



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE - 2019



NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 6 - May 10 is National Teacher Appreciation Week with May 7th being National Teacher's Day! This is a great time to give your child's teachers an extra smile and a simple "thank you" to let them know that you appreciate all that they do!

Many parents ask the question "What can I do that would be special for my child's teacher?" Many classroom parents have grouped together to present a gift or memento if you would like to join in. In addition, a personal thank you note will be most welcome. Recognizing their hard work in educating your children as well as their loving care would be most appreciated by any teacher.



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Week of the Young Child was great fun for one and all! The children enjoyed the many extra and exciting activities that were provided during the week including Franklin Haynes Marionettes, MR. FUNN the magician, Happy Halters Petting Zoo, Toyland Express, Bubblemania and other activities. **A GIANT HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to Richard and Cheryl for providing such a fun-filled week for the children!!



CINCO DE MAYO AND JAPANESE CHILDREN'S DAY

May 5 is "Cinco de Mayo" AND Japanese Children's Day. Any parent wishing to share information about these special days with their child's class, please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance. All parents wishing to share must have a copy of their immunizations on file with the school director.



MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 12 is Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful mothers!



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES WEEK DAY CARE ONLY – (Montessori Classes not in session)

During Parent-Teacher conferences, our head teachers are engaged with our parents rather than our children. We realize that closing the school for a full day of parent conferences would impact our working families. Thus, in order to continue providing appropriate care for the children and maintain our state mandated teacher ratios, classrooms will rotate conference days on Monday -Wednesday with one morning session of conferences for all classes on Friday only. During the time that your child's class is scheduled for conferences and on Friday morning, regular Montessori classes will not be in session and only CHILD CARE with mostly outdoor playtime will be provided. This is a great "stay home" or "sleep in" day for children whose parents do not need day care.

Schedule:

Conferences will be scheduled for 20 minute sessions from 9 a.m. – 5:20 p.m. for the following:

Monday, May 13- Miss Jenn's class

Tuesday, May 14- Miss Ina's class and our Kindergarten class

Wednesday, May 15- Miss Dinah's class

Friday, May 17 - All preschool classes: 7 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Conference sign-up sheets will be posted in the FRONT OFFICE on Wednesday, May 1.

We realize that parents sign up for conference times around their work and family schedules and need to return at specific times. We will try to stay on schedule that day and request that all parents help us by arriving **5 minutes prior** to their scheduled conference as well as respecting the next person's conference time. Parents who do not arrive on time will have a shortened conference session or may miss their conference. On conference day, we ask that you check in at the front desk *before* going to your child's classroom, so as not to disturb a conference in progress. A copy of your child's progress report will be in their Friday folders on Friday, May 10. By taking the time to review the progress report before your conference you can maximize your conference time with your child's teacher.

We encourage ALL parents to participate in parent conferences, as it is the perfect time to sit with the teacher and focus on YOUR CHILD without interruption. Regrettably, with June program preparations upon us, teachers will be unable to provide additional times to review your child's progress report following the formal conference date.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES FOR ACCREDITATION

As parents, we know that you are proud to have your child at an NAEYC accredited program. A VERY important component of our accreditation relies on positive feedback from our parents.

Our parent questionnaire is given to us by NAEYC and when discussed with our parent advisory board we realize that the questions are not always clear in meaning or may address areas that parents may not be aware of as it does not apply to their child's needs while in the program.

We have worked diligently to be sure that we meet each component, thus, if you cannot answer yes or would leave it blank because you do not know specifically how we meet it, PLEASE, take a moment to ask Ms. Pennee how it is met before you select an answer. If your experience is different than how it has been explained, then be sure to answer as you wish. This is important

feedback for us. It is also helpful for us if you include your name or comments which address your perspective.

Thank you for helping us maintain our accreditation. Your child attends the ONLY NAEYC accredited Montessori program in Irvine!

NAEYC accreditation is a feather in our parents' caps, too!

Thank you for assisting us in maintaining this honor for your child's school.



MEMORIAL DAY

Reminder: Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, May 27** in observance of Memorial Day. Memorial Day commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States.

SPRING CLEANING

Please help!! May is "Spring Cleaning" month! Please send a spring set of extra clothes and a new bottle of sunscreen for your child (if you didn't in April). Please label everything! Also, it is time to take home all jackets, toys, etc. from the bin and shelves, and anything that may have been left at school. All articles remaining unclaimed at the school after May 24 will be donated to charity. Thank you for your help.

TEACHER "PREP" DAY

On **Friday, May 24th** our teachers will be preparing and planning for our June performance and summer unit. It will be a modified schedule and regular Montessori classes will NOT be in session. Daycare activities will be planned for this day.



Montessori Making a Difference

Please join Montessori Schools of Irvine in supporting cures for cancer.

*From UCI: When you ride, run, walk or volunteer, you move us one step closer to finding a cure for a disease that touches us all. **100 percent of participant proceeds go directly to life-saving cancer research at the UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.** Your participation in the Anti-Cancer Challenge will help us make the next discovery. With so many breakthroughs in sight, the time to act is now.*

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.

JUNE TUITION INSTALLMENT

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



“Oceans of Fun” SUMMER 2019

Get ready for a fun summer as we learn all about the OCEAN. We have already begun to prepare our special unit. On-site field trips are open to all preschool-primary children. Off-site field trips are open to children 4 years and older. Preschool children younger than 4 may attend if their parent is joining as a chaperone. **All chaperones must have immunizations on file with the school prior to the field trip sign up.** Due to limited space on the chartered buses, the off-site field trip is offered on a first come, first serve basis so be sure to sign up in a timely manner. Sign up information will be released on the first week of summer school.

Look for more information and a summer packet/schedule the first week of summer.

FAMILIES FORWARD-SERVING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED!

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.”

We can all help! This summer we will sponsor a canned food drive to help those who are so much less fortunate than many of us. Thank you in advance for your heartfelt kindness and generosity.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



GRADUATION PICTURES

Wednesday, May 8 both individual and group photos will be taken of our Kindergarten Graduates. No pre-payment is necessary. You will receive a proof sheet approximately 2 weeks after the photos are taken and can place orders at that time.

TODDLER NEWS



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Please help us say thank you to our awesome teachers! See our first article in this newsletter ☺

MAY "TEACHING THEMES" FOR THE TODDLERS AND TWO'S

This month the toddlers and Two's will be learning about bugs and Flowers

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 1	Parent/Teacher Conference Sign Ups Posted
MAY 5	Cinco de Mayo and Japanese Children's Day
MAY 6-10	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 8	Kindergarten Graduation Pictures
May 12	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
May 13, 14, 15, 16	All Day Parent/Teacher Conferences per individual classrooms- DAY CARE ONLY
May 17	Morning Parent/Teacher Conferences for all classrooms- DAY CARE ONLY
May 24	DAY CARE ONLY - Teacher "Prep" Day
MAY 27	SCHOOL CLOSED *** Memorial Day Holiday
JUNE 19	YEAR-END ALL SCHOOL MUSICAL AND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION
June 28	Last day of the session
JULY 1-5	SCHOOL CLOSED *** SUMMER RECESS
July 4	Happy 4 th of July
July 8	First Day of the Summer Session