

MONTESSORI

Child Development Center

Happy New Year! We are excited to be back, and we look forward to a memorable 2013. We hope everyone had a restful, fun, and well-needed family time together. We are ready to tackle this new year, to learn new things, to make new friends, and to make new memories. Welcome back to MCDC!

Thanks a Bunch!

Our holidays were so special because of all the warmth and love we received from our families at MCDC. It is always a joy being a part of your children's lives. We are grateful for giving us the strength to teach, the motivation to inspire children, and the drive to make a positive change in children's lives.

Thank you for your holiday wishes and treats. Thank you for volunteering in our classrooms. Thank you for your support. Thank you for a wonderful 2012!

Grinch DVD's are still available to order. Cost is \$25. Make your check out to MCDC.

Please share pictures you have taken to the school for any school related events. We are collecting pictures for our yearbook.

Dates to Remember

18 – First Term Progress Reports

21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day / No School

1 – (February) Picture Day

Hot lunches Cancelled

Due to not being able to maintain the minimum daily orders for hot lunches, we have cancelled our hot lunches with Catertots.

We know it was a convenience to some parents and we apologize that we are unable to continue the service.

We will continue to look for alternate hot lunch company.

Let's Talk Montessori

What we mean when we say...

Absorbent Mind

Absorbent mind refers to the time from birth to 6 when children are capable of absorbing huge amount of information about their environment through their senses.

Children are like sponges during the absorbent mind. They are capable of learning multiple languages, develop motor and cognitive skills, copy social skills from adults around them, and acquire expectations about how the world will treat them.

The first phase from birth to three is the period of unconscious absorbent mind. The child learns to speak, gains control of the hands and learns to become independent from the adult.

The second phase from three to six is the conscious absorbent mind. The child has freedom to move purposefully, to choose, and to concentrate.

The child is soaking up information during the absorbent mind period. Montessori created a classroom environment that will fill up the sponges. There are lessons and materials in Math, Language, Geography, Botany, Zoology, Astronomy, Sensorial education, and activities in Practical life. Discoveries and questions are answered by use of the materials. Knowledge builds as children explore the classroom.

These sponges absorb everything in their environment. If students are learning about a subject at school, it would fill their need absorb by exploring more outside of school such as a trip to the museum, park, or library.

Progress Reports

The first term progress reports will be sent home on January 18. Please review your child's progress report carefully.

The Toddler progress reports will show the child's emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth in school. It's a simple report of how your child is doing in school. The notations on the progress include: Always, Sometimes, and Never. A brief description of the their favorite tasks are included in the teacher's comments.

The Primary student's progress report will vary based on their level: Primary first year, Primary second year, and Primary third year. Your child's progress report is based on age and year of Montessori attendance. The notations on the progress report include "I" for Introduced, which means an initial presentation either during group or individual has been given. "P" for Practicing means the child is currently working on the material and is usually still dependent on the teacher's guidance to complete the task. "M" for mastered means the child has shown mastery of the material or lesson and is able to complete the task independently, as well as retell or reteach the lesson. Repetition for work is the key to mastery, so we encourage students to continue to practice their work everyday. Once mastered, the child may move up to the next level. The progress report shows a sequence of lessons and materials. Therefore, the report is also intended to guide parents as to what lesson your child will be taught next.

The Elementary progress report is unique for each grade level. The Montessori standards and California Education standards are integrated into the report card. No grade markings are used as each student should be working on mastering the concepts by the end of the school year. The progress report record and assess each student's academic and social development. Keep in mind that students may be at different levels of learning growth and may be completing subjects in a different grade level. The teacher's comments will give parents a summary of student's overall progress and achievement over a certain period of time.

In summary, the progress report is an important tool for parents to understand what and how your child is learning in school. It can show positive or possible developmental or academic problems. It is a valuable source of information to help guide parents and future teachers.

This progress report is an evaluation from September through December. Remember that each child learns at his or her own pace, but by providing an environment that encourages to learn, our devotion to be always teaching, our continuous observation, and our drive to make learning fun, our student's will truly love to learn from within and carry that habit for life.

Spread the Word

Our school is strong as ever in its 24th year in the City of Huntington Beach. In the past 9 years, directors Mrs. Ann and Mrs. Cyndi have been working hard to preserve the authenticity of the Montessori program which was established by IAPM (International Association of Progressive Montessori) director and trainer, Mrs. Balasuriya.

A true Montessori system of education is the basis of MCDC's existence. The philosophy is simple: to follow the Montessori methods, to use the Montessori materials, to create a prepared and carefully designed environment, and to follow the Montessori approach. These four basic components are what MCDC strives for as a school. These set MCDC apart from other Montessori schools. In addition, the school is built with family and children in mind. MCDC's mission is to create a nurturing environment for all children with respect to all things around, enrich the intellectual minds, and teach children to value and enjoy learning.

Help us spread the wonderful things you love about MCDC. We welcome your comments via email, which maybe posted on MCDC's website. We also welcome comments at YELP and Greatschools.org. Type Montessori Child Development Center and tell everyone what you think. We have received some wonderful comments throughout the years through parent thank you cards, emails, and letters. It is always encouraging to hear positive comments about our school.

The Worms are Here

The Joyful Garden has been a rewarding project for all students. The children enjoy planting, harvesting, and tasting their vegetables and fruits. This garden has become more than just a place to grow plants, it has become a place to learn about the environment. Recently, Golden West College and its project team came to teach the children about composting and how what we throw out in the trash such as apple cores and banana peels can be used to recycle back in our soils. So if you've heard of worms in school, the rumor is quite true. We are raising worms to learn about how these animals are natural recyclers for our earth. If you'd like to take a peek, you'll find a small black box in the Joyful Garden.

The students are not only learning about gardening, but so much more! With this in mind, we encourage parents to contribute plants, dirt, seeds, gardening tools, or anything pertaining to keep our garden project rich. Donations may be dropped off in the garden area. Cash donations are acceptable too.

Our special thanks to Ms. Cindy G (Kaleb's grandma) for donating a shed and gardening tools. She is also our garden mentor who has led the Elementary students to this big project. Her wish list for the garden includes tools such as shovel, hoe, and rake.

Looking Back at the Grinch

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas play was so much fun! A big congratulations to all our students on a wonderful performance. It is always a treat to watch children perform on stage and we truly enjoyed every bit of it. We are so proud of them all.

Our 6th graders deserve a special recognition on their final performance. It is bitter-sweet as this being their final show, but we are sure they will be on stage many more times.

Congratulations to Erika Estrella, who played the mother and Ashley Vu, who played the Grinch for a job well done. Both students have been performing on MCDC's annual holiday shows since the age of 3. What an accomplishment!

These annual performances are not only entertaining for all but it surely gives children confidence, poise, and pride. Our younger ones enjoyed the performance and being the stars of the evening. As for our elementary students, they enjoyed the process of auditioning for their parts, rehearsing for their roles, putting on hair and makeup, and performing for over 250 audience members. They will carry this experience for life and will recall it as a highlight of their school years.

We are able to keep our annual holiday shows alive with support from our parents. Every year, we try to create simple ways to raise funds to support our theatre program. Ms. Cyndi always does a wonderful job producing most everything you see on stage including the script, costumes, props, and more. With collaboration from the teachers and support from parents, we are able to put together a magical show each year.

One of the ways you are able to support the theatre program is by having your children's artwork framed. For \$25, Ms. Cyndi will frame your favorite art work. The profit is used towards the theatre program. Simply drop off your artwork in the office and fill out an order form. Your child's artwork is precious and parents have used them to decorate their home, office or give them as gifts to grandparents. It's a simple fundraiser and we hope that you are able to participate throughout the school year. Our goal is to raise \$1000 for next year's play.

*On Going School Charity Projects
and Donation Needs*

*Chieng Brothers Recycle Project
Bring empty cans and
bottles to be recycled by
the Chieng brothers. ½ of
the profit goes to MCDC's
Joyful Garden.*

*Peru School Library Project
Bring Spanish books to
help replenish books when
their library burned down*

*Peru Used Shoes Donation
Bring usable shoes for school
aged children*

*Plastic Grocery Bags Recycling
For diapers in our toddlers
Class*

*Box Tops for Schools
Cut up box for schools from
products and goods used
at home. The school will
earn points*

*Joyful Garden Project
Garden items needed*

*Scholastic Books
The school will earn points
for all book orders*

*Class Wish Tree
Teachers wish list for their
classroom*

Self portrait T-shirts are back!

The most popular school t-shirt is back. Your child will draw his or her self portrait and it will be printed on a t-shirt with all their friends. It's so cool but can only be ordered in one printing. So be sure to pre-order yours today. Forms are available in the classrooms. Place your order forms and \$10 in the self portrait envelope. Adult sizes are available and they are great gifts for the entire family.

Emergency Plan

MCDC takes proactive measures to protect the safety of all our students and staff. The actions taken during any type of emergency situation depend a great deal on the specifics of the incident. For example, MCDC may evacuate, lock down, or initiate a shelter-in-place response, according to the threat. The main objective is to protect the students and staff members. Most importantly, MCDC would follow direction from public safety officials.

A campus-wide drill takes place each month. This allows us to practice fire, earthquake, and lock down drills. MCDC also complies with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) and is prepared to perform during emergencies. Supplies of food, water, first aid, and tools are available in school. The teachers are assigned in teams such as command, damage assessment, search and rescue, first aid, sanitation, parent pick up, and supervision to assist our school in a major disaster. The main area for gathering is the back field. The students will remain in this area until it is safe to return in the building. Parents are discouraged to call the school during an emergency. Our priorities are to ensure that our school is safe, which may include calling for emergency personnel and attending to our students. We will be able to address parents as soon as the emergency situation is handled. We will call and/or email parents of our status.

Parents should register with ALERTOC for Huntington Beach to get instructions for emergencies in the area. An emergency section will be posted in our website .

One of the most important things parents can do to help is to make sure your child is signed in and out every day from school. The school and emergency personnel rely on this roster during emergency situations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Years Old

Aurelie January 4

3 Years Old

Grace January 18

Russel January 6

6 Years Old

Ava A. January 25

7 Years Old

Sadie January 11

Audrey January 12

Teachers

Ms. Dee January 30