



MONTESSORI OF LADERA RANCH

September 2017 Newsletter



News from the Office

Welcome everyone to our 2017-2018 school year. Our mission at Montessori of Ladera Ranch is to "create an environment where academic excellence is in harmony with young lives." We are honored that you have chosen us to instill a love for learning in your children and, with your help, guide them to the path that will lead them to discover their full potential.

One of the vital keys to a successful school year is good communication. We will distribute a newsletter at the beginning of every month via email informing you of upcoming

events and the goings on here at school. Each teacher, and staff, has an email address beginning with the teacher's first name followed by .molrs@gmail.com.

For example, Ms. Melissa is: Melissa.molrs@gmail.com
Feel free to email your child's teacher or office staff and we will get back to you promptly.



Our school hours are as follows: Toddlers and Preschool, Rooms 1-5, full day is 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; half day is 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The Elementary classrooms, Rooms 6 and 7, full day is 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM; there is no half day program for Elementary.

We offer morning daycare from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and afternoon daycare from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM for an additional charge. In order to properly staff, we need to know in advance if you need daycare for your child. We do offer occasional daycare at a rate of \$15 per hour. Please make every effort to have your children to school on time. It is very difficult for children to walk into the classroom late. It is also disruptive to the students who have already started their school day. If you should find that you are running late, please allow the front staff to take your child to class as to minimize the disruption. Thank you.

Tuition is due on the 15th of every month prior to attendance (i.e., the first payment is due on the date of enrollment, the second payment is due on

September 15th for October, the third payment is due October 15th for November, and so forth). We will debit the accounts of those families who have signed up for Tuition Express on the 15th of every month. It takes two days to process and credit to our account. If tuition is not received by the 20th of the month, a 10% late charge will be applied. If tuition is not received by the first of the month, the child will be dropped from the program.

Each class will be practicing Fire/Earthquake Drills. Once a month, we will be going into each classroom unannounced to practice with the children and staff. In addition to Fire/Earthquake Preparedness, we are also preparing our staff and facility in the event of a biological or chemical threat. Additionally, we have upgraded our security systems and have had staff training on how to respond to an intruder or emergency situation. In the event of an emergency evacuation, our school would meet at the KinderCare Facility located on the corner of

Corporate Drive and Terrace in Ladera Ranch. If this location was not possible, a note would be posted on our front door listing our location. We carry an emergency book with all of the children's emergency information with us while practicing our drills. In order to be adequately prepared for an emergency, we require that each parent purchase an Econo Kit for \$25 for your child. These kits will be stored in the children's classrooms.

Please check your child's cubby and/or file folder on a daily basis. It will contain important papers for mom and dad, as well as beautiful work that the children will love to share at home.

We would like to remind new and returning parents about our drop-off and pick-up procedures. We are requesting that upon entering or leaving the school, please enter through the main office door to proceed to your child's class or the playground. It is important to escort your child to either his or her classroom or the playground and hand him or her over to a teacher.

Please do not allow your child to enter the school without you present. Please never leave your child unattended in the office, or out on the playground.

It is a State requirement that each child's daily arrival and departure be logged into our computerized sign in/out keypad. It is also important NOT to allow your child to log him or herself in or out. This is a legal document and must be treated as such.



A reminder regarding our illness policy. Children may not be sent to school with a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, discolored mucus, or any other infectious illness. If a child is sent home from school, he/she **must be symptom free for a complete 24 hours before returning to school.** Please notify the school if your child will be out.



A reminder about napping policy. It is a State Requirement that we, as a school, do not deny or force any child to nap. This year, we will have every child in our preschool program "rest", on a mat while listening to a story or music for 30 minutes. At the end of the 30-minute rest period, those children who have not fallen asleep will be taken out to the playground for an additional playtime and back into the classroom for an additional work time.

We can administer any medication that is prescribed by a physician for your child. You must complete the Medicine Log and place all medication in the locked box located in the refrigerator. We only give medication at 12 noon or 4:00 PM.

We are changing our Back-to-School Night protocol this year. In order to facilitate our working parents, we will

not be closing the school early on Thursday, September 14th. We are keeping school open until our normal closing time and spreading the Back-to-School Night groups over two nights. Rooms 1, 3, 5, and 7 will all have their meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:00 PM. Rooms 2, 4, and 6 will meet on Thursday, September 14th at 5:00 PM. Both meetings will be over by 6:00 PM to ensure that children in afternoon daycare can be picked up promptly by their parents. Even though your child may not be in afternoon daycare, if you need childcare so you can attend the Back-to-School Night presentations, you are welcome to bring your child to school between the hours of 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. If you have any questions about this change to our schedule, please check with your child's teacher or the office.

In keeping with our "No Toy" Policy, we are asking you to help us by making sure your children leave all toys at home. Please encourage them to bring things like books, photographs, collectables,


etc., to share with their class.

Especially with the persistent hot weather, we all know the importance of keeping hydrated. However, it is against licensing regulations for loose water bottles to sit in or on cubbies. We have options for your child to drink water throughout the day. Water fountains in the classroom and on the playgrounds are always available. In addition, pitchers of filtered water and cups will be available in each classroom and the children can serve themselves whenever they please. I'm sure you'll all agree this is a much more sanitary option for your child.

Room 1

Ms. Karen, Ms. Isabelle,
Ms. Perla and Ms. Jocelyn

It's wonderful to be back in Room 1. All the teachers worked especially hard getting our classroom ready for the new school year and I hope you all enjoy the changes. I know the children will! Speaking of children, we will have lots



of new arrivals over the next few weeks. Welcome to Daphne Bertain, Emma Berkeley, Dalen Mullins, Emma Tidd, and Charlotte McFadzean.

Our Book of the Month for September is Where the Wild Things Are, one of the most beloved stories in children's literature and brought author Maurice Sendak a 1964 Caldecott medal to boot! Both children and adults can relate to the story of Max, a young boy whose "wild" behavior and vivid imagination transport him to a kingdom of his own making....only to return home where "someone loves him best of all."

Our Color of the Month is basic black and the children will have the opportunity to explore wild critter practical life activities, puzzles, and sorting. We have already started some art projects, including black spiral stamping and black feather gluing. Art projects allow the children to experiment with various mediums, reinforce color recognition, and serve to decorate our classroom!




We have had rousing success with our Songs of the Month, and September will be no exception when we revisit a favorite song from music class last year "My Favorite Things". The tune is from "The Sound of Music", but we have tweaked the lyrics to include horses, Legos, cheese sticks, and Goldfish! We will continue to have our Spanish class on a weekly basis, as well as a monthly cooking project. In September, we shall dine upon home-made applesauce!

Thanks in advance for continuing to sign up for snack and I hope to see you all at Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:00 PM. If you need care for your child during this time, you are welcome to bring your child to school from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM and our assistant teachers will be providing daycare. I hope you can attend as you will be dazzled with everything you ever wanted to know

about Room 1! If you have any questions, please contact me via email at Karen.molrs@gmail.com or track me down in the hallway!

Happy Birthday to Ms. Isabelle, Ms. Perla, Ms. Jocelyn, and Emma O.




Room 2
Ms. Zyerie and
Ms. Jade


Welcome to Room 2! I hope you all had an amazing summer. We are excited to begin the new school year and are looking forward to seeing your child learn and grow this year.

Our unit of study for September will be "All About Me". The students will be naming their body parts, discussing proper hygiene, and learning to identify their emotions.

In Botany, we will be learning about the Parts of an Apple, along with its lifecycle. To further explore apples, we will be making mini apple pies as a cooking project.

Our Composer of the Month will be Ludwig van Beethoven and we will be





listening to his music during work time. Our outside wall will display the children's Splatter Artwork.

If you would like for your child to be snack host, the calendar sign-up sheet can be found outside of the classroom. As snack host, your child has the privilege to hold the Flag during the Pledge of Allegiance, sit next to the teacher for circle times, and be the designated line leader for the day!

Please **NO WATER BOTTLES**. We will be providing filtered water and cups for the children and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Room 2 has a lot of birthdays this month. I would like to remind you that we are strictly enforcing the low sugar policy. Please bring small treats for the children to share such as mini cupcakes or muffins.

We can't wait to see you at Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 14th!

Friendly Reminders:

- Class begins **PROMPTLY** at 9:00 AM
- Include 2 sets of extra clothes for your child in a labeled Ziploc bag
- Bring a plant for your child to care for throughout the year

Happy Birthday wishes to Aria, Hanna, Emily, Maximus, Laine, Noah, and Grant.

Room 3
Ms. Nataly and
Ms. Linda


Welcome to Room 3! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and are excited to be back to school. Ms. Linda and I are so excited to welcome all our new students and returning students, and look forward to a fantastic start to the school year.

September will be filled with introductions and becoming acquainted with our classroom. We will be focusing on setting a solid foundation for a normalized classroom by teaching grace and courtesy, using our words, body control, and

respecting our environment. The Montessori materials will be introduced, as well as getting to know our classroom and our daily routine. Each month we will cover different unit of studies. We will begin with an "All About Me" unit, where we will learn about our different personal traits, characteristics, and understanding self-care. Our classroom is prepared with a variety of materials to encourage the positive and healthy habits of taking care of ourselves.

Through Science, we will be learning the different parts of the human, both internally and externally. Ms. Linda and I are so excited to get to know your child. Please keep an eye out for our "All About Me" posters that will be in your child's cubby. We encourage each child to have fun and personalize their board however they'd like. In addition to caring for our environment, please send in an indoor plant or succulent that your child can water and care for each day.

My goal for the beginning of the school



year is to make this transition period for the children as calm as possible. Class begins at 9:00 AM. It is very important that the children are here on time, as daily lessons are given at this time. If you are running late, please respect our circle time by quietly dropping your child off at the door, placing lunch outside the door, and sending your child directly to the circle. Remember to check your child's cubby daily. Please remember to label everything your child brings to school, as well as sending in an extra set of clothes in a Ziplock bag. We are limited in space, so please limit nap items to a small sheet and light blanket. If the items do not fit in your child's cubby, they will be returned home. Linens will be sent home each Friday to be washed and brought back the following school day. Share Day is on Fridays. Your child may bring an item that relates to the unit of study or personal mementos (not toys) to share with their classmates. This will be an opportunity for your child to share their ideas and learn from each

other, as well as practice social skills through public speaking. Again, please use your best judgement and limit size to appropriate cubby space.

Each month, we will have a snack calendar sign-up sheet located on the Parent Information Counter outside the classroom door. We appreciate that you sign up to provide snack for the class one morning per month. Please keep in mind to send in nutritious, low-sugar snacks. The snack hostess will be the calendar helper, flag holder, and line leader for the day.

Every month we will study a famous artist and composer. These art projects will be displayed in the hallway outside our classroom. This month we are recreating Andy Warhol's pop art technique with a personal twist. We will be listening to classical music throughout worktime and learning about composers such as Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin.

Back-to-School Night will be Wednesday, September 13th from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. I


encourage you to attend, as we will discuss the Montessori Philosophy and benefit of materials in greater detail through a tour of the classroom.

We'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to August, Audrey, and Lucy.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns. I feel so privileged to have the opportunity to teach your child! We are looking forward to a wonderful new school year!

Room 4
Ms. Megan and
Ms. Brittany

Welcome to Room 4! I look forward to a very fun and exciting school year. September will be filled with introductions and becoming acquainted with our classroom. We will be heading back to basics, as we remind the children all about grace and courtesy, using our words, and handling work properly. During September, we like to give the children a chance to really explore the room and get comfortable in their new surroundings. September



is also a time for the children to learn all about themselves. We will be covering such topics as what state they live in, as well as the city. Our classroom is equipped with various materials to enable your child to explore these facts. We feel that it is important (and also very interesting) for the children to gain knowledge about the world around them. We will be starting the year off with introducing the seven continents. In addition, the classroom has materials available to help the children learn their numbers and their sounds. During our group lessons, we will highlight specific sounds as well as numbers.

For our Artist of the Month, we will be re-creating artwork from Paul Cezanne. To start off the year, we will also be listening to classical music, including the works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Mozart.

Please remember that class starts at 9:00 AM each day. If your child is late, they will miss our morning lesson. Please be mindful of the time and try to come early. It is a

much easier transition for the child, and does not upset our morning circle, when they arrive on time.

If you are a 12:00 noon pick up, please feel free to watch through the observation window and wait for your child to complete cleaning up their lunch. As soon as they are finished, I will walk them to the door. You are free to enter the classroom once you see that your child has cleaned up.

Every Friday, during the school year, we have Share Day. This is something to which the children really look forward. Because this is an exercise meant to prepare the children for public speaking and proper introductions, toys are not allowed. They become too much of a distraction to the children throughout the day, and sometimes toys are misplaced or broken. Things such as photographs, souvenirs, drawings, books, items related to the unit of study, or something the child made are all appropriate.

Finally, I want you all to know that we are so

excited for this school year! Please feel free to come to me anytime with questions or concerns. I look forward to this opportunity to teach your children! It is truly going to be a great year!

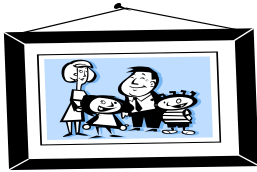
Happy Birthday to Devin, Preston, Blake, and Colette.

Room 5
Ms. Indigo and
Ms. Veronica

Welcome to the new school year! We are so excited to be back and get this year started. This month we are focusing on normalizing the children and getting them used to the daily routine. The month of September is "all about me" and the children will be learning about manners, cleanliness, Parts of the Body, and the Five Senses. We are also going to be learning about Parts of an Apple and the Life Cycle of an Apple. This month the children will also be studying the planets of our Solar System.

Please bring a plant for your child to water and take of throughout the school year. There will be a family tree in our book

corner and it would be greatly appreciated if you could bring a family picture that your child can present to the class and have on the wall for the remainder of the school year.



We have so many birthdays to celebrate throughout the year and we would like to remind you that we now are enforcing a strict, low sugar policy for birthday treats. Please only bring small treats for the children to enjoy such as mini muffins or mini cupcakes. We really want the child to be the focus of their birthday celebration and not the special treat. Thank you for your understanding.

We are excited to start the new school year and see all the children grow throughout the year. For the children who are picked up at noon, please allow the child to finish eating and cleaning up after themselves. Ms. Veronica or I will open the classroom door when all the half-day children are ready to be picked up.

Thank you so much for your help.

Happy Birthday to Dominic, Zack, Camden, and Dahila.

Room 6
Ms. Michelle and
Ms. Jasmine

Hello and welcome to Room 6! We are so excited to have all of your beautiful children in our class this year.

Our day will begin promptly at 8:45 AM and will be ending at 2:45 PM. Please make every effort to have your child at school on time. If you are late, please give your child a hug at the door and have them walk in quietly and join circle. Their lunches and jackets may be hung on the hooks along the wall on the big playground. Please make sure to label them clearly with their names, as several children may have the same item.

For the month of September, we will begin working on language, math, handwriting, and reading. For our Cultural Subjects, we will be learning about the seven

continents, the care of animals and plants, living/non-living, land vs. sea, and about the care of our own bodies, both inside and out. For our cooking project this month, we will be making homemade applesauce and while the children are working, they will be enjoying the beautiful music of Beethoven.


Please mark your calendars for our Back-to-School Night. It will be held on Thursday, September 14th. We will be telling you everything you need to know to ensure your child has a wonderful school year. We hope to see you all there.

We would like to wish David, Brenny, and Aashia a very happy birthday!

Once again, welcome to Room 6!

Room 7
Ms. Bre and Ms. Sarah

Welcome everyone to Room 7. We are excited to start a new school year with all of our new and returning students and



families. Ms. Sarah and I hope everyone had a fantastic summer!

We have a full curriculum planned for the school year along with many parties and field trips that will complement our studies. During the month of September, we will be discussing various units of study with your child. We will be discussing and practicing proper manners and etiquette alongside other academic subjects including Math, Language, Reading, Journal/Creative Writing, Science, and Geometry, to name a few. We will also be continuing with the cultural subjects which would include Physical and Cultural Geography, History, Zoology, Botany, P.E., and Music.

It is your child's responsibility to check their lockers and outside hooks daily. MOLR is now paperless! I will be sending weekly emails to update everyone on the topics discussed during class and as well as reminders. If you have any questions, email me and I will respond as soon as possible.

Don't forget to sign up for our morning snack, which will be posted monthly outside our door. The children enjoy sharing their snack and take pride in being the snack host/hostess. And just a reminder, we follow a low sugar policy at Montessori of Ladera Ranch for snack and lunch. Candy, cookies, gummies, and other high sugar items are not allowed and will be sent home. Some suggestions for snack include fresh fruit/vegetables, bagels, mini muffins, yogurt, cheese and crackers, string cheese, etc. Be sure to bring enough snacks to provide for ALL 30 students in Room 7.

We will have Share Day on Fridays, in which your son or daughter may bring something related to our studies from home. Appropriate Share Day items include current/past news article, a favorite picture, book, etc. **Please only bring items from home on our designated Share Day and no toys, please.**

Our school day starts promptly at 8:45 AM and ends at 2:45 PM. Your child's regular and prompt

attendance at school is crucial to his/her success. Please have your child attend class on time and be picked up on time. If your child arrives late to school, it is strongly encouraged that your child walks into the classroom **INDEPENDENTLY**. We will open the door at the end of the day to let you know we have finished our instruction. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

We will have more information regarding the class schedule and plans for the year during Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:00 PM. We are looking forward to a wonderful school