



NORTHWOOD MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE JANUARY 2019 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WELCOME BACK

Montessori Schools of Irvine welcomes all of our families back and we wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!



THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH!

Thank you so very, very much to all of the families who gave the gift of Christmas to "Toys for Troops"! Our toy donations went to the children of moms and dads in the Special Forces at Camp Pendleton. Your generous sacrifice of gifts allowed these children and their families the warmth of your caring during the holiday season. Bless you all – from Montessori Schools of Irvine and the children of the deployed dads and moms at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 21** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a legal holiday.

"WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PRESCHOOL?" - Presentation by Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director Why the Next Four Years Are Critical for Your Child's Ongoing Academic Success

This is an important lifetime decision for parents to consider! Cheryll Ruszat, Executive Director of the Montessori Schools of Irvine, will be hosting a special presentation to answer parents' questions regarding the transition from preschool into kindergarten and the primary grades. Cheryll will discuss the shift in development and what to expect as your child continues to develop and grow. Information regarding curriculums, learning styles, GATE placement, advanced eligibility, child care and other parental concerns that impact your child's future will be discussed. Based on our many years of experience from increasing numbers of children remaining with us through Kindergarten and primary grades, she will share some insights about how and why individualized learning is essential in providing advantages toward academic success in lifelong learning.

The program will be held at our **VILLAGE Montessori** (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612) school which is centrally located for the four schools. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 17th** and will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 7:00. Due to the large amount of information and sharing that this presentation holds, it **WILL NOT** be repeated this year.

Please register at the front office so that ample seating can be provided. Baby-sitting will be available for children 3 years (no diapers) and older for a charge of \$5 per child. The teacher at the door of the childcare room can be paid as you drop off your child that night.

SCHOOL READINESS DOCUMENTATION

A part of our NAEYC accreditation includes the good practice of formalized assessment for individualized curriculum planning and documentation (4.B). Each year Chancy & Bruce Educational Resources conducts readiness documentation for the children in our preschool and kindergarten programs. This evaluation is **REQUIRED** for children who plan to attend Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school term (children who turn five on or before **September 1, 2019**). An optional preschool development assessment is also available for younger children should a parent be interested. (Please contact Chancy & Bruce for additional information). The screening dates are January 23, 28 & Feb. 4. More information and permission slips will be available in Friday Folders. Please return the permission slip and a check payable to Chancy & Bruce to the front office no later than Friday morning **January 18** as **each child's teacher must complete a portion** of the permission slip. Please mark your calendars- your child's screening results will be available at a parent meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, February 12.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST-THIRD GRADE PLACEMENT

Pre-registration for kindergarten-primary grades is accepted on a **first come, first served basis** from our current students beginning Monday, **February 11, 2019** and continuing through **February 22, 2019**. Transfers between schools can be requested (unable to confirm until registration closes) and should be made at the time of preregistration at the school your child is currently enrolled in. Registration closes on February 22 after which time your child's name will be removed from July class lists and enrollment is open to those on the waiting list. Please pre-register for your child to continue or the date of withdrawal from school at this time.

Please remember that as per your tuition contract, **children withdrawing after April 30th for this school term will owe the balance of the annual tuition THROUGH JUNE even if notice is given.** There is no withdrawal option in May or early June.

Please watch for registration forms and additional information in February.

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.



CHILLY WEATHER

When the chilly weather finally arrives, please dress your child accordingly. A sweater, jacket or sweatshirt should be sent every day, and can be hung on the coat racks if it warms up. Although the sun may be shining, the air still gets cold, especially in the late afternoons. Please also remember to take your child's jacket home each night. Please **label** all jackets with the child's name.

NUTRITION CALENDAR

Please remember to sign up your child to be host(ess) of the day by bringing in a special snack to prepare with their teacher for the class morning snack! Please be sure to list what snacks you are bringing, including something from at least two different food groups. A list of suggestions is in the front office next to the calendar. Please remember that snack is an important part of a child's daily nutrition. Please no juice, sugary snack or junk foods!

BALLET CLASSES

Ballet Session II begins on Friday, January 18. Please watch the front office for registration forms and more information. All new and continuing ballet students must complete a registration form. Please return completed form with a check no later than Wednesday, January 16. Thank you!

JANUARY BOOK CLUB ORDERS

January book club orders will be sent home in Friday Folders soon. Our online code to order is **GM7VJ**. Please return all orders (with ONE check only, payable to Scholastic Book Clubs) no later than Monday, January 14.

IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten Round-up: The Irvine Unified School District will conduct an orientation for their Kindergarten program at each local elementary school on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Please contact your assigned neighborhood elementary school for further information. You can visit their web site at www.iusd.org

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

PRIMARY OPTIONS NIGHT

Our Executive Director, Cheryl Ruszat will be hosting a special presentation to answer parents' questions regarding the transition from preschool into kindergarten and the primary grades. The program will be held at our **VILLAGE Montessori** (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612) school which is centrally located for the four schools. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 17th** and will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 7:00. Due to the large amount of information and sharing that this presentation holds, it **WILL NOT** be repeated this year. Please register at the front desk so that ample seating can be provided.

KINDERGARTEN PHILANTHROPY PROJECT

This year our kindergarten classes have chosen to support our community by donating money to the Rancho Las Lomas Wildlife Foundation. The students are off to a great start thanks to all your support during our craft fair on December 6. Make sure to look for upcoming bake sales, raffles, etc. to continue to support their cause. If you have any questions or ideas to share, please see Miss Lily or Miss Anh.

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

MORNING SNACK

A big THANK YOU to all parents signing up for the toddler morning snack program and for the healthy nutritious snacks! Please remember to bring morning snack by 8:30 a.m. or snack can also be dropped off the night before to allow ample time for preparation.

JANUARY TEACHING THEMES

The One's and Two's will be learning about snow animals this month!

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1	Happy New Year!!
January 7	Welcome Back!
January 18	Ballet begins again (Forms due by January 16)
January 14	Book Orders are due
January 17	Kindergarten and Primary Options Night at Village Montessori (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612)

January 18
 January 21
 February 11
 February 12

Chancy and Bruce Kindergarten readiness forms DUE
SCHOOL CLOSED - Martin Luther King's Birthday
 Preregistration for the 2019-2020 school term opens
 Chancy and Bruce Developmental Screening Results Meeting



STAFF BIRTHDAYS - January

January 7 Miss Ana
 January 8 Miss Rebecca
 January 17 Miss Sarah
 January 17 Miss Rayann



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

January 11 Miss Margaret 3 years
 January 12 Miss Mishael 4 years

JANUARY 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!



Chef's Corner by Chef Cyndi

January Menu Feature - EASY BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

3 T Olive Oil
 3 C. butternut squash (cut into cubes, seeds removed about 1 medium squash)
 1 large apple, cored, cut into cubes
 1 medium onion, finely chopped
 1 tsp dried thyme

6 C. vegetable stock (Chicken stock can be used if not vegetarian)
 ½ C whole milk
 Salt and butter to taste
 Croutons and Cheese (optional)

Toss squash in 1 T of olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake squash for 30 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Toss apple in 1 T of olive oil, salt and pepper. Add the apple to the squash and continue baking for 30 more minutes. In a pot, heat 1 T olive oil. Add onions and cook until translucent (5 minutes). Add thyme. Add baked squash and apple, breaking them up with a spoon. Add stock and bring to a boil. Lower heat and cook for about 15 minutes. Using an immersion blender, puree the mixture and adjust the seasonings. Add milk and heat through, but not to boiling. Serve with croutons and cheese if desired.