



NORTHWOOD MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE OCTOBER 2018

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.



SCHOOL PICTURE DAY IS OCTOBER 11

Reminder: Please save Thursday, October 11 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 24 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.

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB ORDERS

October book club orders are now available in your child's Friday folders. Our online code to order is **GM7VJ** at scholastic.com/bookclubs. Please write **ONE** check only to Scholastic Book Clubs for all orders. Orders are due Monday, October 8. The book club deliveries do not always arrive on the same date, so orders will be distributed as they arrive. (Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery). All orders help our school earn points to purchase more books for your child's classroom. Thank you for your orders!



PUMPKIN PATCH FIELD TRIP

A BIG thank you to all of the parents who have brought in their immunizations to the school Director. Due to your quick response, we did not have to cancel this trip and it has allowed those parents to chaperone this field trip!

Again, this fall we will be traveling to Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch and vegetable gardens, located in Irvine. The Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch allows children to pick their own pumpkins right off the vines. The field trip also includes a wagon ride, petting zoo and a corn maze! The field trip to Tanaka Farms will take place on Wednesday, October 10. The cost of the trip is \$21.00 for children and the entrance fee for parent chaperones is \$7.00 (The chaperone fee does NOT include a pumpkin.)

Preschool children under 4 must have a parent chaperone! The trip will close once the bus is full. **All children attending must wear a Montessori rainbow t-shirt!** Tennis shoes or closed toed shoes are a must, as it makes walking in the pumpkin patch field easier to navigate.

Parent chaperone reminder: All chaperones must have a current immunization record on file at the school. Please bring a back pack and wear “comfy” shoes for walking in the pumpkin patch. As always, we ask that you turn off your cell phones while chaperoning on this trip. Thank you.



Montessori Schools of Irvine
CLOSE at 5:00 PM on Halloween:
Wednesday, October 31

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

Our annual Halloween party and parade has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 31 at 3:30 p.m.** (Toddler families please see below). 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 preschool-kindergarten playground. Find your “photo spot” and wait for the children to reach you. They will be pausing periodically for photos along the way.

We ask all parents to wait **OUTSIDE** on the playground and keep the bike path and atrium clear at all times, as the children will be parading through these areas. Classrooms are also limited in space and parents will be asked to stay in the parade area (preschool-kindergarten playground) only. Following the parade, children will be directly behind their classrooms for a quick group photo and then return to their rooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents are invited to sign up in the front office to bring in special Halloween goodies on this day and we will also invite 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 17.



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

***DISMISSAL:** Parents who are taking their children with them after the parade are asked to **PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE** until the children return to their classroom after the parade and we will dismiss the children after taking attendance to ensure all children are safe. Thank you! This helps us keep all children safe and confusion to a minimum. Once the children are back inside the classroom, **parents are asked to sign their child out before proceeding to pick them up from the classroom.**

It has been our experience that most children leave for holiday activities with their parents after the parade thus leaving only one or two children at school feeling confused that their parents did not pick them up. Thus, to support their emotional well-being, we will be closing the school at 5:00. Parents are asked to remember to pick their children up no later than **5:00 P.M. on Halloween.**

Please note:
Schools close at **5:00** on
Halloween
Key fobs will not work!

VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY REMINDER

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, November 12** in observance of Veteran's Day, a legal holiday. Thank you to ALL of the Veterans who have served our great country!

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 14

Conferences are scheduled from 9:00 a.m.- 5:20 p.m.

Friday, November 16

Conferences are scheduled from 7:00 a.m.- 10:40 a.m.

Registration for conferences will begin on Wednesday, October 24. 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 Friday, 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!

LOST AND FOUND WEEK

Tuesday, October 16 - Friday, October 19 (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 19 in the afternoon.

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 **potentially 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.

FREE CHILDREN'S CONCERT

There will be a "Free" Children's Suzuki Festival Concert on Sunday, October 21 @ 3:30 PM. The concert will take place at St. Mark Presbyterian Church; 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

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 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.



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 9, 2018. Thank you for your candy donations! Also, thank you to our facilities management team (Mr. Tomas and Mr. TJ) who delivers the candy to the Operation Gratitude warehouse in Chatsworth!

THANKSGIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Each Thanksgiving season our schools sponsor a canned food drive to help those who are less fortunate. This year Montessori Schools of Irvine will be coordinating our donations with **"Families Forward"**. The goal of Families Forward (based in Irvine) is to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Families Forward does this through housing, counseling, education and other support services. We will be collecting canned food items (see list posted in front office) as well as toiletries. We are collecting from Monday, October 29 through **Friday, November 9. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

*****KINDERGARTEN "EXTRAS"*****



IN SCHOOL "FIELD" TRIP Orange County Department of Education, Inside the Outdoors is a program that brings a "Traveling Scientist" to schools. The children not only have fun with their hands on experiences, but these programs are also aligned with the California Science Content Standards and the California Science Framework. We have scheduled the traveling scientist Friday, October 26 to explore arachnids and insects in "Eight Legs or Six" presentation. The cost is \$10 per child; you may make your check payable to "Northwood Montessori". Permission slips will go home in Friday Folders on October 12th. Children choosing not to participate will have an alternate activity in a classroom.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA REGULATIONS AND YOUR CHILD'S BEDDING

California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing requires that ALL children under 2 years (their definition of "infants") have their bedding changed DAILY. The section of the law is below:

101439.1 INFANT CARE CENTER NAPPING

e(1) Bedding shall be changed daily, or more often if required by (e) above.

After much discussion we have determined that it will be easier for our families with children in our infants and ones rooms if **we** provide crib sheets **for you** and launder them here at the school! (Our current procedure will remain in effect for our twos room.) HOWEVER, it will take a week or two to for us to procure the sheets. Thus, we ask that parents provide 3 sheets for the time being, labeled with your child's name. We ask for this so we have we have a day in-between to launder them and one in case of an accident.

As soon as **our** sheets arrive, we will send yours home to keep! Please note: We are unable to do separate loads as we will be washing many sheets daily and, while we intend to use fragrance free baby friendly detergent, we are not able to personalize the process for each child. Thus, if you wish to have your child's bedding laundered in a specific way, please send 5 appropriately sized fitted sheets to school weekly and we will continue the procedure of sending the sheets home with you each Friday and you returning them laundered on Monday. Thank you for helping us keep Child Care Licensing happy!



HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

Our Halloween parade will be on **Wednesday, October 31 at 3:15 p.m.** The One's and Two's will parade on our playground. Please see above for more information on our Halloween parade.

Please note that ALL children must be picked up by **5:00 p.m.** on Halloween.

EXTRA CLOTHES

As we breeze into fall please remember to check your child's extra clothes supplies. Each child should always have at least three extra sets of clothes to be kept at school. Each set should include: socks, shirt, and long pants. Extra clothes should be put in a large zip lock baggie and **PLEASE LABEL EACH PIECE OF CLOTHING**. Early mornings are sometimes chilly, so you may want to leave a light coat in your child's bin.

ONE'S & TWO'S OCTOBER TEACHING THEME

The One's and Two's will be learning about insects and Halloween this month.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| October 8 | Book Orders Due | |
| October 10 | Pumpkin Patch Field Trip | |
| October 11 | "Picture Day" | |
| October 19 | Any unclaimed Lost and Found items will be donated | |
| October 24 | Picture make-up day at Westpark Montessori | |
| October 31 | HALLOWEEN PARTY! *** School closes at 5:00 PM today! | |
| | (PRESCHOOL-PRIMARY PARADE AT 3:30 / TODDLER Parade at 3:15 P.M.) | |

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER....

November 1-9 Donate excess Halloween Candy to "Operation Gratitude"!
 November 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends; Fall backwards!
 November 9 Last day to donate to Families Forward food and toiletry drive
Monday, Nov. 12 Veteran's Day observed * SCHOOL CLOSED**
 November 14 & 16 Parent-Teacher Conferences- Daycare activities
November 22 & 23 Thanksgiving Holiday* SCHOOL CLOSED**

December 13 Children's Winter Program- *****School closes at 5:00 P.M.**
December 24 - Jan. 4, 2019 Winter Recess * SCHOOL CLOSED**
 January 1, 2019 Happy New Year!!
 January 7, 2019 Welcome Back



OCTOBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS

October 20 Chef Oscar
 October 22 Miss Margaret (Music director/teacher)
 October 26 Miss Jennifer

November 1 Miss Candice
 November 1 Miss Lisa

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!

October 9 Miss Rayann 27 years
 October 21 Miss Sherri 5 years
 October 26 Miss Becky 1 year
 October 28 Miss Amy 5 years
 *August 22 Miss Shaunna 2 years (plus 17 years) Sorry we missed it!

Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi



Spaghetti Dinner Recipe

3 T olive oil	½ c chopped oregano	2- 8 oz. cans of tomato sauce
1 yellow onion diced	1 t cracked black pepper	1- 8 oz. can tomato juice
1 T crushed garlic	1 c marsala wine	1 T tomato paste
½ c chopped basil	1 pound ground meat, browned	1 pound pasta noodles, cooked
½ c chopped thyme	and strained	

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)



Annual Halloween Party and Parade...Helpful Hints!
School closes at 5:00 PM today!

1. Bring your child to school in school clothes.
2. Bring a BROWN PAPER BAG with your child's name clearly printed on the outside. Put their Halloween costume in the bag. Please LABEL all pieces!! NO masks please!
3. Preschool and Kindergarten children will parade in preschool-kindergarten playground at 3:30. Toddler children will parade on the toddler playground at 3:15.
4. For the children's safety, please stand only in the designated parade route in the playground and keep the bike path and atrium clear at all times!
5. We invite parents to take both still and video pictures on this day, however, please do so **outside and during the parade only.**
6. There will be an opportunity for group photos on the side yard for Miss Jochelle's, Miss Mitch's, Miss Corey's, and Miss Lily's class directly behind their classrooms. Miss Nicole's and Miss Karina's class group photos will be directly behind their classrooms.
7. After the parade, all children will be behind their classrooms shortly for photos then return to their classrooms. For safety reasons, please DO NOT take your child from the parade. Please wait outside until ALL children have returned indoors, then you may enter the building to sign out and pick up your child.
8. Remember to sign your child out if you are taking your child home after the parade. Look for a sign out sheet with your child's teacher in the classroom to bypass signing out at the Procure kiosk. *Parents, please be advised that our experience has been that most parents take their child home with them after the parade to prepare for the evening trick-or-treating festivities. Please remember that our school closes and all children **MUST BE PICKED UP BY 5:00 p.m.**
9. Just a reminder: If ghosts and goblins should bring rain on this day, the parade will be canceled. If the parade is canceled, parents are invited to take pictures in the classroom from 3:30-4:00 pm only.

PARADE BEGINS AT 3:30 p.m. Toddlers parade at 3:15 p.m.

OCTOBER 31st

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!