



DECEMBER 2018 – WESTPARK 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*



CRAFT FAIR

Reminder: Our annual craft fair is **Wednesday, December 5th from 3-5:30 PM** in the school atrium. Please stop by and see the amazing crafts and goods.

Those participating selling crafts **MUST** have their immunizations on file with the school director. They will need to supply their own table (card table size) and are responsible for their own set up and clean up. See Miss Pennee with any questions. Happy shopping!

YOU ARE INVITED! - CHILDREN'S WINTER PROGRAM

Each year our school is filled with the joyful performances of our preschool and kindergarten children singing for their families in their classrooms. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 12th!**

Parents are invited to pick up their children from the atrium and ***proceed directly to their children's classroom by going through the atrium double doors to their child's playground classroom entry.***

Program:

Miss Jenn's Class and Toddler Sing-Along - 4:45-5:00

Miss Dinah's class – 5:00-5:15

Miss Ina's class and Kindergarten– Performance at 5:15-5:30

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

Thank you for assisting us in keeping your child safe and happy on open house night
After your child's performance, please join us in the atrium and enjoy some holiday cookies.



Candy canes will be given to the children as you leave for home.



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



School CLOSES at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 12!

For our HOLIDAY PROGRAM

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

Parking for the Winter Program

Due to the large number of families and multiple cars arriving in a short period of time, we are cautioning parents to plan on additional time to find parking. In addition to the school parking lot and street in front of the school, you can also park at Culverdale Elementary, or in the housing track.



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

Friday, December 14 is the day of our annual children's classroom holiday party. 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. The painting date will be Tuesday, December 11th.

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 8th at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 9th at 2:00 p.m. Please see the flyer in the front office for more details, or visit 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!

PAJAMA DAY & 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! Children can wear pajamas and regular shoes to school!

JACKETS, SWEATERS AND COATS

Please assist your child in hanging up their sweater or jacket before entering the classroom. Jackets are lost when the children just take them off and leave them somewhere instead of getting in the habit of hanging them up. We do encourage your child to put on their coat when going outside since the weather is cooler, however, they do not always leave them on. Please help us by reinforcing the message that jackets and sweaters are to be worn outside. In addition, please make sure your child's name is on the jacket or sweater that is worn to school. Thank you.

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.

***** **EXTRA NEWS FOR TODDLERS AND TWO'S** *****

TODDLER SING-ALONG

Our annual Children's Winter Program will be held on Wednesday, December 12. The Toddlers and Two's will again have a combined "Sing-A-Long" in the Two's Room from 4:45-4:55 PM. Please join our staff and your children for this joyous event. Please remember to plan extra time for parking! And please remember the school closes early this day and **all children must be picked up by 5:00 p.m.**

Jacket for Cooler Weather

With the cooler weather, please make sure that your child has a sweater or jacket with their name on it at school. A sweatshirt is a good idea if your toddler likes to take off their jacket.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 5	Craft Fair
December 10	Last day to donate toys to "Toys for Troops"
December 12	WINTER PROGRAM- ****SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 5:00!****
December 14	Children's Holiday Party
December 19	Bring in a BROWN PAPER BAG
December 21	Pajama Day, Last Day of School! Day Care Day
December 24-January 4, 2019	Winter Recess *** SCHOOL CLOSED***
January 1, 2019	Happy New Year!
January 7, 2019	School Resumes
January 17, 2019	Kindergarten-Primary Options Night at Village Montessori



DECEMBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS

December 3	Miss Dona
December 7	Miss Jenn
December 11	Miss Kathee
December 15	Miss Cheryl
December 30	Miss Dinah
January 3	Miss Olivia



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.