
DECEMBER

Montessori School of Sonoma

Important Dates:

**December 25th-
January 5th**

**Winter Break
School Closed**



January 8th

School Resumes



January 15th

**Martin Luther King Jr
School Closed**



February 19th

**Presidents Day
School Closed**



“Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child.”

~Maria Montessori

Thank You!

Thank you for joining us for our Thanksgiving Feast. It is one of our favorite gatherings for all of our children and families! We hope that you enjoyed all of the yummy food your children prepared as much as we did! Special thanks to the parents who volunteered to set up, clean up, and helped to bake the pumpkin muffins with their Primary students!



School Wide Reminders:

Cold Weather:

The weather is cold and wet on most days. Please **check your child's spare clothing** to be sure that all of their options fit and are weather appropriate.

Please Call!

Or email if your child will be absent from school!



Health Policy:

As we are in the height of cold, flu and COVID season, please take a moment to review our health policy. Your cooperation in adhering to our health policy protects our students, families and staff from illness. Thank you!

We would like to make every effort to keep our students and staff healthy. In deciding whether or not to send your child to school when s/he is only a "little bit sick," a general rule of thumb is if your child is too sick to play outside, they should stay home. Your child should stay home if you observe the following:

- Fever greater than 100.4°F/38°C
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Heavy nasal congestion
- Rash
- Chills

Children need to stay home for a minimum of 24 hours after vomiting, diarrhea, or fever. Please remember that "sick is sick," regardless of a negative COVID test. Please notify the school when your child is absent due to illness.

Infant Corner:



Thank you so much for meeting with us for conferences. We enjoy connecting with you and sharing about your child's experience at school, and hearing more about their family life at home. We feel like it's very important for you child's time and experience with us to keep the communication open throughout the year as they grow and change. As you know, everyone is developing at a rapid pace and friendships and language are blossoming.



The upcoming months will be rainy and wet, however we will make a point to play outside as much possible. Please bring weather appropriate extra clothes (including socks!) to keep at school for daily changes. When we do have to stay inside longer we include more gross motor activities and movement in the classroom.



As we approach the holiday break, we have some age appropriate gift ideas for your child. Child size table and chairs are great for them to practice sitting autonomously. Also new books are always a great gift! We also encourage introducing art supplies for their fine motor practice, like thick crayons, large markers, or an easel with paint. And most of all, spending time together as a family is the best gift given at this age!

Happy Holidays,
Julia & Katherine

Toddler Corner:



Dear Toddler Parents,

Thank you to all of our parents who came and met for conferences. Please remember that conferences are not the only time we can talk about your child one on one; always reach out if you have any concerns and we will do the same!

The Holidays are upon us. We are so excited for the glitter, the jingle bells, and especially the lights. We will be creating lights and much more this month to decorate our classroom. Our new work this month includes a favorite elf puzzle, a tiny train and our many holiday books.

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays it's hard to keep to our regular schedules. Toddlers thrive on regular rhythm. They like predictability of knowing what is happening and what is coming next. A regular routine provides us a feeling of safety and security. We don't need to keep the exact minute of a fixed schedule. But there is value to have our rhythm follow the same pattern every day. The child is then able to predict what is happening next. The rhythm follows the child's energy and interests, which may be different from time to time. We can then know ahead of time that this may be a difficult transition and prepare ourselves and our child accordingly. This time of year there is a lot of excitement and energy. Let's embrace our children and relish in their joy.

During Winter Break try out our recipe for play dough! It's easy and fun to play with on chilly days when it's warm from the pot.

Ingredients:

2 Cups of Flour
2 Cups of Water
1 Cup of Table Salt
4 tsp Cream of Tartar
2 tbs Vegetable Oil
Food Coloring (optional)

Directions:

Mix everything together and cook over medium high heat, stirring until a ball forms (about 3 minutes). Turn out onto wax paper, let cool, and have fun!

Happy Holidays,
Christine, Vivian & Claudia

Primary Corner:

Dear Families,

First of all thank you so much for showing up to the conferences. We learned a lot more about your children and their interests at home.

For the remainder of the year we will summarize and review what we've discovered and tasted in our Botany lessons. There is a high probability that the children will come up with a number of unique and flavorful recipes. Let them put you to the test in your own kitchen at home.

Reading, writing and math will continue with exposure and a whole lot of practice. We have strong students and they've accelerated during the past 3 months. Rhyming has become a favorite, flipping words front to back, silly songs with changing vowels, and the usual good old addition and subtraction.

We are traveling to South America. This continent below the equator will introduce us to unknown animals and the Andes and the amazon will amaze us with their extreme habitats and climates. (There is a great documentary about the Andes on Netflix.) If you have a connection to any country and would like to give a presentation to the group we would love it.

Hard to believe we have reached the end of 2023. We wish you a wonderful family time filled with steaming hot chocolates and cookies.

With Gratitude,
Barbara & Rachel



Enrichment Corner:

Hello Enrichment Families!

We have been extra busy these past few weeks from our Harvest Party to our Thanksgiving Feast! We made decorations and created runners for the tables! At circle we enjoyed sharing what we are thankful for and creating a Thankful leaf branch where your children colored and leaf and shared what they are thankful for. If you didn't take it at the feast look out for it in your child's file. In cooking we have really enjoyed making yummy treats like cinnamon spice croissants, English muffin pizzas, chopping celery and parsley, and tearing bread to make stuffing for the feast. Egg bites were a big hit so we may do those again soon!

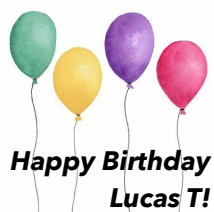
In art we are creating Van Gogh inspired marble art for his Starry Night piece, and some Pete the Cat projects are coming soon. We love being all things creative in the classroom!

Today will be Lindi's last day at Montessori. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and hope to see her around town!

Warmly,
Your Friends in Childcare



DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 	14	15	16
17	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 	27	28	29	30
31	WINTER BREAK SCHOOL CLOSED!					