



## WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE OCTOBER 2019

### NEWS AND BOOOOOOOO'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

Reminder: Save Tuesday, October 8 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 30 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 at the front desk. Please write **ONE** check only to Scholastic for all orders. Orders are due Wednesday, October 16. Ordering on line is available by using the school code: HJNJD. The book club deliveries do not always arrive on the same date, so orders will be distributed as they arrive. (Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery)



### 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 Thursday, 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.)

Permission slips will be offered to those families who brought in their immunizations first and then on a first come, first serve basis. 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.

**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.

## **PARENT CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

Parent-Teacher conferences for preschool, kindergarten and primary grades are scheduled for 20-minute sessions twice a year. Our fall conference week is October 21-25, 2019. Parents sign up for a time that is convenient for them on a first-come-first-served basis. 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 DAY 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 child care.

### ***Schedule:***

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

**Monday, October 21-** Miss Jennifer’s class and Miss Ina’s class

**Tuesday, October 22-** Miss Brooke’s class

**Wednesday, October 23-** Miss Anh’s class

**Friday, October 25 - All preschool classes:** 7 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Kindergarten/Primary classes: 7 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. ONLY

**Conference sign-up sheets will be posted in the FRONT OFFICE on Wednesday, October 9.**

All parents are encouraged to schedule a conference, as there *will not* be a scheduled make-up day. A copy of your child’s progress report will be in your child’s Friday folder on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. 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!



**Montessori Schools of Irvine close at 5:00 PM  
on Halloween: Thursday, October 31**

## **ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE**

Our annual Halloween party and parade has been scheduled for **Thursday, October 31 at 3:30 p.m.** Parents are invited to sign up in the front office to bring in special Halloween goodies on this day and we will also ask for 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 16.

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 regretfully, 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 parking lot. The parking lot (and drop off area) will be blocked off from 2:30 – 4:30. PLEASE, DO NOT park in the lot as the children will use the parking lot for the parade! Find your "photo spot" and wait for the children to reach you. They will be pausing periodically for photos along the way.

## **\*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 all children have returned to their classrooms for dismissal so that we can keep them safe and be sure that all are accounted for after the parade. Once the children are safely inside, parents are asked to sign their child out before proceeding to pick them up from the playground side of the classroom.

**Parents, please be advised that our school CLOSSES at 5:00 p.m. on this day. It has been our experience that most parents take their child home with them after the parade to prepare for evening trick-or-treating festivities. Please note that all children must be picked up BY 5:00 PM on this day.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** If the ghosts and goblins bring rain on this day, the parade will be canceled. If this happens, parents will be invited to take pictures in the classroom from 3:30-3:45 only.

## **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 and items processed on the same equipment that also processes nut products. Thank you for helping us keep all children safe!

## **FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY**

Please supervise and keep your child with you AT ALL TIMES when you are picking up or dropping off your child at school. Please do not allow them to go back into classrooms by themselves or return into the building without an adult to pick up something they may have forgotten. If you are on the sidewalk or in the parking lot, please supervise your child and keep them with you at all times. Sometimes it is easy for a parent, grandparent or nanny to become involved in a conversation with another adult and be distracted, and we want to ensure that all children remain safe.

## **BABY BOOM!**

By now you may have noticed some unusual happenings at our schools with some staff adjustments. While letters go out to specific classrooms about a change affecting that room, we have heard there were some questions about teachers that haven't been seen recently, or the number of new members of the Montessori family in general. Some families for example are wondering what happened to Ms. Lindsey at University Montessori. The answer is she was promoted to full director of our Village Montessori School. She is still with us and we are sorry if not all of our parents received that message. She has replaced our Ms. Dona who has recently moved out of state with her family and who was both our director and our Associate Director of our Primary grades. The Associate Director for Primary grades position has been passed to Ms. Katy who is our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Village Montessori. Miss Katy is AMS (American Montessori Society) certified in Infant-Toddler, Early Childhood and the advanced Elementary 1 training. She also holds her California state teaching credential and her Master's Degree, and thus will also act as an all level coordinator for the University Montessori Teacher Education Program at UCI as well.

What about other changes? Well, our Montessori teaching staff is having a baby boom! At the start of this school term over 10 % of our overall staff is in various stages of pregnancy. In addition to the few normal staff changes between academic years, we have also been hiring additional full-time staff to accommodate the flow of various maternity leaves as we do not hire temporary staff in order to ensure consistency for our children. Some of our seasoned and experienced Montessori Certified co-teachers are assuming head teacher positions in the interim until our head teachers return. What happens when all these maternity leaves are back? We will have a lovely large and welcoming family! Please bear with us and trust us that we have made necessary accommodations so that your children have the best continuity of care possible while also providing maternity leaves for our staff. Should you have any questions, please feel free to ask your director.



## **WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL OF OUR EXCESS HALLOWEEN CANDY?**

It's not too late to donate your extra Halloween candy. Again, this year, Montessori Schools of Irvine will be collecting any excess Halloween candy you would like to donate. Please drop off your excess candy no later than: Friday, November 8, 2019. Thank you for your candy donations!

# FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE

## A HELPING HAND . . . 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. Collection dates TBA, look in November’s Newsletter. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



## FREE CHILDREN’S CONCERT

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

\*\*\*\*\* EXTRA NEWS FOR ONE’S AND TWO’S \*\*\*\*\*



## HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

Our Halloween parade will be on **Thursday, 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.

The **parking lot will be blocked off from 2:30-4:30 on Thursday, October 31**, so if you need to leave during this time, DO NOT park in the lot. **REMINDER: School closes at 5:00 PM**

## 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 pumpkins and Halloween this month.



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 8 "Picture Day"
- October 10 Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
- October 16 Book Orders Due
- October 21-25 Parent Conference Week- Day care ONLY on your child's classroom scheduled conference day and on Friday morning
- October 30 Picture make-up day at Westpark Montessori
- October 31 HALLOWEEN PARTY! \*\*\* **SCHOOL CLOSSES at 5:00 PM today!**  
(PRESCHOOL-PRIMARY PARADE AT 3:30 / TODDLER Parade at 3:15 P.M.)
  
- November 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends- Fall backwards!
- November 8 Last day to donate to Families Forward food and toiletry drive
- Monday, Nov. 11 Veteran's Day observed \*\*\* SCHOOL CLOSED**
- November 28 & 29 Thanksgiving Holiday\*\*\* SCHOOL CLOSED**
  
- December 11 Children's Winter Program- **School closes at 5:00 P.M.**
- December 23 - Jan. 3, 2020 Winter Recess \*\*\* SCHOOL CLOSED**
- January 1, 2020 Happy New Year!!
- January 6, 2020 Welcome Back



## OCTOBER STAFF BIRTHDAYS

- October 1 Miss Ingrid
- October 19 Miss Genna
- October 30 Miss Jennifer

**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 (Director of Human Resources) - 28 years!

### Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi



### Spaghetti Dinner Recipe

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

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 meat, 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 the parking lot at 3:30. Toddler children will parade on the playground at 3:15.
4. The parking lot will be blocked off from 2:30-4:30. Please do not park in the lot if you need to leave between these 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. After the parade all children will **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 pick up your child.
7. Remember to sign your child out if you are taking your child home after the parade. 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. **REMINDER: Our school CLOSSES AT 5:00 P.M.** All children must be picked up **BY 5:00!**
7. 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 3:30-3:45 pm only.

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**