

MONTESSORI of LADERA RANCH

September 2018 Newsletter



He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work. The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence.

Maria Montessori

Important Dates for September

9/20: Back to School email & packet

9/20 to 9/21: Picture Days

9/24 to 9/28: Book Fair week

News from the Office

Welcome everyone to our 2018-2019 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

Please 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
A full day- 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
A half day- 9:00 AM to 12:00
Elementary classrooms Rooms 6 & 7
a 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.

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 \$50 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/Earth-quake 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 LRSAC across the way. 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 play-ground 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 nap-ping 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 20th. We are keeping school open until our normal closing time. Our back to school information will be sent via email and informational packets will be placed in folders and/or cubbies. 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, collectibles, etc., to share with their class. Please contact your teacher regarding what day is share day in your child's classroom.

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.

For more important dates please look to the school calendar.

Every month we will be recognizing two of our hard working and dedicated teachers as our Teachers of the Month. The staff voted, and this month's winners are Ms. Megan Hyatt from room 7, and Ms. Shafa Abilova from room 2.

Ms. Megan has worked at MOLR for the past 8 years. She began working in the office and helping in all the classrooms. She assisted in lower elementary and preschool prior to taking over her own preschool class five years ago. Ms. Megan earned her Montessori Teaching Credential from North American Montessori Center and is currently continuing her education studying Early Childhood Education. This year, Megan has accepted the lead position in elementary in room 7. She has already demonstrated much enthusiasm and original ideas to bring to the program. Some of the comments her coworkers gave regarding her nomination were, "She always has a smile on her face... For doing an amazing job in room 7...bringing so many creative and innovative ideas for learning, passionate about teaching."

Ms. Shafa began working with us last school year. In this short time, she has proven to be an asset to our team. Ms. Shafa earned a

Bachelor degree from Azerbaijan University of Languages and taught adult language learners in Azerbaijan prior to joining us at MOLR. Ms. Shafa is continuing her education and working towards a degree in Human Development with a minor in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Shafa began working as a floater. She assisted in all classrooms and filled in as a substitute when needed. We immediately saw the value she brought to our program and students and assigned her a position as the Assistant Teacher in room 2. Some of the comments her coworkers gave regarding her nomination were, "She makes an effort to get along with everyone...ambitious and professional...takes initiative...so sweet to the children...She does an amazing job in daycare."



ROOM 1

Ms. Karen
Ms. Jocelyn
Ms. Yoko
Ms. Gladis

It's wonderful to be back in Room 1 and getting to know all the children who transitioned into our class this summer. We also welcome our fall arrivals including Landon Masterson, Francis Hsiao, Hudson Berger, Chloe McFadzean, Gwendolyn Kim, Noah Hartsfield, Lola Jackson, and Jack Webster.

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 basic black painting. 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 our young friends learn the lyrics to "Do Re Mi". We will continue to have our yoga class and Spanish class on a weekly basis, as well as a monthly cooking project. In September we shall dine upon home-made applesauce!

Happy Birthday to Ms. Jocelyn, Chloe McFadzean, Emma Ottomanelli, and Noah Hartsfield!



ROOM 2

Ms. Jasmine
Ms. Shafa

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 see your children learn and grow this year.

Our unit will be "All About Me", the students will be naming their body parts, discussing proper hygiene, and learning to identify their emotions. Our outside wall will display the children's self-portraits.

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. To go along with the apples we will also be learning about the life cycle of a tree.

Our composer of the month will be Ludwig van Beethoven; we will be listening to his music during work time.

If you would like for your child to be snack host/ess, the calendar sign-up sheet can be found outside of the classroom. As snack host/ess

your child has the privilege to wear the Snack Host Vest, 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 fresh filtered water and cups daily for the children, thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I would like to remind you that we are strictly enforcing the low sugar policy. For birthdays, please bring small treats for the children to share such as mini cupcakes or muffins.

Friendly Reminders:

- Class begins PROMPTLY at 9 A.M.
- Include 2 sets of extra clothes (shirt, pants, underwear, and socks) for your child in a Zip-Loc bag
- Bring a plant for your child to care for throughout the year

Happy Birthday!!!

Aria- Sep. 1st
Maximus- Sep. 6th



ROOM 3

Ms. Nataly
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 material 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 the parts of the body, personal characteristics and understanding self-care. Our classroom is prepared with a variety of materials to encourage these positive and healthy habits.

Through Botany, we will be learning the Parts of an Apple as well as its' Life Cycle. After understanding the process of its growth, we will enjoy a cooking up our own apple pies. To teach the children to care for their environment, please send in a succulent that your child can water and watch grow throughout the year.

Through Geography, we will be learning all about *Where We Live*. This will teach the children all about their country, state, county and city. We will learn our "Continent Song," which you may hear your child sing through the remainder of the year!

Every month we will study a famous artist and genre of music. Our 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 relating composers such as Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin.

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 front desk—a staff member will walk your child back to the classroom. Please remember to label everything your child brings to school as well as an extra set of clothes in a zip lock bag. **We are limited to space-- 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, pictures, books or personal mementos to share with their classmates; Toys will not be shared whatsoever. Share Day is an excellent opportunity for your child to 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 host will be the line leader, feed our class fish, and hold the flag during morning circle.

Fresh water will be provided daily for your child, therefore, please refrain from sending in water bottles or sippy cups.

We'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to August!

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



ROOM 4

Ms. Diana
Ms. Isabelle

Welcome to Room 4! We hope you all had a fun-filled summer vacation. This is such an exciting time of the year with new faces, new work, and new challenges. I can't wait to meet our new class. I am also very happy to have Ms. Isabelle working as my assistant teacher in our classroom. Each week we will talk about a letter (phonetic sound) of the alphabet. This will begin Sept. 10th with 'a' as in apple. The week of Sept. 17th will focus on 'b' as in baby. The week of Sept. 24th will focus on 'c' as in cookie. Objects beginning with the sound may be sent to school on Monday each

week when the letter and sound are discussed.

There will be mixed emotions everywhere the first week of school. Some children are thrilled to be at school while others have much difficulty making the home to school transition. To make the transition easier for everyone, our unit of study this month is "All About Me" we will have different projects and activities that will help children to know one another and to develop a 'we feeling' in the class.

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. Our classroom is equipped with various materials that will enable your child to explore. 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 7 continents. In our classroom we always have materials available to the children that help them learn their numbers and their sounds. We will always encourage such activities as well as do group lessons where 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 be teaching the children about Classical Music. We will listen to various artists such as: Beethoven, Chopin and Mozart.

Please remember that class starts at 9:00am 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 12:00pm 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.

Every Friday during the school year we have Share Day. This is something the children really look forward to. Please be mindful of what your child is bringing in to share with the class. 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 they 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 Hailey, Preston, Laine, Collette and Blake!



ROOM 5

Ms. Indigo
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. Please be aware of our new time schedule. School will start promptly at 9am. Due to the limited storage in the classroom, please do not bring pillows, backpacks, or stuffed animals.

Fresh water will be supplied every day and all school supplies will be accessible to the students. The month of September is "all about me". 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 be studying an overview of seven continents of the world as well as its oceans.

Please bring a plant for your child to contribute to our garden. The students will water and take care of their plants throughout the school year.

We have so many birthdays to celebrate in the month of September and we would like to remind you that we now are enforcing a strict low sugar policy: Please bring small treats for the children to enjoy such as mini muffins or mini cupcakes. We really want the child to be the focus on 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. You are more than welcome to come in at noon and quietly pick up your child. Thank you so much for your help.

Happy Birthday to Dominic, Dalen, Wyatt and Dahlia!!!



ROOM 6

Ms. Michelle
Ms. Jade

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, 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.

We would like to wish Noah, Audrey and Zack C. a very happy birthday!

Once again, welcome to Room 6!
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ROOM 7

Ms. Megan H
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 children. We will be discussing and practicing proper manners and etiquette alongside other academic subjects: Math, Language, reading, journal/creative writing, science and geometry to name a few. We will also be continuing with the cultural subjects. This will consist of 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! 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 29 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, Current/past news article, a favorite picture, book, etc. Please only bring items from home on our designated share day and no toys.

Our school day starts promptly at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m. 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. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

