



WESTPARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF IRVINE - O'MARCH 2020



SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACKWARDS

Remember to set your clocks FORWARD one hour on Saturday night, March 7. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8!

CONTINUING REGISTRATION – All Students

Registration for **ALL continuing students** for the 2020-2021 school year is ***NOW CLOSED***. Registration ended on Friday, February 21. Any child whom we have not received a registration from will be removed from the July class lists and registration will be open to those on our waiting list. We thank our families for sharing your family's early childhood years with the Montessori Schools of Irvine.

Thank you to our continuing families! Confirmation of your enrollment will be distributed this month the end of the month. Please note: Actual classroom assignments will not be posted until the beginning of the summer and fall term. Kindergarten children tend to be kept in peer groups as much as possible and movement is based on the number of openings in a kindergarten classroom not on any other criterion. Children moved into the kindergarten change to the existing kindergarten tuition for the summer term. Fall tuition costs are posted in August when our budget is finalized for the coming school term. Monthly tuition increases typically average approximately 5%.

BALLET RECITAL

On **Sunday, March 1st at 4:00 p.m.** Academy of Dance presents *Let's Go on an Adventure*, a ballet recital featuring students from Montessori Schools of Irvine. The recital will be at the Barclay Theater at UCI, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine. Tickets can be purchased online at thebarclay.org or by phone at The Barclay at 949-854-4646 for \$15 per ticket plus applicable service fees.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY *Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

Happy St. Patrick's Day! We will celebrate on **Tuesday, March 17** with a simple Irish party. Chef Cyndi will be serving Potato Corn Chowder for lunch (see menu). A special party snack sign up will be posted on Wednesday, March 4. Join the fun and **wear something GREEN** on this day.



HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SPRING and PERSIAN AND IRANIAN NEW YEAR (Nowruz)

March 20 is the first day of spring and Nowruz. Nowruz [or Norouz, pronounced NO-ROOZ] means "New-day". See the March menu for a special lunch on this day. We wish our Persian and Iranian families a very happy New Year!



REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSED- CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

Montessori Schools of Irvine will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, March 27** in honor of Cesar Chavez Day.



MARCHing into Reading – What parents can do to help their child learn to READ!

Many parents are anxious for their child to begin reading and writing. So much so that the “workbook” industry is flush with funds spent by parents on workbooks from Target, grocery stores, Amazon, and wherever they can be sold. The reality is... this doesn't move children effectively to the real goal. **The ultimate goal of reading instruction is to enable children to understand what they read.**

SO WHAT IS THE BEST THING PARENTS CAN DO? LIKE THE TV COMMERCIALS SAY- TALK, READ, SING!!

Children need to be DEVELOPMENTALLY ready for the process of reading. This begins with the spoken word and the brain development that accompanies a strong vocabulary based on experiences and understanding of conversations and story lines. Singing? It assists with the development of language and vocabulary, the rhythm in language and literacy skills (auditory discrimination, phonological awareness, and memory).

The copying of words or being able to “read” a series of words or a sentence is empty without the cognition of knowing what it MEANS. The groundwork for this cognition comes by preparing the brain with a multitude of “readiness” activities to build the brain to be “ready to read”. Once these skills are coupled with the child's natural development of being able to hear and associate sounds and symbols as well as understand content (usually around age 5 ½- 6) then the child has a strong foundation for reading and progresses very rapidly. These children begin to love to read. This is compared to children who are unable to practice and repeat the use of readiness activities and get stuck in copying or decoding. These experiences in isolation leave gaps causing difficulties for learning across many disciplines throughout their schooling.

Montessori children who are allowed to develop these foundational skills excel in school as their brain is programmed for learning.

Parents who read to their children can involve their children in what is happening in the story. This includes anticipating what comes next, understanding the meaning of all the words and the story setting, and remembering and discussing the storyline. This is the BEST way parents can support the reading process for their young child. It also provides quality together time and shares with the children that you think they, and reading, are important.

Rushing through the readiness period delays fluency and comprehension. Please gift your child with the opportunity to March into reading READY!

JACKETS AND SWEATERS

The weather is changeable these days so please be sure that you send your child to school in a sweater or jacket! We will do our best to try to get them to keep it on as they run and play. It is important to write their names on all clothing that comes to school. Many items look alike, and it helps the teacher identify what garment belongs to what child. Also, please remember to take home your child's jacket or sweater each afternoon!



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD April 13-17 is “Week of the Young Child”! Again, this year we have many fun and exciting activities planned for all of our children as well as some special guests! Watch the April News for more information.

SPRING PICTURES

Spring pictures by Images 4 Kids are scheduled for April 21st. Be sure to check the April newsletter for more information. Our spring photos DO NOT require prepayment. You will receive a proof sheet approximately 2 weeks after the photos are taken and can order at that time. **Note: Kindergarten cap and gown photographs will be taken in the month of May.**

Kindergarten

SCIENCE EXPO!



KINDERGARTEN-PRIMARY ONLY: PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL TO CLOSE EARLY AT 3:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26 FOR KINDERGARTEN-PRIMARY SCIENCE EXPO

Each year the Kindergarten and Primary grade children participate in a Science Expo where they showcase their science experiments as a reflection of their learning in this curriculum during the year. As this is a part of their annual science curriculum, ALL children in these grades participate by hosting this expo for their parents. As the State Law regarding immunizations now prohibits this type of interaction between parents and children during school hours, **the kindergarten and primary grades will close at 3:30 pm** so that parents can sign their children out of school and families can participate in this event.

*The science expo will be in the atrium on **Thursday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m.** ALL CHILDREN IN THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY (1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD GRADE) CLASSROOMS MUST BE SIGNED OUT OF SCHOOL AND SUPERVISED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN BY 3:30 P.M. ON THIS DAY SO THAT THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXPO. **Late fees will apply at \$1 per minute after 4:00, and children will not be able to participate in the science expo if they are not signed out BY 4:00.*** Again, this schedule accommodation change is being made in order to comply with State licensing immunization requirements for adults interacting with children in the program. The children are very excited and have been busy preparing for this special event. Please mark your calendar - you will be happy to see what your child has accomplished!



CAP AND GOWNS *Save the Date: Kindergarten Graduation & Preschool Musical–Wednesday, June 17!* Graduation forms for Cap and Gown sets, diplomas, etc. will be distributed in Friday Folders on Friday, March 13. All forms are due back no later than, Friday, March 20.

SELF PORTRAIT T-SHIRTS

In honor of our Kindergarten graduates this year Santa Claus Publishing Company will be creating a Self Portrait T-shirt that can be ordered and purchased for \$12.00. The children will be working on their self-portraits this month and they will be compiled onto a Navy-blue t-shirt. Order forms will be distributed shortly and the deadline for ordering will be Thursday, March 26. Please make checks payable to: Westpark Montessori. The shirts should be ready by June and will be distributed before graduation.

NEWS FOR ONE'S AND TWO'S

MARCH TODDLER TEACHING THEMES

This month our Toddlers will be learning about pets and families.

MORNING SNACK

Please remember to sign up for morning snack each month. Pick a day that is convenient for you and write your child's name in on the calendar in the front office. Snack calendars are put out prior to the beginning of each month. Please have snack to school by 9:00 am or drop it off the day before. Our teachers will wash and cut fruit and prepare the snack. We prefer whole grain crackers and fresh fruit and vegies. Plus avoid high sugar items. Thank you for providing delicious and nutritious morning snacks for our children.



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8	Daylight Savings Time begins- Spring forward
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Celebrations
March 20	Kindergarten Graduation Cap and Gown orders due
March 20	First day of Spring and Nowruz
Thursday, March 26	Kindergarten-Primary Science Expo- Children in Kindergarten must be signed out BY 3:30 p.m. this day
Friday, March 27	**SCHOOL CLOSED** Cesar Chavez Day
April 13-17	Week of the Young Child
April 21	Spring Pictures



March Birthdays

March 4	Mr. Richard
March 15	Miss Kim
March 24	Miss Michelle



MAR

CH STAFF ANNIVERSARIES:

March 1 Miss Denean 39 years with Montessori Schools of Irvine!!!!

THANK YOU! Your loyalty, dedication, and contributions to the children, their families and the school program are appreciated with all our hearts.



Chef's Table by Chef Cyndi
St. Patrick's Day Potato Corn Chowder

1 lb. red potatoes, diced
1 lb. frozen sweet corn
1 cup yellow onion, diced
1 cup celery, diced
2 qts. heavy whipping cream (Optional: add milk to thin)

Butter
Salt & Pepper to taste
Optional: Add bacon or ham



1. Sauté onion and celery in butter.
2. Add diced potatoes.
3. In large saucepan, heat cream.
4. Add onions, celery, potatoes and corn.
5. Add milk to thin as needed. Add optional bacon or ham if desired.
6. Simmer until potatoes are tender.