

# MONTESSORI

## Child Development Center

January 2016 Newsletter

Happy New Year! We are excited to be back, and we look forward to a memorable 2016. 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 to you 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 generous gifts. Thank you for volunteering in our classrooms. Thank you for your support. Thank you for a wonderful 2015!

**Peter Pan DVDs 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, especially the holiday show. We are collecting pictures for our yearbook.**

### **Dates to Remember**

15 – First Term Progress Reports

18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day / No School

### **NO SCHOOL**

**School will not be in session on Monday, January 18 in observance of MLK, Jr. Day.**

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## Making a Difference

### Small Hands, Big Hearts

We say goodbye to 2015 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 did.

\*For the children of Orangewood Foundation  
- Thanksgiving baskets

\*Recycling project by Luke Gordon for our Joyful Garden

\*For children at the Ronald McDonalds House  
– Toys, games, art supplies, gift cards

\*For the earth – Joyful Garden and messages of peace

\*Orange County Surfider Beach Clean-up

Thank you to all the families for supporting our charities and for donating toys for the Ronald McDonald's House. Congratulations to our children for a job well done! We hope to achieve many more wonderful contributions in 2015.



## Progress Reports

The first term progress reports will be sent home on January 15. 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 moves 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.

## Ronald McDonald House Toy Fundraiser

This year we collected 172 toys and art supplies to go to the Ronald McDonald House. This charity provides support for children with serious illnesses and their families. The school was able to buy 100 toys from the money collected by Luke's recycling project. We were able to raise the other 72 from the families who donated toys. The elementary children organized and helped deliver the toys. This wonderful act of



thoughtfulness and charity is an innate nature of children. We thank you for your support and for allowing these children to become future change agents.

Our Peter Pan 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!

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.

All the wonderful things that happen on stage is a collaboration of our teachers: from the toddlers class, Ms. Annie, Ms. Erika, Ms. Gabby, Ms. Rupa; preschool, Ms. Monique, Ms. Machiko, Ms. Haidee, Ms. Jen, Ms. Nikki and Ms. Mary; and elementary, Ms. Anna and Ms. Dee. A big thanks to Ms. Anna who helped put together the stellar elementary performance. Thank you to Elisa Wilson for helping out with costumes and during rehearsals.

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 theater program. With last year's art fundraiser, we were able to produce the whole production, including the script, costumes, props, music, hall and chair rentals and more. Also, we were able to purchase 2 more concert microphones for the show. Thank you!

### *On Going School Charity Projects and Donation Needs*

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

*Joyful Garden Project*  
*Seeds, organic soil, decorations, benches.*

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

*Fingerprint Art*  
*The school will auction art and sell prints. Proceeds are donated to different children's charities.*

## LOST AND FOUND

We have a growing number of unclaimed jackets with no names.

Please check the Lost and Found coat rack in front of the office. At the end of the school year, all unclaimed jackets will be donated to Goodwill.

Please label all your children's belongings so it's easy to find its rightful owner in case it gets lost.

### *Peanut-free School*

We would like to remind parents that our school is a peanut-free school. Please check all ingredients of food that you are packing for your child's lunch, snack, or food brought for festivities to be peanut-free. We have some students who have life-threatening peanut allergies. Thank you.

### **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 are great gifts for the entire family.

A Big Thanks to all the donations for our  
Toy Drive and Food Drive!

Thank you and have a Happy New Year!

# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## 2 Years Old

Luke 1/4

Emma 1/17

## 3 Years Old

Mila 1/20

## 4 Years Old

Ella V 1/14

Austin 1/18

Rohan 1/23

## 5 Years Old

Kosta 1/3

Aurelie 1/4

Kiera 1/27

Lorenzo 1/29

## 6 Years Old

Russell 1/16

Grace 1/18

Kiran 1/22

## 9 Years Old

Morgan 1/28

Kimi 1/29

## 10 Years Old

Sadie 1/11

## Teachers

Ms. Dee 1/30



January 2016

