



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE APRIL 2019



ALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Individual spring photos will be taken on Tuesday, April 2 of our children. Our spring photos DO NOT require prepayment. You will receive a proof sheet approximately 2 weeks after the photos are taken and can place orders at that time. There is a sign posted in the front office which shows what the backdrop will look like. Photos will be taken in the morning before lunch only.



UCI Anti-Cancer Challenge - Montessori Making A Difference

We invite you to join us and “ride, run, walk” to end cancer! On Saturday, June 8th in Aldrich Park on the UCI campus our team, “Montessori Making A Difference” will be doing all those things to make a difference in the cure for cancer. Come visit us at our booth where we will be distributing goodies and treats. Better yet, join our team, get a t-shirt, and have fun in the fresh air! You can sign up as an individual or join our team, “Montessori Making a Difference” by looking us up at www.anti-cancerchallenge.org. For any questions, please contact University Montessori Director, Cecelia McGregor at cmcgregor@irvinemontessori.com or 949-854-6030.

END OF CONTINUING REGISTRATION

The enrollment deadline for continuing registration and changes for the coming school year has now passed and we have begun to fill openings from our waiting list. Thank you for your timely replies! It is an honor and a joy to share these special years with your families!

Just a reminder, early withdrawal from the program needed to be indicated with continuing registration information and thus families are now responsible for the remaining tuition through the end of June regardless of any change of plans. Families who have confirmed they are staying through August are now also responsible for their continuing tuition through that date as we have already begun scheduling enrollments for September to fill positions based upon the withdrawal information you provided at registration.

BOOK FAIR

We will be having a Scholastic Book Fair in our atrium from April 29th to May 3rd. This is a favorite of our children. In addition, we earn points for each book bought to buy books for our school. Thank you for supporting our classroom libraries.



The National **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD** is **April 8-12**. We have scheduled a week full of fun to celebrate the joy of childhood with all your children! All activities are scheduled for the morning. The activities are planned for our children only. Sorry, we are unable to accommodate siblings or parents who might want to watch and participate! Our schedule of activities is as follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 8: Pajama /Backwards Day - This is an easy morning - everyone comes dressed in their pajamas or can wear their clothes backwards! All aboard the **Toyland Express**. The train will be here giving our children a fun ride. Breakfast will be served for lunch, with waffles, strawberries & whipped cream for PM snack. Sorry, **no slippers** on this day as the children will be playing outside! PJ /Backwards Day is also Movie Day, TBA.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9: Rainbow Day - Wear your MONTESSORI RAINBOW SHIRTS! Franklin Haynes Marionettes will be here for a **puppet show**! We will be celebrating with rainbow pasta for lunch, rainbow goldfish for snack and rainbow snow cones for a special treat.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10: Magic Day – “MR.FUNN- The magician” will be here to thrill the children with a **magic show**! We will serve “Trix” cereal & apple slices for PM snack.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11: “Bubbles All Around” Day - Lunch will be served carnival/picnic style. We will have a special visit from **Bubblemania** in the morning!! Carnival pretzels & cream cheese will be served for PM snack.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12: All About Animals – Jungle and safari jobs will reign for this day. The **Petting Zoo** will be visiting us and bringing along some interesting friends! Gorilla cheese sandwiches will be served for lunch. Animal crackers & bananas will be served for PM snack!



ANNUAL SPRING EGG HUNT

Our Annual Children’s Spring Egg Hunt has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18. What fun! All “egg hunters” must be here no later than 9:00 AM, as we will hunt early!

HAPPY EASTER

Sunday, April 21st is Easter Sunday. We wish all our families who celebrate a happy Easter!



BALLET RECITAL

Our Montessori Ballet Recital “Dancing Over the Rainbow” will be on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. Thank you to our partners at Academy of Dance for planning and preparing our ballet and movement students for this exciting evening. Please email contact@academyofdance.org if you have any questions.

NEW SUNSCREEN NEEDED!

Now that spring has arrived and we are enjoying longer sunny days, please bring in a NEW bottle of sunscreen (labeled with your child's name) for them to keep at school. We routinely throw away last year's supply at this time of year to ensure that all children are getting the safest and most effective coverage. As a reminder, please apply sunscreen to your child at home in the morning before school and we will reapply before afternoon playtime.

REMINDER: Please do not bring in "spray" sunscreens. THANK YOU!

PARKING LOT REMINDER

Please help us keep our school safe for everyone! Please drive slowly through the parking lot, enter and exit the lot in the appropriate manner, and be sure not to park on red curbs or in handicapped spaces. ALSO – please do not block exits and DO NOT leave siblings in the car unattended.

KEY FOBS

Another way to keep our school safe for everyone is to please use your key fobs! Please note that each person is responsible to have their key fob with them at all times in order to enter the school. As this is a security measure, it is not always possible to simply "buzz" you in, nor is it a good idea to wait for another family to arrive to let you in the front door if you have forgotten your key fob. We ask you to help us keep our school secure by not opening the door for others that you do not know. Please help us all stay safe by carrying and using your key fob daily. If you have lost or misplaced your key fob, please let the director know immediately.

MY CHILD NEEDS TO NAP – DON'T LET MY CHILD NAP!

It is the time of year for this common parent quandary to surface once again. Our teachers begin to hear either "Don't let my child nap" or "Please make my child nap." While most children gradually stop napping in the year before kindergarten, it is important to recognize that this is a biologically individual progression for each child. When children are ready to "give up" their nap, it typically comes gradually; with a move into a still much needed down time even if they do not sleep. Children may start giving up naps at home on the weekends but may still need a nap during a busy day at school. Often, the transition involves laying down for nap and sometimes sleeping and other times just resting.

While all our preschoolers have a rest period, it is impossible to force children to stay awake or fall asleep. The best way to determine if a child is ready to "give up" their nap is to watch their behavior. Tired children are unable to cope with every day activities and challenges. They become more negative and have social altercations with their friends and have decreased cognitive engagement. Some children who have been changed to a "rester" to avoid naps will also simply follow the biological calling and fall asleep in a chair or on a rug where they are doing a job!

Spring time often brings with it requests from parents for their child not to take a nap but become a "rester" instead. It also often accompanies the time change when it stays light longer making it even more difficult for children to give up the excitement of the day and go to bed. If the quest is to make bedtime easier, it is important to know that it is much more difficult to put an overtired child to sleep than one who is generally finished with the day. The key is to have quiet time before bed and perhaps a relaxing warm bath and story at a routine time. The routine nature of bedtime will start the process and the necessary sleep should follow easily.

If you think your child is maturing and "giving up" their nap, please consult with their teacher to determine if it is beneficial on the days that they are at school before making a decision that may make their afternoons with their friends more difficult. Your child's teacher will help you know when your child is beginning to transition into the mature pattern of resting instead of sleep.

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!



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of May 6-10, 2019 is National Teacher Appreciation Week! An extra smile and "thank you" for your child's teacher are greatly appreciated gifts



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION AND PRESCHOOL MUSICAL

Save the date for our Kindergarten Graduation and Preschool Musical on Wednesday, June 19th! Watch our upcoming newsletters for more information. As we prepare for our Kindergarten Graduation and All School Musical program, we want parents to know that **THIS YEAR** our professional video is available to **ALL parents FREE** of charge. There will be download access emailed to all parents once the videographer emails us the link!

Since this is now free to all parents, we ask that photo shoots take place **AFTER** the performance so that the children's program can be enjoyed by all parents and the children can stay safe and undistracted during the show.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



TANAKA FARMS – STRAWBERRY FIELD TRIP FOR KINDERGARTEN-PRIMARY

On Friday, April 26 in the afternoon (Northwood;5, V:19) our Kindergarten-Primary Grade classes will be traveling to Tanaka Farms to experience a real working farm. Their tour will include a guided wagon ride around the farm, learning about vegetables and fruits, seeing big farm equipment and ending in the strawberry fields picking delicious strawberries! Registration forms were distributed in Friday Folders.



GRADUATION PICTURES

Images for Kids will be at the school on Wednesday, May 8 to take pictures of our kindergarten children in their caps and gowns. Both individual and group pictures will be taken. Proofs will be available in a few weeks and you will place your order at that time. Mark your calendars!

***** TODDLER TIDBITS *****

APRIL "TEACHING THEMES"

April's teaching theme for the ONE'S AND TWO'S is: Fruits and Vegetables

HATS

Please bring a hat for your child to keep at school if you want your child to wear one outside. We do our best to encourage our toddlers to wear them. Please label the hat with your child's name.

MORNING SNACKS

Please remember to sign up monthly for morning snack. Snack should be at least 2 food groups and enough snack for 28 children. Snacks should be healthy. Please no chocolate or nuts. Please check ingredients for nuts products. Thank you.

TWOS' TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL

Preschool is an exciting milestone for children. It marks the beginning of the transfer from the "unconscious absorbent mind" to the "conscious" one. Preschool is a time where children begin to participate in a larger group, use more refined motor skills, make self-directed choices about their activity and take responsibility for their moment-to-moment actions. The Montessori preschool class is designed for children from ages 3 to 6 years old. As your two year old begins to show signs of being able to cope with this milestone of their lives, their teachers will be monitoring their progress and preparing them for this important transition. While we know parents are also anxious to see their child transition, we ask that you allow them the important gift of the last few months of development. The transition to preschool takes place much closer to the third birthday than it does to 2 ½ years old and toilet taught. These final months provide your child with the skills and confidence that solid developmental readiness brings to a true preschool child.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2	Spring Photos
April 8-12	WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD (See schedule of activities)
April 22	Earth Day
April 25	Montessori Ballet Recital at Irvine Barclay Theatre
April 26	K-Primary Field Trip to Tanaka Farms
May 6-10	National Teacher Appreciation Week
May 13-17	Parent Teacher Conference Days
May 27	Memorial Day – SCHOOL CLOSED!
June 19	Kindergarten Graduation & Preschool Musical
July 1-5	SCHOOL CLOSED for Summer Recess

APRIL STAFF BIRTHDAYS



April 4	Miss Stephanie
April 26	Miss Ina

APRIL Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi

April Fool's Day "Cupcakes" – (Really Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes!)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

1 pound ground beef	2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 cup crushed saltine crackers	1 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper	1/2 cup ketchup
1/3 cup milk	1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg	4 cups mashed potatoes
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce	1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

1. Mix ground beef, saltine crackers, onion, green bell pepper, milk, egg, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, black pepper, and seasoned salt together in a bowl.
2. Stir ketchup and brown sugar together in a separate bowl.
3. Spoon ketchup mixture into the bottom of each muffin cup of a 6-cup muffin tin.
4. Fill muffin cups with beef mixture, leaving 1/2-inch space on the top.
5. Bake in the preheated 350 degree oven until no longer pink in the center, about 30 minutes.
6. Drain fat from muffin cups.
7. Top each 'cupcake' with mashed potatoes and Cheddar cheese.
8. Continue baking until cheese is melted, about 10 minutes.