindergarten students.

TIDBITS FOR TODDLERS AND TWO'S

WATER PLAY DAYS

Toddlers will have water play days throughout July and August. Look for a note explaining what to bring and keep at school (swim suit, water shoes, etc) soon. Please see our Toddler teachers if you have any questions.



SUMMER SUN

Just a reminder: Please check your child's sunscreen supply, water play clothes, extra clothes, and sun hats. As you know the One's and Two's spend a good part of their day outside on the playground. We encourage all parents to apply sunscreen BEFORE your child leaves home every morning. Thank you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 4

JULY 10

July 12

July 28

August 1

August 17

August 28-31

SEPTEMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 4

SEPTEMBER 5

SEPTEMBER 14

Happy Independence Day! – SCHOOL CLOSED July 3- July 7

Welcome back! First day of the Summer Session

Registration begins for Field Trips

Kindergarten-Primary Field Trip to Aquarium of the Pacific

On-Site Field Trip: Wild Wonders

On-Site Field Trip: Education Through Nature

Teacher In-Service Week- **OUTSIDE DAYCARE ONLY**

Montessori Schools of Irvine **CLOSED** for Staff In-Service

Labor Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

First day of the Fall Term

SPAGHETTI DINNER



STAFF BIRTHDAYS

July 6 Miss Trinh
 July 27 Miss Lynne

JULY 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.

July 25 TJ 11 years

Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi



July is National "Ice Cream" month!

Recipe: Super Simple Ice Cream Recipe (from PBS Parents)

Learn how to make delicious ice cream at home without an ice cream maker. Makes about one pint.

Ingredients

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cup of milk • 1 cup of heavy cream • 1/2 cup of sugar • 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract • (2) 1/2 cups of salt, plus one pinch • 10 cups of ice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 one-gallon freezer bags • towel (for insulation) • optional- wear gloves if the ice is too cold to hold |
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Instructions

1. Put the milk, heavy cream, sugar, a pinch of salt and the vanilla extract in one freezer bag. Before sealing it, take out as much of the air as possible, so the bag will be as flat as possible.
2. With the bag sealed, mash the ingredients with your hands to mix them all together.
3. In the second freezer bag, pour five cups of ice and add 1/2 cup of salt. Close the bag and mix the ice around (from the outside) with your hands. Repeat this process with the third freezer bag.
4. Lay one bag of ice on half of the towel. Put the bag with the milk mixture on top. Then on top of that, lay the second bag of ice. Cover with the other half of the towel. Wait at least 30 minutes for the milk mixture to freeze.
5. When it looks firm enough to serve, go for it! Cut a hole in one corner of the freezer bag and squeeze ice cream into a bowl. Enjoy!

On behalf of the culinary team we would like to thank all of the parents for the smiles and appreciative hearts. We look forward to another great year!
Chef Cyndi, Miss LaShone, Miss Dona, and Chef Oscar