



MONTESSORI of LADERA RANCH

December 2018 Newsletter



Important Dates for December

International Potluck / Music Holiday Show

Thursday, DEC 20th

Spirit Week!

Monday DEC 17th through Friday, DEC 21st

Winter Recess

CLOSED – Monday, DEC 24th to Friday, JAN 4th

Holiday Programs ❄️

Our school-wide Holiday Music Show will be Thursday, December 20th @10:30am, prior to our International Potluck. The performance will be held on the big playground. The children have been busy preparing for these special events and we are looking forward to having you all attend. Everyone is welcome to join us for the performance and potluck (with the exception of Room 1 who will enjoy their potluck with teachers only)!

International Potluck Celebration

Our International Celebration will be taking place throughout the month of December culminating in a school-wide International Potluck on Thursday, December 20th, following the Holiday Music Show. During this time of year, we like to have the children focus on their family's heritage. We encourage everyone to take some time and discuss your family's lineage with your children. We would also like to have the children share with the class, traditions celebrated during this time of year. If any parent would like to come into the classroom for Rooms 2 through 7 to discuss a holiday tradition, please let your child's teacher know and we will be happy to have you.

Winter Recess ❄️

School will be closed for Winter Recess from Monday, December 24th through Friday, January 4th. Daycare will be provided to those who sign up ahead of time. Please fill out the sign-up sheet and return it to the office, with payment, no later than Friday, December 14th.

Spirit Week

The last week of school before Winter Break will be Spirit Week. Your child is invited to participate in the following attire choices and/or activities:

- Monday, DEC 17th : Holiday Sweater or Shirt Day
- Tuesday, DEC 18th : Holiday Headband or Hat Day
- Wednesday, DEC 19th : MOLR shirt Day
- Thursday, DEC 20th : Holiday Finest Day
- Friday, DEC 21st : Pajama and Movie Day

Spark of Love ♥️

One of the favorite holiday traditions at Montessori of Ladera Ranch is the toy collection sponsored by the South Orange County Fire Department. Collection bins will soon appear in our lobby and we ask your help in filling them with new, unwrapped toys. The collection boxes will be ready beginning on Monday, December 3rd. On Friday, December 21st, representatives from our local fire house will visit and all the children will have the opportunity to hand a firefighter one of the toys.

See's Candies Fundraiser 🍬

Get those candy orders in for See's Candies! The orders forms will be DUE on December 3rd!

Holiday Boutique

Monday, December 10th through Friday, December 14th will be our Holiday Boutique. Please feel free to stop by and browse the local vendors. If anyone is interested in selling at the boutique, email or speak to Lillie Rellin at the front office.

***Tuition Reminder:** The yearly tuition is divided into 10 equal monthly payments for your convenience. Payments are equal *regardless* of the number of days school is held during a particular month. There are no reductions for holidays, illness, and family vacations.



Room 1

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



Heads up for your January planning!

School will be CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day on Monday, January 21st, 2019. Progress Reports will be distributed on January the 25th.



Teachers of the Month for December!

Ms. Indigo and Ms. Jocelyn!

Ms. Indigo has been part of the MOLR team for the past six years. She began working with the elementary age children leading our afternoon daycare program. She earned her Montessori teaching credential and student taught in elementary and preschool before taking over her own preschool class three years ago. Ms. Indigo will graduate from Cal State Fullerton this spring with her bachelor's degree in child development. She is one of our most enthusiastic teachers. Some of the comments from her co-workers were, "she inspires the children", "she is creative and always willing to share ideas", and "she is always so fun, and her students adore her". We are certainly thankful to have her on staff.

Ms. Jocelyn has been part of our team for the past two and a half years. She took a break from nursing school to come and work for a while with children and we won't let her go! She mainly works with the toddlers in room one, but she moonlights in preschool and the office. She is smart, and kind and an amazing teacher. Some of the comments from her co-workers were, "she is such an intelligent kind person who is always smiling", "she always helps others", and "she is such a hard worker and a great team player". We are so very lucky to have her!

I won't go on and on about the swift passage of time, but this school year has literally zoomed by. We've had a great start thanks, in part, to the support of our wonderful parents. First of all, thanks to everyone who signed up for the seemingly endless round of potlucks. As a recap, our Harvest Feast was delicious, and you would be surprised by the number of children who at least tasted or actually chowed down on the Stone Soup. (Moral of the Story: children are more inclined to eat what they have a hand in preparing.)

On the subjects of potlucks, on Thursday, December 20th, we will have our International Potluck. I will post a signup sheet shortly and ask that you bring items that reflect your family's heritage. This will be a tasting menu, so there's no need to bring huge catering pans of victuals. It's just a nice opportunity for the children to taste different food! All students, regardless of their schedule, are invited to class on that day from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

The toddlers in Room 1 will be joining the preschool and elementary classes in the Holiday Program on Thursday, December 20th at 10:30 AM on the preschool playground. After the show, the teachers and children will be retiring to Room 1 to enjoy our International Potluck.

In the spirit of the season, we would like to give back by providing lunch for the children on Wednesday, December 19th. We will prepare a main course as part of our monthly cooking project and fill in with extra goodies provided by the teachers. No lunchbox will be needed that day! Yeah! One less thing to do!

All of the teachers have been hard at work transforming our classroom into a mini Winter Wonderland. We are suspending our Color of the Month and Book of the Month curriculum to leave more time to explore ALL the colors and the books of the season. We will don festive headgear and sing tons of holiday favorites including "The 12 Days of Christmas," "Jingle Bells," "The Dreidel Song," and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." We will continue with our Song of the Month from November ("Over the River and Through the

Woods”) because it is such a favorite with the toddler crowd! Our friends will be busy exploring the seasonal work (jingle bell pouring, the holiday open/close work, the Father Frost and toy soldier nesting dolls, lighting the menorah, and decorating our own small holiday tree) and we ALL have been hard at work on a special gift for Mom and Dad!

We would like to welcome our newest students to Room 1 – Luma Cantoni and Chi Chi Nguyen. We are also proud to report John Sanchez has settled into Room 4 as a new toddler transfer.

I hope everyone has a perfectly wonderful holiday season, full of love and light!



Room 2

Ms. Jasmine
Ms. Shafa

We have successfully completed the month of November. We learned about the importance of farmers, identified farm animals, along with identifying some of the machinery used. In science, we studied the parts of a leaf, became familiar with the lifecycle of a horse, and experimented the concept of sink and float. It was a pleasure meeting with you and discussing your child’s achievements and goals during conferences. Room 2 had a wonderful Harvest Feast, thank you to all the parents who contributed and made the potluck a success. On to the final month of 2018 we go!

The unit for this month will be Arctic Animals. We will become familiar with the animals found in the Arctic and discuss the special features that allow them to survive in the cold weather. In science, I will introduce the parts of a fish. The children will also be exploring the parts of a root for botany.

Our artist of the month will be Andy Warhol. During music time we will get into the Holiday Spirit by listening to Holiday Music from around the world.

The children will have an opportunity to share some traditions about their family heritage this month. They will be receiving a poster where they can either draw or paste pictures about some traditions. They can also write some fun facts down to share with the class.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Holiday Music Show and at our International Potluck on Thursday, December 20th!



Room 3

Ms. Nataly
Ms. Linda

December is here! I can’t believe we are reaching the end of the first half of the school year already! Thank you for all your help making the Thanksgiving Feast and Stone Soup so enjoyable for the children.

Our travels through North America were wonderful and the children have enjoyed learning about the continent they live on along with the surrounding countries, and the different wonders of each. The children are amazing me every day with their ability to memorize what we are learning!

Brrrrrr it’s cold--Winter has begun taking over Room 3! We will be traveling to Antarctica, the white continent, this month. One focus will be the difference in climate compared to our previously studied continent. We will also discuss the different animals of Antarctica and people who live there. Exploration of the different holidays celebrated will be discussed through our *Winter Around the World Unit*.

In correlation with our Antarctic Theme, Parts of an Orca will be studied through Zoology. We will discover the characteristics of Orcas, what they eat and how they survive the freezing winter!

The art of the month will be a *Solstice Winter*, using water color, pastels and a pop of iridescent snowfall.

This month we will also be learning about our different heritages and celebrate with an international potluck on December 20th. Each child will get the chance to create a poster about their heritage and share it with the class. This can include anything related to the countries that your child comes from, such as food, hobbies, people and places.

Keep in mind that with the seasons changing, so do our little immune systems. Please remember to bring a jacket for your child and a set of WARM extra clothes.

Our annual Holiday Music Show will take place, December 20, with the International Potluck following. School will be closed for Winter Break, December 24th-January 4th. We are open for childcare 8:00am-4:00pm, which can be signed up at the front desk.

Happy December Birthday's to Maxxim, Caden, Charlotte and Aubrey!
Have a happy and wonderful holiday season ☺



Room 4

Ms. Diana
Ms. Isabelle

We hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed the long weekend. We had a successful Harvest Feast in our class, as well as our creation of Stone Soup. The children really enjoyed both activities. Our warmest thanks to all the parents who participated in providing the food, helped set our table, and attended the feast. Winter Holidays are here again! We are very busy making arts and crafts projects to adorn our walls in the classroom.

As we move through December, we have many exciting units for the children. We will continue our exploration of the seven continents by introducing Antarctica. This will include an in-depth look at many of the fascinating arctic animals. That being said we will be discussing the parts of a bird, by focusing on a penguin. We have prepared materials and activities to reinforce these exciting units of study! We will also be learning about some land and water formations, specifically about islands and lakes. I want to give the children a good understanding of each formation. We have really wonderful Montessori materials that will allow the child to visually see the difference between the two.

For music this month we will continue to learn about some American Artists. We will also be listening to Holiday music throughout the month. The artist we will be studying is Grandma Moses.

December also brings us to our Holiday show. The children have been practicing their songs each and every day and really look forward to performing for all of you! Our Holiday Program will be Thursday, December 20th at 10:30am. All parents and family are welcome! Immediately following our Holiday Program, we will be having our International Holiday Party. This

is a really wonderful opportunity for the children to share a variety of food from different countries. There will be a sign-up sheet on the door in early December.

Now that it is getting cooler, please have your child bring a jacket with his/her name on it.

Have a very beautiful holiday filled with peace, love and happiness. Also wishing you a Happy New Year!
Happy Birthday to Lee and Lizzy!



Room 5

Ms. Indigo
Ms. Veronica

The month of November is now behind us, and we welcome the month of December! This is personally my favorite month and I am thrilled for the holidays. I would like to start off by thanking all the parents who came to parent teacher conferences. We would also like to thank you for participating in our Thanksgiving Feast and for contributing to our Stone Soup. It's wonderful to see the children come together and create a soup out of the magical ingredient: sharing. The kids had a blast and it is always wonderful to watch their reactions during these fun events.

The month of December is going to be full of holiday cheer. We will have our annual music show on Thursday, December 20th at 10:30am. This month will also be devoted to the children's heritage. I will be sending home a white poster which your child can decorate and present to the classroom. We would love to know where they come from, the foods that are popular in that country and some facts.

On Thursday, December 20th, we will be having our international potluck at 11:30am during the children's lunchtime. The children will have the opportunity to taste different foods from their cultural backgrounds. *Please have the poster done before Thursday the 20th.

This month we will be studying parts of a penguin, the continent of Antarctica, listening to holiday music during work time, learning about musicians that created famous holiday songs, and discussing the major holidays that are celebrated during the month of December: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. Lastly school is closed for Winter Recess from December 24th to

January 4th. Daycare will be offered during those two weeks. Please ask for a slip at the front desk.

Happy Birthday Everett, Olivia, Eden and Adam!
Have a wonderful holiday season!



Room 6

Ms. Michelle
Ms. Jade

Happy December!

I can't believe the holidays are here. We will be spending the next couple of weeks practicing for our school-wide Holiday Show. The school-wide show will take place on December 20th, along with our International Potluck. As in the past, we are asking that you bring a favorite dish from the country of your origin to be shared at the potluck. It is a very special day for the children and we would love it if you all could come.

Please be looking for a card with your child's name on it that I will be placing in their folder. On the card, please attach a small picture of your child, the country of your family's origin and your family's favorite holiday traditions. We will be sharing these in circle time and hanging them up for all to see.

For the month of December, we will begin our travels into the continent of Antarctica. For our listening enjoyment, holiday music will be playing and our cooking project for the month will be sugar cookies that the children will decorate and share at our party.

Birthday wishes go out to Owen, Olivia and Max.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday!



Room 7

Ms. Megan H
Ms. Sarah

Welcome to the month of December! We cannot believe 2018 is already coming to an end. It has been a great year and thank you for making the past few months of school wonderful. We would like to thank all the parents who made the month of November special for the children. They truly enjoyed the Harvest Feast and cooking the Stone Soup together.

As we move through December, we have many exciting units for the children. We will continue our exploration of the seven continents by introducing Antarctica. This will include an in-depth look at many of the fascinating arctic animals. That being said, we will be discussing the parts of a bird by focusing on a penguin. We have prepared materials and activities to reinforce these exciting units of study!

We will also be learning about some land and water formations, specifically islands and lakes. I want to give the children a good understanding of each formation; we have really wonderful Montessori materials that will allow the child to visually see the difference between the two.

For music this month we will continue to learn about some American Artists. We will also be listening to Holiday music throughout the month. The artist we will be studying is Jackson Pollock.

December also brings us to our Holiday Show. The children have been practicing their songs each and every day and really look forward to performing for all of you! Our Holiday Program will be Thursday, December 20th at 10:30am. All parents and family are welcome! Immediately following our Holiday Program, we will be having our International Holiday Party. This is a really wonderful opportunity for the children to share a variety of food from different countries. There will be a sign-up on the door in early December. Now that it is getting cooler, please bring your child a jacket with his/her name on it. We already started rehearsing for our holiday show!

Please do not hesitate to drop by or contact me through my email should you have any questions. Our door is always open for you.

