



MONTESSORI of LADERA RANCH

December 2021 Newsletter



*"Of all things,
love is the
most potent."*

Dr. Maria Montessori

Important Dates for December

Last day to turn in your See's Candies forms:
Tuesday, November 30th!

Last day to turn in your Winter Recess sign up with
payment: Friday, December 10th!

Holiday Music and Dance Show:
Wednesday, December 15th at 10:15am!

2nd Parents Night Out: Friday, December 17th!

Winter Recess closure: Monday, December 20th
through Friday, December 31st!

Winter is coming!

We have lots of fun and exciting days ahead of us. Winter will not officially begin until December 21, but here at Montessori, we cannot wait to start all the holiday fun.

Unfortunately, this year we are unable to participate in a few holiday classics but that will not keep the holiday spirit away. Please read on to see what we will be doing to celebrate the season.

Also, a HUGE thank you to all who donated to our food drive. The Laguna Food Pantry was super appreciative of all the help they received from our Montessori families. Thank you all so much for making a difference and helping our community and those in need.

We brought in 265 pounds of food!!

As Dr. Montessori teaches us:

"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected to each other to form one whole unity."

Thank you for being a part of our community and showing our children how helping those in need is important and instilling that kindness in our future generations.

Winter Recess ❄️

School will be closed for Winter Recess from Monday, December 20th through Friday, December 31st. Daycare will be provided to those who sign up ahead of time. Please fill out the Winter Recess sign-up sheet located at the front office and return it with payment, no later than Friday, December 10th.

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 12/13: Holiday Sweater or Shirt Day
- ✓ Tuesday 12/14: Holiday Headband or Hat Day
- ✓ Wednesday 12/15: Holiday Finest Day
- ✓ Thursday 12/16: MOLR Shirt Day
- ✓ Friday 12/17: Pajama and Movie Day

Holiday Music Show 🎅

Our annual Holiday Music and Dance Show will be performed on the big playground on Wednesday, December 15th at 10:15am.

Parents Night Out 🎉

Our second Parents Night Out will be Friday, December 17th from 6pm to 10pm. Sign up at the front office!

See's Candies Fundraiser

Orders will be arriving in mid-December right before we go on our holiday break. I will send out an email when the candy orders arrive at Montessori of Ladera Ranch.

A Few Reminders!

Brrr! Cold weather is around the corner – please make sure your child comes to school with a jacket or sweater daily. Also, please label all items with your child's name!

The flu season is here! Please **DO NOT** send your child to school if he/she has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or colored mucus. In addition, he/she must be free of these symptoms for a *complete* 24 hours before returning to school. Please notify the school of any illnesses, and if your child will be absent. Your child must be picked up in a timely manner should he/she become ill at school. We understand that this can pose a problem for working parents; however, we don't have a separate facility where a sick child can stay for an extended period of time. Now is the time to make alternative pick-up arrangements if you are prevented from leaving work.

Please keep in mind that late arrivals to school are not only difficult for the late child arriving to a class that has already begun, but it is also a distraction to the children who are already participating in circle time. Also, please keep in mind that the teachers have prepared lessons and activities for all of the children. When there are constant disruptions after class has started, it makes it difficult for all of the children to settle into their school day. An "on time" drop-off will help eliminate confusion, tears, and sad good-byes.

Toddlers and Preschool classrooms (Rooms 1 through 5) begin at 9:00 am.
Elementary (Rooms 6 and 7) begins promptly at 8:45 am.



Music News from Ms. Karen

Holy cow, where has the year gone? I trust you all had a nice Thanksgiving break. Thanks to the parents who have been sending clips of their children belting out some of the tunes we've learned in music class. It simply makes my day.

It's so fun to be heading into the winter holidays and singing seasonal tunes with the children. We have been practicing hard for our Holiday Music Show to be presented to all the parents on Wednesday, December 15th at 10:30 am. All the classrooms will gather on the big playground to regale you with song. Ms. Melissa's dance class will also be performing, and a merry time will be had by all.

The happiest of holidays to you all!



Room 1

Ms. Jocelyn
Ms. Yoko
Ms. Sofia
Ms. Lidija

Goodbye November, hello December! I can't believe it's already December! The year is going by super-fast! We've had a great start thanks, in part, to the support of our wonderful parents. You are all GREATLY appreciated!

In the spirit of the season, we would like to give back by providing lunch for the children on Wednesday, December 8th. We will prepare a main course as part of our monthly cooking project. Please continue to provide morning and afternoon snacks for your child.

All the teachers have been hard at work transforming our classroom into a 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 sing holiday favorites including "The 12 Days of Christmas," "Jingle Bells," "The Dreidel Song" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" (just to name a few). 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. Lastly, we ALL have been hard at work on a special gift for Mom and Dad!

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Robert and Celine!
Have a safe and happy holiday!



Room 2

Ms. Emma
Ms. Vivian

Hello all and welcome to December!

We have a month full of fun, wonder, excitement, and anticipation. This month with Christmas quickly approaching, we will be making holiday cookies for our cooking project. We will be listening to holiday music in the classroom. And you guessed it! We will be having plenty of holiday arts and crafts activities. We will also be learning about Antarctica for our geography unit this month. Tying these cooler temperatures in with our zoology unit, we will also study the parts of the polar bear and discuss what makes an animal a 'mammal'.

We will be turning into scientists as we learn what makes objects sink and float and what buoyancy means.

This month is going to be full, but fabulous. We get to celebrate not just one, but two, birthdays this month! If you see Gabrielle or Teya, make sure you tell them happy birthday!

I hope you all are safe and well in this most happy time. Wishing all of you the happiest of holidays and the most peaceful new year!



Room 3

Ms. Jasmine
Ms. Sofia

We have successfully completed the month of November. We learned how to identify fruits from vegetables, and have been working on naming each fruit and vegetable. In science, we studied the parts of a bird. Learning about North America allowed the children to understand where they live, from the continent down to the city. It was a pleasure meeting with you and discussing your child's achievements and goals during conferences. Room 3 had a wonderful time sharing and enjoying their Stone Soup! Thank you to all the parents who contributed and made our soup delicious. On to the final month of 2021 we go!

The unit for this month will be Living vs. Non-living. 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 polar bear. The children will also be exploring the parts of a root for botany.

During music time we will get into the Holiday Spirit by listening to Holiday Music from around the world. We will be making hot chocolate and cookies for our cooking project this month!

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.

Happy Birthday to Wyatt, Audrey W., and Nate!
Have a wonderful holiday!



Room 4

Ms. Isabelle
Ms. Kaitlyn

During the month of November, the children learned about our continent of North America, the parts of a turkey, and we finished the month by exploring the continents and oceans. Our cooking project was pumpkin pie in a cup, and our music during work time was Frederic Chopin. We celebrated a Montessori of Ladera Ranch tradition by making our own Stone Soup, during which the children participated by all bringing different ingredients from home to bring together for the soup. It is a wonderful tradition that celebrates the idea of togetherness and sharing.

We will be starting the month of December learning about the mountains of the world by focusing on each of seven continents. We will also be learning about Arctic animals, and the different holidays celebrated around the world. During work time, we will be listening to holiday music. Our cooking projects for the month will grinch kabobs and Christmas sugar cookies. We will have a special visitor through the month, Buddy the Elf! He will be watching throughout the day and reporting each night to Santa at the North Pole.

Have a great holiday and see you next year!
Happy birthday to Jacob D. and Charley B.!



Room 5

Ms. Abby
Ms. Veronica

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It's
DECEMBER!

We had a great month in November! We learned about magnetism, the parts of a turkey, and the United States!

We also carried on a Montessori of Ladera Ranch tradition by making Stone Soup, which the kids loved making AND eating! Thank you to everyone who contributed to make our soup delicious! It was also great being able to meet with you all for conferences to tell you about your lovely children!

This month, our unit of study will be naming animals.

We will learn about animals all over the world and where they can be found. Specifically, because we will be focusing on Antarctica in geography, we will be learning about the animals that live there. In science, we will be discussing what sorts of objects sink and float. Our cooking project for the month will be holiday cookies and hot chocolate to get us in the holiday spirit!

As a reminder, we have brought back Snack Hosts! If you would like to sign up for your child to bring snacks for the class one day each month, there will be a calendar outside the classroom door. Please bring enough individually wrapped snacks for 26 children. The Snack Host will have a special vest to wear (often called the Snack Host Cape by the children), get to hold the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance, be the line leader all day, and feed the fish in our classroom! If you have any Snack Host questions- please let me know.

I can't believe we are in the last month of the year, and I can't wait for all the fun festivities!

Happy Birthday to Luke, Liam, and Eloise!



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 Holiday Show, making fun crafts, and baking cookies. It is a tradition in Room 6 that during the month of December, the children share their heritage. I will be sending home a card with your child's name on the front. Please place a small picture of your family and tell us the country of your family's origin. You might also include some of your family's favorite holiday traditions. Some examples might be opening one present on Christmas Eve, lighting the menorah during Hanukkah, baking cookies, or singing songs. The children can then bring their cards back to class to share with their friends.

For the month of December, we will begin our travels through 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 with their friends.

Birthday wishes go out this month to Justin.
Have a safe and happy holiday and a happy new year!



Room 7

Ms. Indigo
Ms. Elissa

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. We would like to thank you for contributing to our Stone Soup project. It's wonderful to see all of us come together and create a soup out of the magical ingredient sharing. The kids had a blast, and it is always wonderful seeing their reactions to such fun events.

The month of December is going to be full of holiday cheer. We will have our music show on Wednesday, December 15th. This month is also a 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.

This month we will be practicing every day on our holiday poems along with bringing holiday cheer to the classroom. We will be visited by the famous 'Mensch on the Bench' and will be solving riddles all month long. I would appreciate if everyone will allow the children to run with their imagination and believe in what the Mensch stands for. This is a team bonding activity for the children to come together. We will also be discussing the major holidays that are celebrated during the month of December: Hannukah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. If there is another holiday your family celebrates during the holiday season, please let me know! Lastly school is closed from December 20th to December 31st. Daycare is offered for those two weeks.

Please ask for a slip at the front desk. This is due December 10th.

Happy birthday to William and Vivian! 😊