



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE - JUNE 2018



YEAR-END MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AND GRADUATION CEREMONY – June 20

PLEASE READ all of the following information as it is very important!

“The knowledge, friendships and memories we leave with are priceless . . .”

Denean Chase, Associate Director at her son Kelsey's kindergarten graduation from University Montessori School - 1994.

Each year ALL our preschool children participate in our year-end musical extravaganza and kindergarten graduation! Please note: **SCHOOL WILL CLOSE EARLY at 5:00 p.m. on June 20** for our year-end musical extravaganza and graduation ceremony. Be sure to pick up your child **no later than 5:00**. **\$1 per minute late fees will begin at 5:01 for all ages of children**. Remember that parking on this night may take extra time! Children will not be able to join their classrooms for the program unless they are signed out by their parents.

As parents pick up their children before 5:00 on this day, please take them to the playground area and continue to supervise them as our teaching staff will remain in the atrium while other children wait for their parents. We are sorry, but due to the possible confusion over which children have and have not yet been picked up that can cause safety issues, parents are asked to leave the atrium and move to the playground with their child until 5:00 when classrooms open. (The playground structure is closed for use by all children on this afternoon.) The teachers prepare the children in their classrooms for their performance with props and line up order from 5:05-5:15 p.m. We ask that children be **taken to their classroom** teachers **by their parents no later than 5:05**. Parents can then join other parents in finding a seat for the performance.

Ms. Margaret, our music teacher, has already been practicing a special selection of songs with the children for their "on stage" performance. Our **program begins at 5:15**. Each classroom will have a time on stage as they perform their song, our kindergarteners then graduate, and all classrooms then join in for a grand finale! After the finale Ms. Pennee will announce the dismissal of the children by class. Please step forward so that your child can see YOU. This will, again, help us keep children safely under supervision.

As you leave the program, join us for cookies and lemonade to celebrate this special evening! (Please refrain from re-entering the school after the program as the facility will be locked for security purposes.)

EXTRAVAGANZA ETIQUETTE

Safety First

As the number of our children participating is typically multiplied by two parents, and often siblings and perhaps grandparents or other guests, our audience grows to quite a crowd! While all are welcome, we ask that all participants viewing the performance **please keep our little performers SAFE by leaving our performance walkways clear**. Please remain in the seating area, seated, or if you must stand, do so in the back but **stay in same place during the performance**.

Photos

We are having our program recorded by a professional videographer (please see below for order information) and there will be plenty of time for special photos after the performance with our backdrop still up. Please do not interrupt the performance by walking around during this event. Other photos should be taken by parents only while seated in their seats or standing at the back of the audience. Please do not stand up in your seat or hold up iPads, cameras or phones during the performance as this blocks the view of others seated behind you.

Young Guests

Please be conscientious and supervise other children who come with you to this event, both younger or older children. Please note that in response to the many courteous parents and in the best interest of the children, parents or unattended older children who interrupt the performance will be asked to leave the performance area.

Thank you for being a great role model for your child and a courteous parent!

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Parents of the kindergarten graduates ONLY have been assigned priority seating (2 seats per family). Additional seating is available on a first come, first served basis.

We suggest that parents begin to find seats no later than 5:05, after dropping off their child in the classroom with their teacher. Parents who wish to have a better view by standing may do so at the back.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Each year we have our musical extravaganza and graduation professionally filmed so that each family can have a quality recording without interference from others wanting to capture the same event. Videos are available for our cost of the videographer and DVDs of \$30 each. The DVDs are typically delivered when school reopens after break. Kindergarten graduates receive a free copy as a gift from the school. Deadline to order on is June 22.

CHILDREN'S REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Musical performances don't just happen – they take practice! Rehearsals help your child feel comfortable and confident when they stand on stage to perform. Please help your child by bringing them to school **by 9:00 a.m.** for Wednesday morning rehearsals this month. Also, please let your child's teacher know if your child is unable to participate on performance night.

KEY FOBS

Many of our children are growing up and with the "rights of passage" will be moving on to other school venues as they continue their educational pathway. We send a special thank you to all of you for sharing these most important developmental and learning years with us at the Montessori Schools of Irvine.

Please remember to return your key fobs if your child is now leaving us. This will help us keep all of the children safer. As per your signed agreement, we also remind you of the \$50 fee per fob for those that are not returned. Thank you again.

BROWN PAPER BAGS

Please bring a BROWN PAPER BAG (with your child's name on it) to school by Wednesday, June 27. All project, papers, etc. will be sent home in these bags on Friday, June 29!

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the Lost and Found Bin (and shelves) for any lost items. Lost and Found items will be laid out after Open House and then donated to charity on Wednesday, June 27.

Note from Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director

As this time of the year approaches, some children begin to experience a normal range of emotions. There is excitement over the chance to perform with their friends for their families. Some children also are thinking about changes coming in their lives, or of their friends moving to different classrooms or schools over the summer or fall.

As parents you may notice some extra wiggles and giggles as well as questions about some of the changes they may experience from day to day. Children who are verbal are likely to share their observations of events and plans they hear “the grown-ups” talking about. Children who are quiet may demonstrate their observations with behaviors such as small complaints about their friends or activities.

Parents may wonder if this is something to worry about, but these behaviors are common during life’s transition times. First, it makes for great conversation! These are meaningful experiences for children and provide important platforms for parents to provide time for sharing these experiences with them and helping them understand their feelings.

What exactly is a parent to do? Listen with an open heart but a mind that understands that this behavior is “inside the box” for young children. Children who move on will make new friends and settle into their new classrooms. Meanwhile, those who remain in preschool get to be the leaders and build their self-confidence as they welcome new children to their classroom family. What children seek in these interactions with “the grown-ups” is a time to share their thoughts and receive reassurance that the grown-ups will really remember the new schedules and that these experiences will provide fun, happy memories, and new friends! Relax and enjoy the process of growing with your child!

JULY AND SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM CHANGES

In July and August, our preschool and primary classes experience some changes due to the transitioning in and out of children moving to older age groups. While we realize that all families are anxious to know when their child will actually transition into the kindergarten or primary classes, we are unable to post these changes until the last week of the session due to the number of changes which occur for the many families involved. Thank you for your continued trust and patience and remembering that all of our decisions are based on the best interests of each individual child’s placement. The class lists for July will be posted on Tuesday, June 26 and for the fall term on Tuesday, August 28.

At this time we are working with the staff to meet their requests for team building in the classrooms. Final staff assignments will be posted for September at the end of August. Thank you for being patient with us during this important process for the coming school term.

A.M. SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR ALL CHILDREN

(DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE AND THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY!)

We will begin our summer A.M. schedule on Monday, June 25. During the warmer months, we have an outdoor playtime each morning to compensate for the occasional afternoon heat when it is too hot to play outside. This schedule will begin on June 25, but the normal schedule will resume for the first two weeks of the summer session to assist our new children’s transition into school.

The schedule below will be in effect for the last week of June and begin again for the duration of the summer beginning the third week of July. During the first two weeks of the new session children will transition to the classroom from the atrium each morning to help the new children acclimate to school.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00-7:55 | Atrium |
| 7:55-8:05 | Atrium clean up |
| 8:05-8:55 | Outside playground time |
| 8:55 | Transition into Montessori Core Program |



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

Sunday, June 17th is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all of you great Dads!

“NEW STUDENTS” MEET THE TEACHER SCHEDULED

Tuesday, June 26 is “Meet the Teacher Day” for all **new** students. Teachers will be introducing themselves and speaking about their classrooms from 8:30 to 9:00 with informal visitation from 9:00 to 9:30.

During Meet the Teacher enrolled children will have outdoor daycare. Parents who do not want their children to have an extended outdoor playtime on this morning are encouraged to bring their child to school at 9:30 a.m.



SUMMER RECESS

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** July 2-6 for Summer Recess. The first day of the summer session is **Monday, July 9**. Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!!!



“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!

Look for more information and a summer packet/schedule in late June.

SUMMER CERAMIC PAINTING – “FARM ANIMALS”

Flyers for this summer’s ceramic painting by Klay Kids will be available at the front desk. The ceramic painting is for preschool-primary children who are enrolled in both the months of July and August. The ceramic pieces need to be ordered prior to the start of the summer session, therefore we are asking you to return the order forms promptly, by the date TBA. Thank you!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Thank you to all of the parents who completed our NAEYC surveys! A summary of the results will be posted in the front office in July as we finish tallying. Please feel free to ask us about further information regarding the results.

JUNE TEACHING THEME'S

One's and Two's: Ocean Life

TODDLER BIRTHDAY!

Toddler birthdays may be celebrated at school with a "simple" healthy snack such as muffins. Please refer to our "birthday policy" and refrain from sending overly sugary treats, chocolate, party favors, hats, and decorations to school. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions.

GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL - Wednesday, JUNE 20

While our toddlers are too young to join in the "on stage" performance, we invite all families to watch the show and join us for refreshments! Our parking lot will be blocked off by 2 pm so please plan some extra time for pick up. **Remember, school closes at 5:00 p.m. on this day- including our toddler classrooms!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- JUNE 17 Happy Father's Day!
- JUNE 20 **GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL *** School closes at 5:00*****
- JUNE 27 Bring a brown paper bag to school, labeled with your child's name
- JUNE 29 All Lost and Found items will be donated to charity

- JULY 4 Happy 4th of July
- JULY 2-6 **SCHOOL CLOSED/Summer Recess**
- JULY 9 First day of summer school!



JUNE STAFF BIRTHDAYS:

June 10 Miss Elwira

JUNE 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.

Miss Michelle C 2 years!
Miss Ahn 5 years!

Chef Cyndi's Kitchen - Berry Patriotic Kabobs



Ingredients:

Blueberries
Raspberries
Mini Marshmallows
10" Wooden Skewers

Directions:

- Thread 4 blueberries, 1 mini marshmallow, 1 raspberry, 1 mini marshmallow and 1 raspberry on each of 5 wooden skewers.
- On the remaining 7 skewers thread; 1 raspberry, one marshmallow, 1 raspberry, one marshmallow, 1 raspberry, one marshmallow. End with a raspberry.
- Place on a clear or white platter