



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS OF IRVINE
JUNE 2019



Montessori Making a Difference

Just a reminder: It's not too late to sign up for the UCI Anti-Cancer Challenge Walk!

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, and our team coordinator, Cecelia McGregor at cmcgregor@irvinemontessori.com or 949-854-6030.



YEAR-END MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA AND GRADUATION CEREMONY – June 19th

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-kindergarten children participate in our year-end musical extravaganza and kindergarten graduation! Please note: **SCHOOL WILL CLOSE EARLY at 5:00 p.m. on June 19** 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 BY 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 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**. If you pick up your child earlier in the day and take them home, please return with them in time to take them to their classroom by 5:05. After dropping off their child in the classroom, parents can then find 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 will graduate, and all classrooms then join in for a grand finale! After the finale Ms. Lisa 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 ETTIQUETTE

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 large iPads, phones or cameras 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 behind the chairs.

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**. This year they will be available **FREE FOR ALL FAMILIES!** Once editing of our video is done (about a week or sooner) we will receive the link from the photographer, we will immediately send it to all our families via email so that it can be downloaded for personal use and family sharing.

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 **by 9:00 a.m.** on Wednesdays for 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 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 26. All project, papers, etc. will be sent home in these bags on Friday, June 28!

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 26.

Note from Cheryl Ruzat, 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 25 and for the fall term on Tuesday, August 27.

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 24. 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 24, 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

“NEW STUDENTS” MEET THE TEACHER SCHEDULED

Tuesday, June 25 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.

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.

FAMILIES FORWARD-SERVING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED!

This July Montessori Schools of Irvine will be hosting a summer canned food drive for Families Forward located in Irvine. Families Forward donation barrels will be in the front office beginning Monday, June 24-Friday, July 26. A list of “Most Needed Food Items” will be posted in the front office. Thank you in advance for your generous donations to Families Forward!

From Families Forward; “These are times of the year where food donations typically decrease, but we continue to serve families all year long from our pantry and need community support to make that possible. Additionally, we see an increase of families visiting our food pantry during these months due to children being home from school and not receiving food support at school.”

- **Shop Online:** You can donate our most needed food items with just a few clicks of the mouse. Shop our Amazon Wish List and have your donated food items shipped directly to our offices. Click on the link to our wish list [here](#).



SUMMER RECESS

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** July 1-5 for Summer Recess. The first day of the summer session is **Monday, July 8**. Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!!!



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!

Sunday, June 16th is Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all of you great Dads!

Water Bottles

Please remember to take your child's water bottle home each day to be washed and refilled with fresh water. All water bottles that are left at the end of the day are emptied and put by the lost and found. Please remember to label your child's water bottle. Thank you!



“OCEANS OF FUN” SUMMER 2019

This year our summer theme is Oceans of Fun. Get ready for our special summer program, as it takes a closer look at the wonderful world of the Ocean! The children will be learning about the different types of sea creatures, aquatic plant life and much more. There will be two on-site field trips and one to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Join us this *summer for OCEANS OF FUN!*

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

SUMMER CERAMIC PAINTING – “OCEAN CREATURES”

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!

***** **TIDBITS FOR TODDLERS AND TWOS** *****

TODDLER MORNING SNACK

Morning snack signs are posted in the front office. Thank you to all the parents who sign up to bring snack for our toddlers. Just a reminder that snack is for both toddler classrooms. We suggest fresh fruit, whole grain crackers and other healthy snacks. Snacks should be from two food groups. Thank you.

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 sugary cakes, donuts, cookies, party favors, hats, and decorations to school.

GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL - THURSDAY, JUNE 19

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! **Remember, school closes at 5:00 p.m. on this day- including our toddler classrooms!** Our parking lot will be blocked off for our performance so remember that parking may be more difficult on this day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 8	UCI Anti-Cancer Challenge- "Montessori Making a Difference"
JUNE 16	Happy Father's Day!
JUNE 19	GRADUATION & PRESCHOOL MUSICAL *** School closes at 5:00***
JUNE 21	Ceramic forms DUE
JUNE 26	Bring a brown paper bag to school, labeled with your child's name
JUNE 28	All Lost and Found items will be donated to charity
JULY 1-5	SCHOOL CLOSED- Summer Recess
JULY 4	Happy 4 th of July
JULY 8	First day of summer session!



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 Anh 6 Years

Miss Michelle 3 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