



# NEWSLETTER

The Montessori School of Sonoma

June 2018

## **Dates to remember**

*June 1st* - Summer tuition due

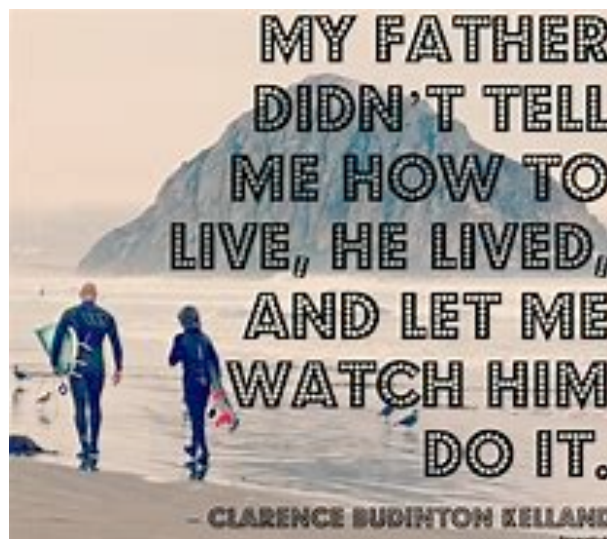
*June 13<sup>th</sup>* - Last day of school

*June 25<sup>th</sup>* - Summer School begins

*July 4<sup>th</sup>* - School Closed

*July 6<sup>th</sup>* - Fall tuition due

*August 3<sup>rd</sup>* - Last day of summer school



**Happy Father's Day to all of our Montessori Dads!**

## **Sunscreen**

Now that the sun is shining, 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, labeled with your child's name on it. 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.

## **New Staff Members**

Please join us in welcoming our new staff members, Angela and Jessica. Jessica will begin working in toddler class as well as childcare on June 4<sup>th</sup> and Angela will begin working in childcare on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Angela** has lived in Sonoma for the past 18 years. She is a credentialed teacher and has worked several years in the Sonoma Valley schools. In 2009 she started a professional organization company and is currently at Exchange Bank. Recently she decided it was time to return to working with young children.

**Jessica** is currently a student at Sonoma State University. She is from Southern California and worked at a Montessori School in Southern California for three years while attending a local college there. She has her Associates Child Development permit.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN YOU SEE, "PLEASE SIGN IR", BY YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON THE DAILY SIGN-IN SHEET?**

IR stands for Incident Report. When you see this next to your child's name on the sign in sheet, it means that there was an incident with your child that required attention by the teachers. The incident report is located in the black binder labeled, INCIDENT REPORT, on the front counter. The report will tell you exactly what happened and we ask that you read the report and sign it acknowledging that you have read the report. Thank you for your assistance with this procedure.

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# Infant Corner

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Summer is here! We are so proud of our many “graduates” moving on to the toddler class and childcare at the end of June. We know they are eager to meet new friends and stretch their ever growing legs in the big yard! This month we will be greeting our new infant classmates on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Teacher Caitlin will be joining us permanently as an Infant teacher this summer and we are so happy to have her.

This summer will be filled with lots of water play so make sure there is multiple sets of clothes in the bag hanging on your child’s hook. Please sunscreen your child before coming to school and we will reapply. Feel free to leave sunscreen with your child’s name on it if you prefer a specific brand.

As our new classmates start school we will be singing songs using all our names, helping to get to know one another. Please don’t hesitate to come to us with any questions or concerns as your child begins this journey with us.

## Important Dates:

June 13<sup>th</sup> – Last day of school

June 17<sup>th</sup> – Happy Father’s Day to all of our wonderful dads!

June 25<sup>th</sup> - Summer school begins

We know it’s going to be a wonderful summer!

*Katherine*



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# Toddler Corner

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May has been busy, busy, busy! With hammering nails, making play dough snakes, taking care of our rabbits, and cutting vegetables we've been busy. One of our favorite things to do this month has been "Go Fish". We've been learning how to take turns, ask for a card, make matches and go fish. Our game has numbered fish on each card and we begin the game with 3 cards each. You only need one other card to make a match and we only have 11 matches. This is a great card game for beginners. Also we always shake hands and say good game after each game.

Just because summer is upon us we don't need to leave our Montessori classroom behind. Here are a few ideas to bring our classroom to your home.

1. Keep child's toys on low shelves, each one having a special place.
2. Only have a few toys available at a time, keeping the rest in storage to be rotated to the shelves.
3. Set up a routine the children can trust. Children need to know what to expect.
4. Set up a quiet table for your child to work at. Respect their concentration time; try not to interrupt.
5. Incorporate books into your child's lives, read this summer!

Thank you for a great year and please be sure to look for our Toddler Songbook in your child's cubby.

Our last day of class is Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and the first day of summer class is Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Summer!

*Christine & Caitlin*



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# Childcare Corner

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Happy June! This school year has really gone by so fast. We had lots of fun and learned many things and we still have so much more fun to be had! Summertime is near and that means tons of outside time. We love this time of year, spending time in our garden and enjoying the sunshine. We will enjoy many activities planned around various themes created by the childcare teachers.

We are super excited about the pizza garden we planted! Our garden has tomatoes, peppers and basil planted. When all of our ingredients are ready to pick we will make our own pizzas!

The teachers in childcare want to give 3 cheers to our friends that are moving on from Montessori School of Sonoma. We are so proud of each of you and you will always have a special place in our hearts. We also want to wish a Happy Father's Day to all the amazing dads!

Please remember to apply sunscreen on your child before coming to school and please remember to put your child in shoes that will protect their toes and are secure on their feet. No flip-flops! Also be sure to stop by our classroom to take a peak at all the beautiful art projects your children have created.

Happy summer!

*Jantzie, Leslie, Callie, James, Taylor, Cara, Jessica & Angela*



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# Primary Corner

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There has been a busy hum of activity in the classroom this last month. No matter how close we get to the end of the school year, the children keep asking for lessons, keep moving forward academically and socially, and are as enthusiastic as ever. Even the Toddlers start peeking in the window when they are playing in the side yard in the morning! The kids have also been watching the flowers, carrots, and strawberries in anticipation of the eventual harvest. Pretty soon, there will be lots of color in the side yard.

We have had a wonderful Solar System study. We've learned about the nine planets, the stars, and the Milky Way, which is our galaxy. We'll continue this study into June, ending with a discussion on space travel and astronauts. The kids will even get to try some astronaut food...shhh, don't tell them though, it is a surprise. We listened to what the kids call Star Wars music, which is really called "Ride of the Valkyries", composed by Richard Wagner. You can find it on the CD called "Without Words". All of the music on this CD was enjoyed!

We've also been learning about the life cycles of the butterfly and ladybug. We watched the chrysalises turn into butterflies and said goodbye to them as they embarked on their journey. We learned new words: larvae, pupa, and metamorphosis. We now have a little worm farm in the classroom. It is not quite as exciting as the butterflies, but it will help prepare for the compost bin that we will be setting up in the fall. We are hoping to incorporate snack waste into compost and worms' gold for the gardens. The children already know that worms are important for the garden; anytime they find one, they will rush to put it into one of the garden boxes.

The children have happily been eating lots of apples from the apple slicing work. Thanks to all of the families that have contributed apples. The children have also been doing a lot of beading and leather polishing. Both classes had fun making a special gift for a special lady in their lives. Finally, the self-portraits are hanging beautifully in the hall. They can be taken home the last week of school.

In the P.M. class, we have been reading a Magic Tree House chapter book that Sienna brought in. The children have enjoyed it. We love it when kids bring in books to share as long as they are not about superheroes or based on movies.

June is the month when we discuss the transitions that will be coming up.....new kindergarteners for the new school year (the new kings and queens of the classroom), welcoming new children to the primary class, and saying goodbye to friends who will be moving on. Anticipation of these kinds of transitions can produce some grumpy and emotional feelings in the children, so beware. The Toddlers who'll be joining the Primary class will come in for a visit this month as well, and we're looking forward to seeing some of them in the summer session, when we will be doing an ocean study.

We have had a fantastic school year filled with fun educational studies, lots of great music, and some good community-building. This has been one of the best years for "letter of the week" sharing as well. It has been amazing to watch the tremendous growth in all of the children. We want to express our deepest gratitude for all of your support, your gifts to the classroom, and the wonderful healthy snacks. We feel blessed to be a part of your child's life. We look forward to more fun in the next school year. We wish the best for all of the kids who are moving on. We hope that they take many happy memories with them. Hopefully, the foundation that has been instilled in them from the Montessori classroom will lead to them being strong leaders, academics, and peacemakers!

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL....Wednesday, June 13th:Children may take home name cards and hook names. (New pictures will be needed in the Fall for new and returning students). Please join us for a special pizza treat and sing-along with Mr. Jeff— a.m. class...10:45 / p.m. class... 2:30**

**A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE PRIMARY SUMMER SESSION 9:00 to 12:00:**



- All children must be potty-trained; this means using the toilet without any help, fully independent. No diapers or pull-ups are allowed.
- Each child will have a name card without a photo, a classroom file, and a hook name in the hall.
- We will be studying the ocean.
- Look for the July calendar in the classroom files.

**Hugs, Miss Kim and Cara**

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# Parenting Corner

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## An Old-Fashioned Summer

In summer it's hot! But with no beach, pond or pool, at home water is cool.

I have many fond memories of the hot, lazy days of summer. When air conditioning was rarely in every room, we would go to the "air-cooled" movie theatre for relief from the heat. I recall a fan blowing air over a block of ice at my grandmother's. She would take me to the park to play in the sprinkler or get a snow cone. At home, we cooled off walking barefoot in the puddles after a shower. We made popsicles and lemonade and had them almost every day. Did you know that a piece of ice can cool your whole body? Just place it on your pulse and the cool travels through your system!

Summer warmth and heat means it's time to play outside and water provides the perfect beginning to all kinds of adventures. Your children will have fun and find ways to cool off with water beyond the traditional wading pool or sprinkler. Give a few of the following ideas a try, and along the way, no doubt you'll think of many more. None of them require an elaborate preparation or very special equipment.

### In the Yard

- Add some water to the sandbox with a drip hose or watering can. Children can build castles, ponds, or construction sites. With a few small molds, they can create designs and roads.
- Children can be in charge of watering plants outside. For young children, a small watering can is easy to manage - show them how to fill it at the outdoor faucet. This conserves water because a child with a hose will be likely to "over-water" everything!
- Attach a water-saving sprinkler or shower nozzle to a hose when the children have on their swimming suits.
- Painting with water is fun! Use a two-inch or larger brush and small bucket. Have the children "paint" the porch, rocks, a wall, or flowerpots.
- A drop of biodegradable soap, a sponge, and a bucket of water provide an opportunity to clean the scooter, bike, porch steps, or chairs.
- If you are able to give up a corner of your garden, help the children make mud pies. Wet the soil generously, mix and fill small tins or lids, decorate with pebbles and sticks, then set in the sun to dry. Obviously this is for parents who don't mind some messy children, but you can always hose them off afterwards! You can also use dirt dug from the yard and mixed with water in an old dishpan. Children love to ooze the mud between their fingers and toes.

### Water Projects in the House

- No need to wait for the sound of the ice cream truck coming down the street. Make your own popsicles using half water and half juice, poured into paper cups. For a handle, place a popsicle stick or tongue depressor into a thick slice of banana to hold it upright in the cup the frozen fruit in the middle will be a special surprise. Or use our Star Popsicle Molds.
- What is summer without cool drinks? Of course, lemonade is mostly water. Older children can read the recipe, listing ingredients for a shopping trip, while a younger child might count the number of lemons and help measuring the water and squeezing the lemons.



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# Parenting Corner Cont'

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- The natural next step is the lemonade stand. Depending on the age of the children, some adult help might be needed, but it's a wonderful experience and learning opportunity. Profits could be contributed to a non-profit that helps communities in developing countries provide clean drinking water.
- Few families have ice cube trays these days - but buy a few and create beautiful and healthy cubes with your children. A little wedge of lemon frozen in a cube is the perfect addition for the lemonade. You could also use berries or mint leaves. Not only can you put them in a glass of water, but they can be wrapped in a little napkin and sucked on.
- Don't forget that warm, wet bath or shower - anytime of day. Of course it's the perfect way to end the day, with bubbles, bath toys, and scrub-a-dub-dub!

## Have Fun and Stay Cool

There are lots of ways you can continue to consider water, its uses, and our need for it. Talk about it when you think of it. Impart information, but casually and incidentally. For example, chat about how we all need water, and that we need even more in the summer when we are perspiring. Conserving water might come up when children are brushing their teeth and learning to turn off the water while they brush. You can talk about where water comes from, where the drain takes it, or how to be safe around water and water sports.

Have fun and be creative. You might have family games about conserving water. Maybe you and your neighbors could have a weekly water balloon toss or get together to wade in the stream. These ideas are just a beginning. Your child will help you discover many more.

May your summer be wet and wonderful!

—by Jane M. Jacobs, M.A., Montessori Educational Consultant at Montessori Services. She is a trained primary Montessori directress and also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has taught children aged 2 to 7 years in Montessori schools, Headstart, and also in a preschool for children with developmental challenges. In her counseling practice, she helps individuals, couples, and families.



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# Montessori Corner

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What makes Montessori schools different?


A Montessori education is often described as an “education for life”. The children’s character and self-esteem are actively developing along with their curiosity about the world, all in an academic setting. In contrast, in many traditional schools, children are passive learners, doing what is given to them when it is given to them, instead of asking questions and discovering the answers for themselves through hands-on learning. In other words, they wait for the teacher to give them the answer rather than figuring it out or searching for the answer themselves.

In addition, by giving children the freedom to voluntarily explore what captures their interest at any given time, Montessori schools also work to develop culturally literate children. As a result, the children tend to become self-confident independent thinkers who learn because they are interested in the world around them and because they are enthusiastic about life, not because they’re engaged in what the teacher or other children are doing. They’re active participants rather than mere followers.

Finally, Montessori schools, as opposed to other schools, give children the sense of belonging to an active community, for it is their place...“the children’s house”. Such classrooms become places where children can not only achieve a high level of academic performance but where they also learn to be empowered, to trust and care for each other, and where they can learn ways to be properly assertive rather than aggressive. Montessori schools are not just different because of the materials that are used, but also because they are ideally a place where children really want to be--because it feels comfortable, secure, and loving.



# June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Summer tuition due	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Happy Birthday Lily! 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Happy Birthday Beckham!  Amazing Athletes 2:20pm/3pm	<b>8</b> Happy Birthday Ben M! 	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Last Day of School! 	<b>14</b> Amazing Athletes 1pm	<b>15</b> Happy Birthday Nadia! 	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Happy Father's Day!	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Happy Birthday Vera! 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Amazing Athletes 1pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Summer classes begin	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Amazing Athletes 1pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>