



# NEWSLETTER

The Montessori School of Sonoma

April 2018

## **Dates to remember**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Spring Break

No classes; Childcare open

**Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Memorial Day; No Classes/No Childcare

**Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Summer School Fees Due

**Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

Last Day of School

**Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**

First day of Summer Classes

**Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

Fall Tuition Due

## **Open House**

Thank you to all of our families who attended Open House last month. We hope you enjoyed seeing and learning about your child's class for next year.

## **Sunscreen**

Now that spring and sunshine are upon us, please let us know if your child is allergic to any particular sunscreen products. We use a variety of different brands. If necessary, please supply us with your preferred brand. Also remember to apply sunscreen in the morning before your child comes to school. We will re-apply regularly when we go out in the sunshine.

*"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn."*

*Maria Montessori*

## **Registration for Summer & Fall 2018**

Registration for summer and fall is now complete for currently attending families. All students must re-register every year for all programs including childcare. Letters of confirmation will be mailed out within the next couple weeks. After receiving your letter of confirmation, if for any reason your child will not be attending school this summer or fall, you must notify the school in writing by Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> or you will be charged full tuition / fees for summer and / or fall.

### **Summer School Fees Due:**

***Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>***

### **First month's fall tuition due:**

***Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>***



**School Tax ID#:** For those of you gathering information for tax purposes, the Tax ID# for the Montessori School of Sonoma is: **94-2174042**

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## Infant Corner

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*We hope you are all enjoying the wonderful spring weather! Getting the toddlers to share can be a struggle, but the truth is they aren't ready to share. They are not being greedy or mean when they say "mine" or refuse to share they just need time to develop their sense of ownership and to learn to share. The best thing we as caregivers can do is model and encourage sharing. In the classroom we have duplicates of favorite toys available to help avoid conflicts. We also explain daily how the toys and works are for everyone and we all get a turn. It's hard to wait and that's ok, but when a child does wait for their turn for something we celebrate it loudly! Congratulating them for sharing and or waiting their turn encourages them to do it again, next time. It is a learning process daily in class and the children feel so good as they grow knowing the expectations and being congratulated for a "hard days work".*

*Earth day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> so we will be planting the following week to celebrate.*

*The sunny days are upon us so please sunscreen your children before coming to school. We will reapply in the afternoon for the children that stay past noon. If you would like to leave a specific sunscreen at school we will label it and use it only on your child.*

### Goodbye

*Though we were sad to see teacher Silje go, we wish her well in her new chapter.*



*Thank you for sharing your babies with us!*

*Katherine*

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# Toddler Corner

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Happy Spring! Looks like the rain has come and gone. We will be starting our toddler class in the side-yard since the seasons have changed. Thank you to all who attended parent teacher conferences. Again, if any questions or concerns come up please let me know.

One of our new works this month has been our World Map. The World Map has the seven continents on it. The children place the pieces of the puzzle on a control chart, which is a copy of the puzzle on poster board. They use fine motor skills by holding the little knob, matching and placing the puzzle piece on the correct spot. This is the first puzzle map that is introduced in a Montessori Classroom. The Primary Class has each continent in which each country is represented by a separate puzzle piece. Finally, there is a map of the United States with each individual state. Throughout the growth and development of the child in the Montessori class the child will work with maps at different levels. At first when a child is 3 or 4, they will use maps as puzzles and learn some of the names of the countries. Gradually the child will start to trace the map, later the child will independently trace, label and paint the map. It is exciting to see a child's development through the years in using the maps. The maps also create great discussion and knowledge of the world.

Here is the song we sing after we place the pieces on the control chart.



## Seven continents

Seven continents in the world,  
Tell me what they are.  
North America, South America,  
Europe, Asia, Africa.  
Don't forget Australia,  
Don't forget Antarctica.  
Seven continents in the world,  
Tell me what they are.

When spring comes, so does baseball! We are rooting for the GIANTS and singing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game!"

Happy spring!  
Christine & Caitlin

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# Childcare Corner

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We welcome spring, a new season! As our garden awakens we see all the magnificent colors blooming all around our school. We are ready for the sunny weather! In April we will focus on springtime. We will discover different seeds and explain the life cycle of a plant. How do plants and flowers grow? We will enjoy an activity of sprouting seeds in the window and create a collage of different seeds. Childcare will read many books pertaining to our spring theme, such as "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Tiny Seeds". This is also the month we sing one of the children's favorite song; "Little Bunny Foo-Foo". We will also take some nature walks in our garden to see what is blooming. Please peek into childcare anytime to see our wonderful creations!

## Reminder:

- Please be sure to check regularly your child's diaper supply and bag of extra clothing. Make sure the clothing is weather appropriate and still fit your growing child.
- Please apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school. We will reapply as needed in the afternoon.
- Please label everything, and bring a labeled, reusable water bottle for your child to stay hydrated and ready to learn and play!
- Please leave toys, jewelry, costumes and candy at home.



***Happy springtime!***

From The Childcare Teachers,  
***Callie, James, Jantzie, Jeff, Leslie & Taylor W***

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# Primary Corner

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Happy Spring..... thank you to all the wonderful moms that helped out with the cooking project, Shuku Shuku, a yummy Nigerian treat that the children loved, and thanks to everyone who has brought in carrots for carrot slicing. We'll be slicing apples when we return from Spring Break, so please look for the sign-up sheet on the door if you'd like to contribute apples. We had a great turn out for Open House; thanks so much for joining us to learn about the Montessori Primary classroom. Finally, it was wonderful meeting with you all for conferences. It's always enjoyable talking about your child/children with you. A few of you asked about upcoming Positive Discipline workshops. We'll have the next one in the Fall, but if you have any immediate concerns or need some guidance, please do not hesitate to ask Miss Kim.

We have some new friends who have joined us.....we'd like to welcome Luke to the morning class, and we want to welcome Oliver and Ella to the afternoon class. Many of you have heard about or seen our new pet, Boris, the Pac Man frog. He didn't do much, but he was interesting to look at. Then, suddenly, he died.....we lit our Peace candle for him and sang "Peace Like a River". We buried him in our play yard. Life lessons.

We have had a wonderful African study. We spent March looking at zebras, rhinos, cheetahs, South African penguins, and Painted African Dogs. We spent the last week discussing Ancient Egypt. We read a Magic Tree House chapter book in the afternoon class called "Mummies in the Morning". Thank you to Scarlett Guthrie for sharing this book with us. If you are interested in introducing chapter books to your child, the Magic Tree House series is great! They always have non-fiction facts as well. Most important, don't forget the book mark! Whenever we read a book, we always introduce the author and illustrator too. Finally, we decorated eggs using shaving cream...that was fun...and enjoyed a little egg hunt.

### **Please remind your child:**

- to walk while in the school (thanks for not carrying your child)
- when in the classroom outside of class time, please do not mess with the works, look with eyes only
- put lunch boxes in cubbies
- hold hands in the parking lot
- adults open the black gate in front

This month, when we return from Spring Break, we'll be studying frogs. We'll be preparing the garden boxes for planting too; hopefully it will start to warm up a bit. We'll also be discussing Earth Day, which is on April 22nd. We will read some books and listen to some songs to help us think about helpful habits for Mother Earth.

Things to do on Earth Day....plant some seeds, flowers, or a tree. Clean out old toys and clothes and take them to a thrift store to be reused. Look at local farms, local food, and discuss organic methods with your child. Sonoma County is home to many local organic farms and food suppliers. Examine your energy use habits with respect to water use, lighting, and screen use.

Crazy hair day is on the 26<sup>th</sup> so get crazy with hair! The children always look forward to this day. Once spring break has passed, many children (especially the kindergarteners) know that the year will soon be ending. We do not discuss the changes coming up until June. This helps for routines to stay consistent and stress levels to stay low. Even if your child is not returning for other reasons besides graduating, it is still a good idea to not discuss the changes until the end of the year. This helps everyone involved to stay present in the moment.

**Looking for help:** Our bear in the "feelings corner", Barnaby, needs a few repairs. If anyone has sewing skills, please see Miss Kim.

**Here's to Flower Power!!!! Miss Kim & Cara**



*When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace-- Jimi Hendrix*

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# Montessori Corner

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## *Why do Montessori classes group different age levels together?*

Montessori primary classrooms are organized to encompass a two or three year age span, which allows younger students the inspiration gained from being with older children, who in turn benefit from serving as role models. Each child learns at their own pace and will be ready for any given lesson in their own time, not on the teacher's schedule of lessons. In such a mixed-age class, children can always find peers who are working near their current level.

Children normally stay in the same classroom for three years. With two thirds of the class normally returning each year, the classroom culture tends to remain quite stable.

Working in one classroom for two or three years also allows the students to develop a strong sense of community with their classmates and teachers.

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# Parenting Corner

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## *Children Learn What They Live*

*If a child lives with criticism,  
He learns to condemn.*

*If a child lives with hostility,  
He learns to fight.*

*If a child lives with ridicule,  
He learns to be shy.*

*If a child lives with shame,  
He learns to feel guilty.*

*If a child lives with tolerance,  
He learns to be patient.*

*If a child lives with encouragement,  
He learns confidence.*

*If a child lives with praise,  
He learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with fairness,  
He learns justice.*

*If a child lives with security,  
He learns to have faith.*

*If a child lives with approval,  
He learns to like himself.*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
He learns to find love in the world.*

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# APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Happy Easter!</i> 	2 <i>Happy Birthday Diego &amp; Luke!</i> 	3	4	5 <i>Happy Birthday Geddy!</i>  <b>Amazing Athletes</b> 2:20pm & 3pm	6 <i>Happy Birthday Ben I, Finn &amp; Leslie!</i> 	7
<b>Spring Break, No Classes / Childcare Open</b>						
8 <i>Happy Birthday Lila &amp; Mia!</i> 	9 <b>Zumba</b> 3:15-4:00pm 	10 <i>Happy Birthday Henry!</i> 	11	12 <b>Amazing Athletes</b> 2:20pm & 3pm 	13 <i>Ballet Class</i> 2-3yr. old: 2-2:45pm 4-5 yr. old: 3-4pm  <i>Happy Birthday Cara!</i> 	14
15	16 <b>Zumba</b> 3:15-4:00pm	17	18	19 <b>Amazing Athletes</b> 2:20pm & 3pm 	20 <i>Ballet Class</i> 2-3yr. old: 2-2:45pm 4-5 yr. old: 3-4pm	21
22 <b>Earth Day</b>  <i>Happy Birthday Cole!</i>	23 <b>Zumba</b> 3:15-4:00pm 	24	25	26 <b>Amazing Athletes</b> 2:20pm & 3pm 	27 <i>Ballet Class</i> 2-3yr. old: 2-2:45pm 4-5 yr. old: 3-4pm	28 <i>Happy Birthday Dakota!</i> 
29 <i>Happy Birthday Trent!</i> 	30 <b>Zumba</b> 3:15-4:00pm					