



## DECEMBER 2018 - MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE

### TO ALL OUR FAMILIES:

As the holiday season approaches, we want to thank each of you for the gift you have given us by allowing us to teach and care for your wonderful children. We know that your children are most precious to your hearts and we are honored that you would share your families and these early years of your children's development, learning, and joy with us.

Sincerely,

*Cheryll and Richard Ruszat, Executive Directors  
And the staff of the Montessori Schools of Irvine*

### YOU ARE INVITED! - CHILDREN'S WINTER PROGRAM

You are invited to our annual Children's Winter Program on **Monday, December 10**. Children will be singing in their classrooms according to the schedule below. **Please arrive early to allow time for parking delays and be in the classroom approximately 10 minutes before their scheduled time to sing!** This allows the teacher time to gather the children and prepare them for their performance. We apologize, but as each class is performing at a **scheduled time**, we will not be able to wait for your child if you are late as it would delay all the other classes. *(Please note: some classes may perform at the same time).*

**5:00 – SCHOOL CLOSSES- All children must be picked up by their parents!**

**Miss Kim's class opens at 4:45 – Performance at 5:05-5:15**

**Miss Nobuko & Miss Therese's classes opens at 4:45 - Performance at 5:20-5:35**

**Miss Katy's class opens at 5:00 - Performance at 5:40-5:55**

*(Please note: some classes perform at the same time).*

After your child's performance, **please exit through the EDC room, and enjoy some refreshments!**  
Please let your child's teacher know if he or she will be unable to attend the program.

**Thank you for assisting us in keeping your child safe and happy on open house night**



↓↓↓↓↓↓↓ **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!** ↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

**5:00**

**School CLOSSES at 5:00 PM on Monday, December 10!**

**For our HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

**REMINDER: LATE FEES OF \$1 per minute are charged for children picked up after 5:00**

## **PARKING AND SAFETY**

**PLEASE!!!!** Keep your children and others safe in our parking lot by slowing down, being aware and **PARKING IN THE DESIGNATED PARKING PLACES**. Please remember that the front curb is for **quick** drop offs only. If you are planning on staying awhile, please DO NOT park in the drop off area. **Children are not to be left alone in the car for any reason** and again, for safety purposes, please be sure your car ignition is OFF before leaving it.



## **FAMILIES FORWARD**

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

### **A "BIG" THANK FOR THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER DONATIONS!**

A big thank you to all the families who donated candy to "Operation Gratitude" and canned goods to "Families Forward"! Your kindness and generosity is appreciated by both charities. Our donation bins were overflowing with candy and canned goods!



### **TOYS FOR TROOPS**

Each year Montessori Schools of Irvine holds a toy drive for children in need. This year we will be collecting toys for "Toys for Troops". Toys for Troops will collect new, unwrapped toys for children of actively deployed units from Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Our toy collection begins now. **The last day to donate is: Monday, December 10!**

Thank you for your generosity!

Gift Ideas? Below is taken from the Toys for Troops website:

#### **Q: Is there a list of toys available to guide me with my donation?**

Toys for Troops does not publish a list of appropriate toys to donate. If such a list were created, most would follow it, resulting in a limited selection of items to distribute in each community. We would rather our donors consider what might be an appropriate gift for their own child/relative, purchase the item, and donate to Toys for Troops.



## **CHILDREN'S PARTY and PAJAMA DAY**

**Thursday, December 20** is the day of our annual children's classroom holiday party and the children may come to school in pajamas (No Slippers Please). Parents are invited to sign up on the PARTY snack list to bring treats on that day. The PARTY snack sign up will be posted on Thursday, December 6.



### **Pottery Paint Day!**

Projects made by your little ones will make wonderful holiday gifts... Don't miss out- sign up by completing the form at the front desk (Due no later than Friday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>). The painting date will be Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **NUTCRACKER BALLET**

Academy of Dance, the studio which provides our ballet classes at our schools, in conjunction with the American Pacific Ballet Company, proudly present NUTCRACKER. Come see many Montessori Schools of Irvine alumnae and current students as well as professional guest artists in this beautiful classical ballet production at the Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton. Performances are on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Please see the flyer in the front office for more details, or visit [www.showclix.com/event/apbcnutcracker2018](http://www.showclix.com/event/apbcnutcracker2018) to purchase tickets.



## **DECEMBER IS MULTI-CULTURAL!**

December is a month of many holidays and festivities. December brings with it many festive celebrations from all over the world. Montessori Schools of Irvine invite our families to share their rich heritage and family traditions with their children's classmates. Please help us include all those who wish to participate by scheduling your presentation with your child's teacher. Thank you for your enriching gift of time and heritage during this special time of the year.

**Reminder: All parents wishing to share must have their immunization record on file with the school director.**

## **WINTER RECESS! - Schools Closed**

Please remember that Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** from **December 24, 2018-Friday, January 4, 2019**. We wish all of you and your families a fun-filled and relaxing recess. School resumes on **Monday, January 7, 2019**.

### ***What will you do with the children during recess? Here are a few ideas:***

1. Pull out old magazines and choose funny pictures from ads – make up stories with your children about the people in the pictures (not the products!)
2. Help your children create a play from their favorite picture book starring your child
3. Make costumes for the play
4. Make scenery for the play
5. Record the drama and post your creations on Facebook
6. Bake ginger bread or angel food cake (cake mix absolutely OK!)
7. Plant a tree – if it is evergreen decorate it with birdfeeders for the winter
8. Make birdfeeders for the birds
9. Go to the library or a bookstore and take home a book about Southern California backyard birds
10. Purchase binoculars to watch the birds
11. Take pictures of the birds you see and make a book with their species
12. Take a nature walk and see what birds you can identify
13. Make donuts with lots of sprinkles
14. Check out family toys with your children – outgrown a few? Donate them to the Salvation Army for less fortunate children.
15. Ask your children what they would like to do!



## **BROWN PAPER BAG DAY- Wednesday, December 19**

Friday, December 21 is our last day of session until Monday, January 7, 2019. Please send a **BROWN PAPER GROCERY BAG** to school on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19** so that all holiday projects can be taken home.

## **EXTRA CLOTHES – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21!**

On Friday, December 21 all extra clothes will be sent home in your child's brown paper bag. Please check your child's bag and make sure the clothes still fit your growing children and are appropriate for colder weather. Please send replacements back on Monday, January 7, 2019 and be sure to put your **child's name** on all items!

## **DAY CARE DAY – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Friday, December 21 is our last day of school for 2018! As our teachers use that day to prepare for the coming semester, our children's activities will be focused on play and fun and will function as a "daycare only" day for all children. Snacks and lunch will be served as usual. Montessori lessons and daily routines will begin again upon our return in January 2019!

## **JACKETS, SWEATERS AND COATS**

We do encourage your child to put on their coat when the weather is cooler, however, they do not always leave them on. Please help us by reinforcing this message at home.

## **COLD AND FLU SEASON**

It is that time of year again. We hope that your family will have a healthy winter! However, if your child does come down with a cold or flu, please remember that state licensing does not permit us to allow children to attend school if they show **ANY** signs of illness. **CHILDREN MUST REMAIN HOME THE ENTIRE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DAY (WITHOUT EXCEPTION) AFTER BEING SENT HOME DUE TO SIGNS OF ILLNESS.** The additional rest time helps them to fully recover, builds their resistance, and also helps prevent the spreading of illness to other children. All children who are healthy enough to be at school must be able to participate in both inside *and* outside activities and should thus be dressed accordingly.

School officials can administer **prescription medication** (such as ongoing antibiotics for bacterial infections) **only!** If your child requires continued medication during the day upon their return to school, parents will need to complete a medication form at the front desk. Please note that ALL information must be completed and the forms signed by the parent before we are allowed to dispense the medicine. Over-the-counter medication that masks signs of illness will require school personnel to send the child home due to the contagious nature of symptoms these medications attempt to cover.



## **WHAT NEXT!!! - PRESCHOOL IS ALMOST OVER - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** **KINDERGARTEN – PRIMARY GRADES OPTIONS NIGHT**

### **Why the Next Step is 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. The program will be held at our **VILLAGE** Montessori school which is centrally located for the four schools as well as the home of our early elementary program. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 17, 2019** and will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 7:00.

Parents will be introduced to California public school rankings, a review of common core and receive special information on the research proven Montessori kindergarten/elementary curriculum, methods, teacher/child ratios as well as the wealth of other information parents seek to choose the best match for their child's continuing education.

Our experience has demonstrated the extraordinary difference a Montessori kindergarten and the early elementary years make on a child's academic school success throughout their lifetime. Some insight into

why and what research has shown will be presented on this night as well as a forum to ask whatever questions you may have about "what's next".

Due to the large group that usually attends and the amount of information being shared, this meeting WILL NOT be repeated. Please check the January Newsletter for sign-up information.

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 10	Last day to donate toys to "Toys for Troops"
December 10	<b>WINTER PROGRAM- ****SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 5:00!****</b>
December 19	Bring in a <b>BROWN PAPER BAG</b>
December 20	Children's Holiday Party and Pajama Day
December 21	Last Day of School! Day Care Day
December 24-January 4, 2019	<b>Winter Recess *** SCHOOL CLOSED***</b>
January 1, 2019	Happy New Year!
January 7, 2019	School Resumes
January 17, 2019	Kindergarten-Primary Options Night at Village Montessori

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## **DECEMBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS**

December 15      Miss Cheryll



**THANK YOU TO CHEF CYNDI, MISS LASHONE, CHEF OSCAR and MISS DONA**

A **BIG** "thank you!" to our chefs at Montessori Schools of Irvine! The Thanksgiving Feast with all of the trimmings was delicious! The staff and children appreciate all the prep and work that goes into making this special meal a success!!



**Chef's Table by Executive Chef Cyndi Paulson**

**Wishing you a Joyful Holiday Season from your food service staff!**

**Executive Chef Cyndi,**

**Miss LaShone (Village), Miss Dona (Westpark), and Chef Oscar (Northwood)**

**Christmas Sugar Cookie Pie**



**Ingredients**

- 1** pouch (1 lb. 1.5 oz) Betty Crocker™ sugar cookie mix
- 1/2** cup butter, softened
- 1** egg
- 1/4** cup red, green and white candy sprinkles
- 1 1/2** cups powdered sugar
- 3** tablespoons of butter softened
- 1/2** teaspoon vanilla
- 3** to 4 teaspoons milk
- Assorted holiday candies

**Steps**

- 1** Heat oven to 325°F. Spray bottom only of 9-inch pie plate with cooking spray.
- 2** In large bowl, mix cookie mix, 1/2 cup softened butter and egg with spoon until soft dough forms. Stir in candy sprinkles. Press dough in bottom of pie plate.
- 3** Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until center is set and edges are golden brown. If needed, cover edges of cookie with foil to keep from overbrowning. Cool completely, about 1 1/2 hours.
- 4** In medium bowl, beat powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons softened butter, the vanilla and 3 teaspoons of the milk with electric mixer on low speed until smooth and creamy. If necessary, add additional milk to make frosting easy to spread.
- 5** Spread frosting over cookie pie. Decorate top of frosted cookie as desired with assorted holiday candies. To serve, cut into wedges.