

# Westpark Montessori School of Irvine - NEWSLETTER – August 2020



## Teachers' Appreciation

ALL of us at the Montessori Schools of Irvine wish to express our deepest appreciation to all the parents who share their kind words with us every day, as well as to those who on your own took the time to post online your very positive comments on behalf of our schools. When kindness, goodness and strength emerge in difficult times, it speaks volumes of the character of those wonderful individuals who demonstrate those values. Thank you – truly – thank you.

Thank you also for your special kindness to the teaching staff on teacher appreciation day. We are all honored to have your trust in caring about and for your children. Having your children with us brings happiness EVERY day.

## FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTH

As COVID has been moving and changing from day to day, it seems that a month in between communications is too long. This will thus be a short email but updates of information as we receive it will be communicated to all our families. Please be patient with us as we must also wait for updates from politicians and our agencies.

## SEPTEMBER – WHY AND HOW WE PLAN TO STAY OPEN (already Re-opened)

As an update to questions regarding our ability to **STAY OPEN** next quarter we want to share with parents why it continues to remain our plan.

Our program operates under dual agency permission. California Community Care Licensing provides our childcare licenses for ages infants through kindergarten. Childcare has been and continues to be essential, open, and onsite. Our early elementary program (through third grade) is operated under the California Department of Education Private School Affidavit. California Private School Law allows private schools operating under California Department of Education Private School Affidavit to also provide childcare under specific circumstances – all of which we meet. This indicates that our program will be allowed under these provisions

We have also contacted the agency responsible for granting waivers and will complete their paperwork once it is released. Again, we must also wait for updates from politicians and our agencies, but it appears that California childcare will remain essential and open.

In summary, we plan to continue to remain open as essential care under both our childcare license and private school affidavit but will also submit our documentation for the waiver.

## CALENDAR DATES TO NOTE: TEACHER PREP WEEK, MEET THE TEACHER, FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, FULL STAFF IN-SERVICE DAY, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.

- The week of **August 24-28 is a teacher preparation** week for the coming school year. During this time, you may see the teachers in their classrooms with the children begin to prepare for the new school term with changes in wall hangings, new jobs, and other preparation.
- **August 31 is a day care** day for continuing students and “**Meet the Teacher**” morning appointments for our new, starting children and families.
- Our actual **first day of fall term is Tuesday, September 1.**
- **SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.** Each year staff are scheduled for a full staff day of in-service with targeted seminars and continuing education.
- **September 7 schools are CLOSED for LABOR DAY** a legal Holiday.

## **CELEBRATE SUMMER**



We are continuing to celebrate being together and CELEBRATE SUMMER! July has been a great month of fun with something new every day! Here's what is coming for August. Watch for special dress-up days that will add fun from home like orange day or backwards day! Watch your email for more information and ideas! Teachers will post their activities on their conversation starters at the end of the day.



<b>CELEBRATE SUMMER – AUGUST CALENDAR</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
3 Watermelon Day	4 Chocolate Chip Cookie Day	5 Hot Diggity Dog Day	6 Donald Duck Day	7 Superhero Day
10 Favorite Pet Day	11 Fajitas Day	12 International Children's Day	13 Backwards Day	14 Orange Day
17 Doctor and Nurses Day	18 Egg Hunt Day	19 Aviation Day	20 Lemonade Day	21 Grandparents Day
24 Eggs and Waffle Day	25 Banana Split Day	26 When I Grow Up ... Day	27 Hamburger Day	28 Bow Tie Day
31 DAY CARE DAY Meet the Teacher for new students	September 1 First Day of the New School Year	2	3	<b>4</b> <b>School CLOSED</b> <b>for "Teacher</b> <b>Inservice"</b>

### **ANNUAL TUITION INCREASES**

Historically, tuitions increase only in September for the new school year. This year, due to being unable to predict what our annual budget will be going forward, we are at this time postponing a tuition increase until such time the economy is more predictable. Thus, tuitions are remaining the same going into September, however, we reserve the right to increase tuitions during the coming academic year (2020-21 October – August) to reflect the increase in the cost of our operations and, when possible, a well-deserved increase in staff salaries. We will of course notify you at least 30 days in advance of any increase.



**2020 – 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR AND ACTIVITY GUIDE**  
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR THE NEW SCHOOL TERM- SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

**HOLIDAY AND VACATION DATES WHEN THE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED**

VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 11 (Wednesday)
THANKSGIVING	NOVEMBER 26 - 27
WINTER RECESS	DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	JANUARY 18
PRESIDENTS' DAY	FEBRUARY 15
CESAR CHAVEZ DAY	MARCH 26 (Friday)
MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 31
SUMMER RECESS	JUNE 28 – JULY 5
TEACHER INSERVICE DAY	SEPTEMBER 3 (Friday)
LABOR DAY	SEPTEMBER 6

**MODIFIED SCHEDULE DAYS**

**\*\*PLEASE CHECK NEWSLETTERS TO CONFIRM IF EVENTS ARE IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL**

**SPAGHETTI DINNER (2020) \*CHILD CARE ENDS AT 5:00- *Postponed to later in school year***

**HALLOWEEN- ALL SCHOOLS (OCTOBER 30, 2020) \*CHILD CARE ENDS AT 5:00**

**WINTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES (2020) \*CHILD CARE ENDS AT 5:00**

Village – December 14, 2020

University - December 15, 2020

Westpark - December 16, 2020

Northwood - December 17, 2020

**GRADUATION & YEAR END PERFORMANCE (2021) \*CHILD CARE ENDS AT 5:00**

Village - June 14, 2021

University - June 15, 2021

Westpark - June 16, 2021

Northwood - June 17, 2021

**PRESCHOOL THROUGH THIRD GRADE PARENT CONFERENCES (ALL SCHOOLS)**

Day care provided. Montessori program may be modified. Schedule varies by classroom.

Conference week: October 19-22, 2020

May 10-13, 2021

Early Morning conferences: October 23, 2020

May 14, 2021

**THE SUMMER MONTHS**

Montessori Schools of Irvine provide a year-round full-time program. During July and August, a special learning theme is selected around which additional field trips, visitors, and projects revolve to provide extra summer fun. Brochures and information about special trips and the summer theme are released each June.

**TEACHER PREPARATION WEEK (Child Care Only) June 21-25 and Aug 30-Sept 2, 2021**

High caliber teachers continue to develop their skills by learning new techniques, refreshing seasoned ones, and taking the time to plan and organize. Montessori Schools of Irvine provide a teacher preparation/in-service week before sessions to ensure your child a teaching staff of the highest caliber. June 21-25, 2021 and August 30-September 2, 2021 our childcare staff will provide childcare only. Montessori classes will NOT be in session.

**NOTE: All schools will be CLOSED on Friday, September 3, 2021**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL TERM - **SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**



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