

MONTESSORI

Child Development Center

January 2014 Newsletter

Happy New Year! We are excited to be back, and we look forward to a memorable 2014. We hope everyone had a restful, fun, and well-needed family time together. We are ready to tackle this new year, to learn new things, to make new friends, and to create new memories. Welcome back to MCDC!

Thanks a Bunch!

Our holidays were so special because of all the warmth and love we received from our families at MCDC. It is always a joy being a part of your children's lives. We are grateful for giving us the strength to teach, the motivation to inspire children, and the drive to make a positive change in children's lives.

Thank you for your holiday wishes and treats. Thank you for volunteering in our classrooms. Thank you for your support. Thank you for a wonderful 2013!

Wizard of Oz DVD's are still available to order. Cost is \$25. Make your check out to MCDC.

Please share pictures you have taken to the school for any school related events. We are collecting pictures for our yearbook.

Dates to Remember

17 – First Term Progress

Reports

20 – Martin Luther King Jr.

Day / No School

31 – Lunar New Year

Celebration

NO SCHOOL

School will not be in session on Monday, January 20 in observance of MLK, Jr. Day.

SCHOOL GROUP PHOTO

Friday, January 10
Please wear teal MCDC shirt.

Making a Difference

Small Hands, Big Hearts

We say goodbye to 2013 with memories of great times with friends at MCDC. Being a part of Montessori means so much more than just learning to read, write or do math. It means that each and every individual learns to become a positive part of society, starting with the classroom, community, then the world.

The little hands that belong to our children are our hope for a better future. With love and encouragement, these small hands with big hearts made our world a better place.

Here are some of the wonderful things we accomplished in 2013:

- *For children in Borja, Peru – books and shoes
- *For children in Davao, Philippines – books
- *Recycling project by Chieng brothers and continued by Luke Gordon for our Joyful Garden
- *For children at the Ronald McDonald House – toys and books
- *For Veteran's First – food and supplies
- *For troops – daily necessities
- *For Philippine typhoon victims – monetary aid to rebuild their homes and aid for the orphaned children.
- *For the earth – Joyful Garden and messages of peace

Thank you to all the families for supporting our charities and congratulations to our children for a job well done! We hope to achieve many more wonderful contributions in 2014.

Progress Reports

The first term progress reports will be sent home on January 17. Please review your child's progress report carefully.

The Toddler progress reports will show the child's emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth in school. It's a simple report to show how your child is doing in school. A brief description of their favorite tasks is included along with the teacher's comments.

The Primary student's progress report will vary based on their level: Primary first year, Primary second year, and Primary third year. Your child's progress report is based on age and year of Montessori attendance. The notations on the progress report include "I" for Introduced, which means an initial presentation either during group or individual has been given. "P" for Practicing means the child is currently working on the material and is usually still dependent on the teacher's guidance to complete the task. "M" for mastered means the child has shown mastery of the material or lesson and is able to complete the task independently, as well as, retell or reteach the lesson. Repetition for work is the key to mastery, so we encourage students to continue to practice their work every day. Once mastered, the child may move up to the next level. The progress report shows a sequence of lessons and materials for all developmental and academic areas. Therefore, the report is also intended to guide parents as to what lesson your child will be taught next.

The Elementary progress report is unique for each grade level. The Montessori standards and California education standards are integrated into the report card. No grade markings are used as each student should be working on mastering the concepts by the end of the school year. The progress report record assesses each student's academic and social development. Keep in mind that students may be at different levels of learning growth and may be completing subjects in a different grade level. The teacher's comments will give parents a summary of student's overall progress and achievement over a certain period of time.

In summary, the progress report is an important tool for parents to understand what your child is learning and how your child is progressing in school. This also can indicate a need for early intervention for possible developmental delays or academic difficulties. It is a valuable source of information to help guide parents and future teachers.

This progress report is an evaluation from September through December. Remember that each child learns at his or her own pace. By providing an environment that encourages learning, children's potential is limitless. With our devotion to be always teaching, our continuous observation, and our drive to make learning fun, our students will truly love to learn from within and carry that habit for life.



Lunar New Year Celebration

We will ring in the Lunar New Year on Friday, January 31 with a parade of handmade lanterns, drums, dragons, and noise makers. This year, we will celebrate the year of the horse with arts and crafts, story time, and dance. The parade will begin at 9:30. The festivities will continue in the classroom until 12:30.

Each classroom will discover the diversity of Asian New Year traditions practiced around the globe. We encourage parents who celebrate Lunar New Year to have your child bring something that represents how you celebrate at home or share traditions through stories or pictures. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to share something to the class. Parents are welcome to volunteer by doing arts and crafts, teaching a particular song or dance, talking about the significance of the New Year and why it is celebrated, passing out treats, or help setting and cleaning up.

Children are encouraged to wear their traditional Asian attire or the color red, as this represents the color of luck. A potluck sign up is posted in each classroom. Lunch and snack will be served. We will not be ordering pizza on this day.

Here are some places your family may enjoy while learning about Lunar New Year.

The City of Garden Grove celebrates the New Year with the Tet Festival on February 7, 8, and 9. Go to www.tetfestival.org for more information.

Tustin Library on Sunday, Lunar New Year Fair, February 16.

Irvine Chinese School will hold the 2014 Year of the Horse New Year Celebration Performance. This performance has been the tradition for over 35 years. The school lobby will open to the public from 5:30 pm for the exhibition. The performance starts at 6:30 pm. Please contact Rachel at 949-559-6868 at ext. 502 for ticket inquiry.

Disney California Adventure, Lunar New Year Celebration, starts in January.

Los Angeles Chinatown, Chinese New Year Festival, January 11

YELP US!

Our school is strong as ever in its 25th year in the City of Huntington Beach. In the past 10 years, directors Mrs. Ann and Mrs. Cyndi have been working hard to preserve the authenticity of the Montessori program which was established by IAPM (International Association of Progressive Montessori) director and trainer, Mrs. Balasuriya.

A true Montessori system of education is the basis of MCDC's existence. The philosophy is simple: to follow the Montessori methods, to use the Montessori materials, to create a prepared and carefully designed environment, to have prepared Montessori staff who truly understand the natural development of children, and to follow the Montessori approach. These five basic components are what MCDC strives for as a school. These set MCDC apart from other Montessori schools. Most importantly, the school is built with family and children in mind. MCDC's mission is to create a nurturing environment for all children with respect to all things around, enrich the intellectual minds, and teach children to value and enjoy learning.

Help us spread the wonderful things you love about MCDC. We welcome your comments via email, which may be posted on MCDC's website. We also welcome comments at YELP and Greatschools.org. Type Montessori Child Development Center and tell everyone what you think. We have received some wonderful comments throughout the years through parent thank you cards, emails, and letters. It is always encouraging to hear positive comments about our school.

On Going School Charity Projects and Donation Needs

*Luke Gordon's Recycle Project
Bring empty cans and bottles to be recycled by the Luke. Part of the profit goes to MCDC's Joyful Garden.*

*Plastic Grocery Bags Recycling
For soiled clothes in our toddler's class.*

*Box Tops for Schools
Cut up box for schools from products and goods used at home. The school will earn points*

*Joyful Garden Project
Garden items needed*

*Scholastic Books
The school will earn points for all book orders*

Self-portrait T-shirts are back!

The most popular school t-shirt is back. Your child will draw his or her self-portrait, and it will be printed on a t-shirt with all their friends. It's so cool, but it can only be ordered in one printing. So be sure to pre-order yours today. Forms are available in the classrooms. Place your order forms and \$10 in the self-portrait envelope. Adult sizes are available and they are great gifts for the entire family.

The Wizard of Oz musical was so much fun! Big congratulations to all our students on a wonderful performance. It is always a treat to watch children perform on stage, and we truly enjoyed every bit of it. We are so proud of them.

Our 5th graders deserve a special recognition on their final performance. It is bitter-sweet as this being their final show, but we are sure they will be on stage many more times. Congratulations to Ruby Perlman, who played the Lion and Cassidy Luu, who played Grouchy Grumble for a job well done. What an accomplishment!

These annual performances are not only entertaining for all, but it surely gives children confidence, poise, and pride. Our younger ones enjoyed the performance and being the stars of the evening. As for our elementary students, they enjoyed the process of auditioning for their parts, rehearsing for their roles, putting on hair and makeup, and performing for over 250 audience members. They will carry this experience for life and will recall it as a highlight of their school years.

We are able to keep our annual holiday shows alive with support from our parents. Every year, we try to create simple ways to raise funds to support our theatre program. Ms. Cyndi always does a wonderful job producing most everything you see on stage including the script, costumes, props, and more. With collaboration from the teachers and support from parents, we are able to put together a magical show each year.

One of the ways you are able to support the theatre program is by having your children's artwork framed. For \$25, Ms. Cyndi will frame your favorite art work. The profit is used towards the theatre program. Simply drop off your artwork in the office and fill out an order form. Your child's artwork is precious and parents have used them to decorate their home, office or give them as gifts to grandparents. It's a simple fundraiser and we hope that you are able to participate throughout the school year. Our goal is to raise \$500 for next year's play.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Years Old

Austin 1/18

3 Years Old

Kosta 1/3

Aurelie 1/4

Kiera 1/27

Lorenzo 1/29

4 Years Old

Russell 1/6

Grace 1/18

Nicholas 1/24

Zachary 1/24

5 Years Old

Erika L. 1/29

7 Years Old

Ava A. 1/25

8 Years Old

Sadie 1/11

Audrey 1/12

Teachers

Ms. Dee 1/30

