

Montessori Schools of Irvine Newsletter



2020

Please Note: Montessori Schools of Irvine are NOW OPEN!



Shhhhh – it's a surprise!

Several attachments accompany this newsletter, including one JUST FOR MOMS! Dads, please be patient and skip to the next article. Moms please continue reading 😊

A special Father's Day Learning Experience Packet is attached for you to enjoy with your children to help celebrate your favorite "POP"! Have fun!



LIMITED ENROLLMENT for July and August

As promised, we are informing parents who plan to return what our enrollment availability will be during our phasing in periods. Our reopening has gone very well, and **we thank all of our returning parents for your trust and support of the Montessori Schools of Irvine!** Now that we are reopened, the joyful sound of the children's voices makes every day a day of celebration! During this month of June, we are limited to extremely small group sizes. We will be opening to a few families mid-month with a plan to open more spaces in July and then fill normal vacancies in the month of August. New enrollments from children on the waiting list will also be accepted as of July 1 although our returning families are receiving a priority with this advanced communication.

Those who wish for your children to return in July or August, please **contact your school director to be placed on that list.** Although we are increasing enrollment, our class sizes will be smaller for the time being and thus, **enrollment will be on a first come, first served basis.** Please note that a non-refundable deposit of tuition for the first week of your child's attendance will be needed to hold your child's place in class for the time you wish to return. Children entering after the first week of the month will have that month's tuition prorated to their restart date. Fall deposits for Kindergarten and Primary classes will be credited accordingly in September.

We will also begin outdoor tours for our families. As all of our classrooms have direct outdoor access, the tour will allow you to see for yourself the classrooms and the modification that are being made, while still maintaining our safety plans of no one other than children and staff in the building. As you prepare to return, please contact the school director to determine availability for your child's desired return date.

A Parent Packet Is Attached

All of us at Montessori Schools of Irvine invite our families to stop by for an outdoor REAL- not VIRTUAL- tour of our program! While we are still limiting indoor foot traffic, our outside tour allows you a full, unobstructed view of the program. We invite you to see how our teachers have created classrooms that support social distancing in all aspects of our program while still encouraging age appropriate social interaction and learning. Please contact your school director for more information about scheduling an outdoor tour.

We have also attached with this newsletter both the Back to School Learning Experience Packet for your child(ren) and a Parent Packet explaining program modifications. These were previously e-mailed out, but as you make plans for your return please be sure to look at the Learning Packet which is designed to help children ease into the new routines as they return to see their teachers and friends. The Parent Packet also helps you prepare as it includes a description of the many program modifications made in response to COVID-19.

We have been in awe of the resiliency of our children as they return to school and adapt so quickly to the new expectations. Please remember, children first and foremost take their cues for safety and comfort from their parents. As children return to school, please be sure that you as their parent are sending the message that you feel it is safe and are excited for them to be there. If there is anything we can do to answer your questions or help you feel confident about their return, please let us know!

We want you to be informed, have answers and feel safe coming back. Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can assist you with your child's return. (cruszat@irvinemontessori.com)



Celebrate Summer with Tons of Fun!

Our staff has been planning to make this summer one filled with lots of fun!

Celebrate Summer

A Celebration of Young Children
Spring Egg Hunt
Find a Rainbow day (April 3)
Earth Day
Pretzel Day (April 26)
Teacher Appreciation Week
Cinco de Mayo
Japanese Children's Day
Nurse's Day
Doctor's Day
Dance Like a Chicken Day
Memorial Day
Paper Airplane Day
Fried Chicken Day

Hamburger Day
Egg Day
Chocolate Ice Cream Day
All my Friends Day
Donald Duck Day
Corn on the Cob Day
Flag Day
Pink Day
Independence Day
Ice Cream Sundae Day
Blueberry Muffin Day
Maria Montessori's 150th Birthday!
Graduation- Watch for information on a celebration of our Kindergarten graduates!



The Effects of Isolation During Shelter on Young Children’s Development And Learning

Researchers have begun looking at the effects on young children’s development and learning with the loss of stimulation socially, cognitively, and physically from being unable to attend preschool for even these few short months.

Researchers from Flinders University found that a lack of social interaction during this time could have a negative impact on kids’ overall well-being.

“Play is a key aspect of children’s well-being from their perspectives,’ said researcher Jennifer Fane. ‘The closure of playgrounds, schools, and the fear and worry associated with being in public spaces has likely had significant impacts on children during this time.’”

The researchers interviewed preschool-aged children for this study as a way of learning firsthand how long periods of time at home -- and away from their routines and friends -- has affected them.

The researchers emphasized that nationwide closures and limitations are necessary for everyone’s health and well-being, but it is also important to be aware of how this time can affect young children.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from this study is how aware children are of how their typical day-to-day activities have shifted. While children of this age are used to answering to their parents and following their rules, the pandemic has provided another set of rules that has limited what they are allowed to do even further, such as going to the park or store, or playing outside in the neighborhood with friends.

The study revealed that children, even at this young age, are aware of how little independence they have and how their opportunities to try new things have been limited.

“Young children interviewed in the study told us of the importance to their lives of trying new things and having a say about play,’ said researcher Colin MacDougall. ‘As the world takes baby steps to ease these life-saving restrictions, and move into an uncertain future, we must take the time to think about very young children.’”

<https://www.consumeraffairs.com/news/social-isolation-during-covid-19-could-impact-childrens-well-being-052820.html>



There are additional attachments – one with a special surprise!

Look at us now!



SOCIAL DISTANCING:

Smaller group sizes, individualized seating, special room arrangement, reminder marks and rug placement

HEALTH PRACTICES

Handwashing **BEFORE** and **AFTER** doing a job, outdoor play, meals, toileting and **more**.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

Modified procedures to provide additional health precautions such as temperature checks, indoor only shoes, personal supplies, etc. included for you to see in the back to school packet.

See the Parent Back to School Packet for Details.