



## WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE - JANUARY 2020

### **WELCOME BACK and HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Montessori Schools of Irvine welcomes all 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon; Special Forces and 1<sup>st</sup> EOD Company 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, 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 20** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a legal holiday.



### **HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR – YEAR OF THE RAT**

Saturday, January 25 begins the Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year 2020 is the year of the Rat! Happy New Year to all our families! Please check the menu for our special lunch on Friday, January 24. Any parent wishing to share information about the New Year and their family traditions with their child's class can make arrangements with your child's teacher.



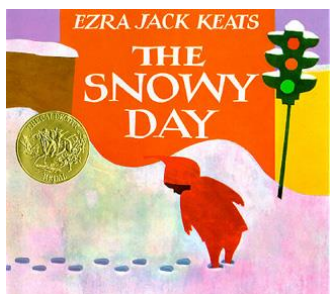
Thursday, January 23 is National Pie Day! The children will be celebrating with Chicken Pot "Pie" for lunch!

**"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 23<sup>th</sup>** 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.



**The Irvine Barclay Presents - The Snowy Day and Other Stories**



Montessori Schools of Irvine are sponsoring this very special presentation for our children and their families at the Barclay theater on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 2:00 PM. As sponsors we have been able to offer those who wish to attend a special **10% discount on tickets.**

We hope you enjoy the performance! Purchase tickets soon as seating is limited. Our families get a discount, but it is open to the public! Our password is Montessori.

**TICKETS:**

<https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?e=f08d0e31ae0e47bd74263535a1902565&t=tix&coupon=MONTESSORI>

**EVENT INFO:**

An imaginative musical play about the childhood joys and challenges of growing up. Based on the best-selling book, The Snowy Day celebrates the magic and boundless possibilities of the first snowfall! Follow Peter and his friends as they romp and play, start snowball fights and make snow angels.

Using innovative shadow puppetry, Keats' treasured characters come to life in this humorous and fun adaptation of The Snowy Day, Whistle for Willie, Goggles! and A Letter to Amy.

## **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 2020-2021 school term (children who turn five on or before **September 1, 2020**). 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 & 30th. 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 Thursday morning **January 16** 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 Wednesday, 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 10, 2020** and continuing through **February 21, 2020**. 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 21 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday, January 8. 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 Tuesday, January 7. Thank you!

## **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 27, 2020. Please contact your assigned neighborhood elementary school for further information. You can visit their web site at [www.iusd.org](http://www.iusd.org)

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

January 1	Happy New Year!!
January 6	Welcome Back!
January 8	Ballet begins again (Forms due by January 7)
January 16	Chancy and Bruce Kindergarten readiness forms DUE
January 20	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> - Martin Luther King's Jr. Birthday
January 23	<b>Kindergarten and Primary Options Night at Village Montessori</b> (4552 Sandburg Way, Irvine, CA 92612)
January 25	Happy Lunar New Year! Year of the Rat
February 10	Preregistration for the 2020-2021 school term opens
February 12	Chancy and Bruce Developmental Screening Results Meeting



## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

### **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!

January 8    Miss Pennee    30 years!



## 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.