



NORTHWOOD MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - JULY 2018

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.

SUMMER MORNING ATRIUM SCHEDULE

Starting **Monday, July 16** (**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



“DOWN ON THE FARM” SUMMER 2018

This year our summer theme is Down on the Farm. Get ready for our special summer program, as it takes a closer look at the wonderful world of farming life! The children will be learning about the different types of farm animals, crops, farm equipment and much more.

Join us this *summer* for **DOWN ON THE FARM**. *Yee-haw*, what fun it will be!

Summer packet/schedule will be available June 29.

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 questions as she will open the gathering for questions as well. The presentation will take place on Tuesday, July 17; from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Handouts regarding our curriculum and what to watch for will be distributed at this orientation. As always, there are no charges for our parent seminars!



LABEL ALL ITEMS

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



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 Lisa* 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

Please help us keep the building secure by carrying and using your key fob daily. 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. 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. 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 or 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 Tuesday, July 17. 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 park in front of the gated dumpster. Cars make it impossible for the drivers to pick up trash and donations from the Salvation Army bin if there is a car parked in that spot.

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 in the share hallway by the kitchen. 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. Thank you!

BALLET LESSONS

Registration forms for the summer ballet sessions are now available at the front desk. Ballet will be on Monday mornings in the summer. All new AND returning students must register.

GYMNASTICS, VIOLIN AND YOGA

There are currently a few openings in our extra-curricular activities. 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, August 31!

Monday, August **27-30** is Montessori Schools of Irvine Staff In-service Week. Monday through Thursday 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, August 31 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 27. 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, Cheryll and Richard Ruszat will also be there to welcome our families. (**Spaghetti dinner begins and child care closes at 5:00**. Spaghetti served until 6:00 pm. Parents are asked to bring a pot luck dessert large enough to feed their family and a picnic blanket for their spaghetti picnic!)

*******KINDERGARTEN NEWS*******

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



KINDERGARTEN PHILANTHROPY PROJECT

This year our kindergarten classes raised money to "adopt" an animal at the Santa Ana Zoo as part of their philanthropy project. With their hard work and the support of our generous parents, we were able to raise close to \$500.00 from our bake sale and popcorn sales. The children did such a great job that Miss Cheryll and Mr. Richard also wanted to contribute, making our total donation to \$700.00 for the zoo. We decided to adopt a giant anteater! The kindergarten classes visited the zoo on Monday, June 25th to present with our donation check. The children also had an opportunity to visit the anteater they adopted. As part of the donation, there will be a plaque displayed by the giant anteater with the inscription "Northwood Montessori Kindergarten Class of 2018" for a year. We are glad we had the opportunity for our students to learn about giving back to the community and caring for animals. Once again, THANK YOU! We couldn't have done it without you.

TIDBITS FOR TODDLERS AND TWO'S

WATER PLAY DAYS

Toddlers will have water play days throughout July and August. Look for the dates on the toddler calendar. 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

Happy 4th of July! – SCHOOL CLOSED July 2- July 6

JULY 9

Welcome back! First day of the Summer Session

July 10

Registration begins for Field Trips

July 17

Montessori Parent Orientation with Executive Director, Cheryll Ruszat

August 2

Field trip to Tanaka Farms-Watermelon Patch

August 15

On-Site Field trip: Petting Zoo & Pony Rides

August 27-30

Teacher In-Service Week- OUTSIDE DAYCARE ONLY

August 31

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

SEPTEMBER 3

Labor Day, SCHOOL CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 4

First day of the Fall Term

SEPTEMBER 27

SPAGHETTI DINNER



STAFF BIRTHDAYS

July 4

Miss Nicole

July 26

Miss Shaunna

JULY STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Richard and Cheryll 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 5

Miss Leeciel

2 years

July 7

Miss Julie

21 years

July 8

Miss Audrey

5 years

July 11

Miss Jennifer

7 years

July 25

Mr. TJ

12 years

July is National Culinary Arts Month!

A BIG thank you to Chef Cyndi, Miss LaShone, Miss Dona and Chef Oscar for all of our fabulous lunches and snacks!



*July is National "Ice Cream" month!
Easy Ice Cream Cake*

Ingredients:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 3 large eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
(or whatever the cake mix requires)
- 2 quarts peach ice cream (or any other flavor), softened slightly

Directions:

1. One hour before starting your cake, turn the freezer to its highest setting.
2. Heat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour two 8-inch round cake pans.
3. Make the cake according to package directions.
4. Divide the batter into two cake pans
5. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cakes comes out clean
6. Allow the cakes to cool for at least 10 minutes before removing them from the pans. Let the layers cool *completely* before assembling the cake.
7. Place one layer on a freezer proof plate and evenly spread 1 quart of the softened ice cream over the top of the plated layer. Place the remaining cake layer on top of the ice cream. Put the cake in the freezer to harden, about 1 hour.
8. Transfer the remaining softened ice cream to a mixing bowl. Cream by hand with a rubber spatula until it reaches the consistency of frosting. Frost the top and the sides of the cake with the ice cream.
9. Keep frozen until ready to serve.



***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***