



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE OCTOBER 2017

NEWS AND BOOOOOOOOO'S

October is a very busy month! Keep your October Newsletter handy as a reference and remember to watch the front office windows for reminders of upcoming events.

JOIN "THE EXPRESS"!

We invite you to join the many families who have already chosen to pay through TUITION EXPRESS. This convenient, safe and easy processing system allows secure payments for tuition through ACH without the need to write an individual check.

We hope that you will find this option to be beneficial and that it will help simplify your busy lives. If you enroll in ACH, monthly tuition will be withdrawn from your checking account on the first day of each month and automatically transferred to the school. While this appears to be a preferred form of payment for many of our parents, we will continue to accept checks and cash as tuition payments.

Your director can also assist you with any questions you have regarding this process. Please also feel free to contact Richard Ruszat at ruszat@irvinemontessori.com or 949-854-6030.



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Reminder: Save Tuesday, October 10 for School Picture Day. Images 4 Kids will be taking individual photos of all enrolled children in our school atrium on this day. There is no prepayment necessary. Proofs will be available at the school approximately 3-4 weeks following picture day. You may purchase photo packages at that time.

If your child is absent on picture day, there will be ONE make-up picture day for children from all four schools on Wednesday, October 25 at our Westpark Montessori beginning at 9:00 a.m. and only as long as needed. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from Westpark for the make-up picture day.

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.



ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

Our annual Halloween party and parade has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 31 at 3:30 p.m.** Parents are invited to sign up in the front office to bring in special Halloween goodies on this day and we will also ask for two parent volunteers (***Parent volunteer must have immunization record on file with the school***) from each classroom to assist the teachers with costume changing. Sign-ups will be posted in the front office on Wednesday, October 18.

Children should come to school with their **school clothes on** and their costume in a **PAPER bag**. The bag and **ALL parts of the costume must be labeled** with your child's name. Please be aware that regrettably, sometimes even with labeling, mix-ups can occur! Children will be dressed in their costumes following their afternoon snack.

Please, NO MASKS! Masks frighten many young children.

Parents are welcome to join us for the parade, which takes place in the playground and side parking lot. The parking lot (and drop off area) will be blocked off from 12:30 – 4:30. PLEASE, DO NOT park in the lot as the children will use the parking lot for the parade! Find your "photo spot" and wait for the children to reach you. They will be pausing periodically for photos along the way.

***DISMISSAL:** Parents who are taking their children with them after the parade are asked to PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE until all children have returned to their classrooms for dismissal so that we can keep them safe and be sure that all are accounted for after the parade. Once the children are safely inside, parents are asked to sign their child out before proceeding to pick them up from their classroom.

PLEASE NOTE: If the ghosts and goblins bring rain on this day, the parade will be canceled. If this happens, parents will be invited to take pictures in the classroom from 3:30-3:45 only.



***IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING DISMISSAL ON HALLOWEEN!!**

Parents, please be advised that it has been our experience that most parents take their child home with them after the parade to prepare for evening trick-or-treating festivities. Historically, this leaves but 3 or 4 children at school after 5:00. Parents concerned that their child may be disoriented by being one of the few children left, may want to consider planning on taking their child with them after the parade or picking them up by 5:00 on this special Halloween day.

LOST AND FOUND WEEK

Tuesday, October 17 - Friday, October 20 (before NOON) is Lost and Found Week. The Lost and Found items will be displayed on the atrium bench. All unclaimed items will be put in the Salvation Army bin and donated to charity on Friday, October 20 in the afternoon.

FREE CHILDREN'S CONCERT

There will be a "Free" Children's Suzuki Festival Concert on Sunday, October 22 @ 3:30 PM. The concert will take place at St. Mark Presbyterian Church; 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

SNACKS

Morning snack is a part of your child's "practical life" learning experiences at school and is a popular aspect of our parent participation program. Parents sign up for their child to be a host or hostess for the day and bring in a special nutritious snack for their child's class. When signing up, please **be sure to list** what snack items you are planning to bring (from at least 2 food groups). Please be sure to have snack at school **BY 8:30 a.m.** so it can be prepared and ready to serve by 9:00. Ideas for snack are available in the front office as is a full copy of our snack policy.

Please note: *Nut allergies pose a **potential FATAL effect** due to severe allergies to peanuts and nuts.* Even if the nuts are not eaten, sheer exposure can bring an allergic reaction. Thus, **ALL PEANUTS, NUTS AND NUT PRODUCTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL.** Please check labels for peanut oil and by products.



WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL OF OUR EXCESS HALLOWEEN CANDY?

Again this year, Montessori Schools of Irvine will be collecting any excess Halloween candy you would like to donate. The candy donations will go to **Operation Gratitude**. Operation Gratitude sends Care Packages and Halloween candy to the U.S. Deployed Troops and First Responders. Please drop off your excess candy no later than: Friday, November 3, 2017. Thank you for your candy donations!

PARENT CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Parent-Teacher conferences for preschool, kindergarten and primary grades are scheduled for 20-minute sessions twice a year. Parents sign up for a time that is convenient for them on a first-come-first-served basis. Two days have been scheduled for your convenience. Regular Montessori classes will not be in session during this time. Daycare activities will be available.

Wednesday, November 15 Conferences are scheduled from 9:00 a.m.- 5:20 p.m.

Friday, November 17 Conferences are scheduled from 7:00 a.m.- 10:40 a.m.

Registration for conferences will begin on Wednesday, October 25. All parents are encouraged to schedule a conference, as there *will not* be a scheduled make-up day. Please check the November newsletter for more information!

A copy of your child's progress report will be in your child's Friday folder on Thursday, November 9. Please take the time to review this progress report BEFORE your scheduled conference time. Feel free to make notes or jot down questions to bring with you to your conference. With your child's progress report, you will receive a parent questionnaire to share your thoughts about your child's school experiences and ensure that the teacher is able to address these during the conference. Please complete this form and return it to the front desk for your child's teacher before conference day. Please see below for additional information on our semi-annual family survey, which will also be distributed in Friday folders.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Watch for parent questionnaires to be distributed at conference time. This is a VERY important component of our NAEYC Accreditation process and we need your feedback! Please be sure to complete and return the questionnaire promptly, and ask us if you have any questions. Thank you for your input, and your support!

Friday, Nov. 10

November 13

November 15 & 17

November 23 & 24

Veteran's Day observed * SCHOOL CLOSED**

Last day to donate to Families Forward food and toiletry drive

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Daycare activities

Thanksgiving Holiday* SCHOOL CLOSED**

December 14

December 25 - Jan. 5, 2018

January 1, 2018

January 8, 2018

Children's Winter Program- School closes at 5:00 P.M.

Winter Recess * SCHOOL CLOSED**

Happy New Year!!

Welcome Back



OCTOBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS

October 1 Miss Ingrid

October 19 Miss Genna

October 22 Miss Margaret (our Music instructor)

October 30 Miss Jennifer

OCTOBER 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!

There are no anniversaries this month.

Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi



Spaghetti Dinner Recipe

3 T olive oil
1 yellow onion diced
1 T crushed garlic
½ c chopped basil
½ c chopped thyme
½ c chopped oregano
1 t cracked black pepper

1 c marsala wine
1 pound ground meat, browned and strained
2- 8 oz. cans of tomato sauce
1- 8 oz. can tomato juice
1 T tomato paste
1 pound pasta noodles, cooked

In a stock pot heat olive oil, add onions and garlic. Add all dry ingredients. Add marsala wine and boil until half of the liquid is reduced. Add beef, tomato sauce, tomato juice and tomato paste. Simmer for 20 minutes. Add sauce to noodles and mix. Cover and heat in the oven at 200° for 15 minutes. (Optional: top with fresh grated parmesan cheese)