

MONTESSORI

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Dates to remember

7-10 Celebration of Life:
Montessori Week

11 – Egg Hunt

14-18 Spring Break/ No
School

21 – Summer Registration

22 – Earth Day

24 Elementary Santa Ana
Zoo Field Trip

28- 5/2 – Book Fair

5/2 -5/3 – Upper
Elementary Riley's Farm
Overnight Field Trip

Montessori Week of the Young Child Events

Monday, April 7 / Montessori Peace Parade

Children will start the week off with a parade to celebrate being a child. We will talk about peace in our homes, our communities, and between nations.

Tuesday, April 8 / Field Day & Sporty outfit day

We will play hula hoops, sack race, kangaroo hop and much more out in the big field. Come to school ready to play all day! It's also favorite sport or team day. Come to school in your favorite jersey or dress up sporty. Volunteers are welcome.

Wednesday, April 9 / Wacky Wednesday

Spiked up hair, inside out clothes, mismatched shoes or socks, and funky outfits are what Wacky Wednesday is all about. Dress your child in the silliest outfit and we will all have a blast in being wacky in school.

Thursday, April 10 / Safety Day / Permanent Impressions Fingerprinting

We will talk about Stranger Danger and learn how to be safe in our community. Child ID Kit is available for purchase through Permanent Impressions.

Friday, April 11 / Egg Hunt

Our 'lil bunnies will hop around to hunt for eggs. Lunch potluck sign -up will be posted in the classroom.

Spring Break

The school will be closed for Spring Break on April 14-18. The school will resume the following week, April 21. Daycare will not be available during Spring break.

Let's Talk Montessori

What we mean when we say...

The Importance of the Kindergarten Year in Montessori

A child who transfers from Montessori to a traditional kindergarten program will probably miss out on a great deal of learning that normally occurs during this crucial year.

The kindergarten year is a critical component of the three-year Early Childhood Montessori program. This is the year when children's earlier experiences are internalized and reinforced. When they leave Montessori before Kindergarten, many of their earlier learning may be lost because they are not reinforced or commonly understood.

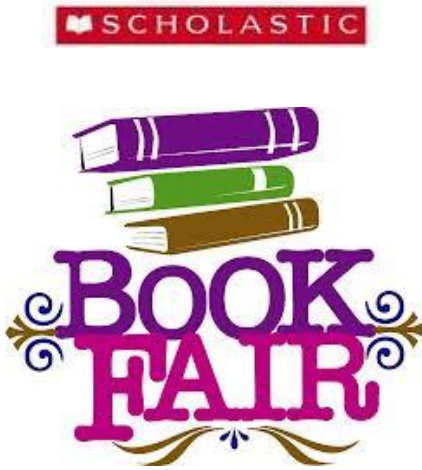
Five-year olds are normally the leaders and role models in the Primary Montessori classroom. They help to set the tone and serve as an example of appropriate behavior for the younger children. They often help the younger children with their work by teaching lessons or correcting errors.

Most five-year olds have been waiting for the longest time to be the "big kids." The experience of playing the leadership roles does wonders to reinforce the five-year olds' sense of autonomy and self-confidence.

This is a crucial time when the young child learns how to learn. Montessori is focused on teaching for understanding. Children three and four-year olds work with the concrete Montessori materials, gradually forming a mental picture of concepts. The Montessori materials give children a concrete sensorial impression of an abstract concept, such as long division, that is the potential foundation of a lifetime of understanding. This process of abstract understanding begins during the Kindergarten year. The Kindergarteners begin to pay closer attention, notice more details, ask more questions, and begin to explain the world in their own terms. They begin to integrate everything they learned in the first few years. When children do not have the opportunity to complete their Kindergarten year in Montessori, they miss out on experiences that are rarely duplicated in other types of schools.

The Kindergarteners at MCDC become the role models and leaders in the class. They work alongside the three and four-year olds during the morning session, and become more excited to learn with other Kindergarteners in the afternoon session. Ms. Nikki leads the afternoon Kindergarten students. Come visit the afternoon class from 1 p.m – 2:30 p.m. to see the full benefits of Montessori Kindergarten.

Scholastic Book Fair



A love of reading is a gift worth giving. The book fair is back this month during the week of April 28-May 2. Books will be displayed in front of the office. A student and teacher wish list will be sent home. We have filled our classroom libraries with books each year from your Book Fair support.

The school earns points used towards purchase of new books for our classrooms and classroom equipment. We saved up points from our last 3 book fairs that helped us earn a new Smart Board for the elementary class. Thank you to all our families who support our Book Fairs.

Happy reading!

Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child is a special week when we celebrate our children. Each classroom will be creating a "Celebration of Life" bulletin board to display your child's pictures. We ask that you create an 8x10 display with pictures of your child from birth until now. You may turn this in to your child's teacher by Friday, April 4.

2013-2014 Priority Registration

Priority registration for current students for the 2014-2015 is now due. Registration forms and a \$100 annual registration fee are due. Your child's space will only be guaranteed upon the receipt of your registration form. Additional forms are available in the office.

Summer Registration

Summer is just around the corner. The summer calendar will be available soon.

Registration forms are due on Friday, April 25.

Thank You to Our Parent Volunteers

Thank you to all our parent volunteers during the St. Patrick's Holiday. The children enjoy having parents participate in our events, and the teachers appreciate all your help.

Thank you to our Elementary parent chaperones during our Mission San Juan Capistrano Field Trip. We hope you enjoyed your time at the Mission.

Thank you to Valerie, Kim, Patrick, Paul, and Ken for sharing your occupations to the students. They really do enjoy learning about what adults do for work.

We encourage everyone to join us during our school events. Parents are welcome to read to the class, do arts and crafts, show a talent, or teach something new. Children are always proud to see their parents conduct circle time. Please coordinate with your child's teacher if you are interested in volunteering in the classroom.

Sign in and Out

Remember to sign your child in and out every day. It is critical that the school have an accurate count of students in case of emergencies. It is mandatory that you check your child in and out properly. Failure to do so may result to fines up to \$250 by the Department of Social Services.

Do not drop your child off without a teacher acknowledging his or her presence. As you pick up, be sure your child says good bye to the teacher. This simple step allows the teachers to have "name and face" recognition of your child and proper attendance checking.

Egg Hunt

Parents are welcome to volunteer during our egg hunt.

We will be setting up areas in the big field and playground to hide eggs. Please assist us in organizing the hunt.



WOUNDED WARRIORS CHARITY RUN

Support Save A Warrior Foundation by signing up for a 5k run/walk on Sunday, May 4 in Huntington Beach. You may register online and use the code "Active1" to receive a \$10 discount.

You may also register directly through MCDC and Active1Events will donate \$10 to the Philippine Hope Dove Charity. Registration forms are available in the office.

SNACK HOST

Thank you to our families for hosting the monthly snacks.

Should you wish to host a snack, a snack sign up is located next to the classroom computer.

EGG HUNT



Please bring 10 prefilled plastic eggs to school by Friday, April 11.

Eggs may be filled with snack items and treats such as goldfish, raisins, pretzels, stickers, tattoos...etc. Do not fill the eggs with candy or foods with peanuts.

Avoid chokeable items for the toddler class.

Elementary students may have a variety of treats.

All eggs will be sent home. Parents should go through the contents of the eggs.

A potluck sign up will be posted. Volunteers are welcome to help and join in the fun.

Elementary Fundraiser

Our upper elementary students are going to an overnight Revolutionary war reenactment field trip at Riley's Farm on May 2-3. Our class lectures will come alive as we relive the American Revolution, experience living in colonial townships, participate in the battle of St. George's Tavern, witness a smugglers arrest in the recreation of Gaspee's Affair, eat a soldier's ration, but best of all, experiencing it all with their friends. It will be an amazing opportunity and the upper elementary students are very excited.

We are trying to raise \$600 to send them to this trip. To help pay for this trip, we will be doing a Spaghetti Fundraiser on Friday, April 4th. The cost for spaghetti, juice, and fruit is \$5.00. Additional donations are welcome.

We appreciate your support!



GARDEN SOIL DONATION

We ask parents to donate 1 bag of garden dirt to fill our garden beds. We are planting a variety of vegetables and flowers for our garden.



2 years old
Samantha A. 4/10

5 years old
Kaleb 4/6
Raksha 4/11

Many Thanks

Thank you to the families of Maddie, Russell, Hilda, Zachary, and Nicholas for donating garden soil, seeds, and tools.