

SEPTEMBER

Montessori School of Sonoma

Important Dates:

September 3rd
First Day of School!

October 9th
Toddler & Primary
Picture Day

October 10th
Open House

October 14th
Teacher Work Day
School Closed

October 18th
Harvest Party

November 4th-7th
Primary Parent
Teacher Conferences

November 11th
Veterans Day
School Closed

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are looking forward to this year of growth and development with your children! To help facilitate a great start to the year, please read through our monthly newsletter. Please welcome Kari who has joined Lucie in the Childcare Enrichment Classroom. Kari joined us in July and comes to MSS from the Sonoma Charter School. New to our Primary Classroom is Brenda who has joined us from The Presentation School. Brenda will be assisting Rachel in the Primary Program all day and will be joined by Haley in the morning and Christine in the afternoon. While Brenda is new to the Primary Classroom, she was here as a parent when all of her children attended MSS. If you see someone new, please say hello!

School Communication:

If your child will be out from school for any reason, please be sure to **call** or **email** to let us know! We can be reached at info@montessorisonoma.com or 707-996-2422. We would appreciate if you would refrain from contacting teachers directly. **If any of your contact information (phone, email, address, etc.) has changed, please update by emailing info@montessorisonoma.com.**

Sign-In Sheets

Please be sure to sign your child **IN** and **OUT** each day. The sign in sheets are a legal document that requires an adults full legal signature. **We ask that only grown-ups write on the sign in sheets.**





School Wide Reminders:

Sunscreen: Please apply sunscreen to your child(ren) before coming to school. We re-apply in the afternoons. If you have a specific sunscreen that you would like for us to use for your child, please send some to school clearly labeled with their name.

Labels: Please label **every item** that comes to school with your child. For example clothing, jackets, hats, lunch boxes, water bottles should all have your child's name clearly written on them.

Parking Lot: Please drive slowly in the parking lot! And be sure to hold your child's hand while walking to and from the school.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

Primary Students: Please drop off your child at the front door between 8 and 8:30am. You will be greeted by a teacher or staff member who will walk your child down the hall and help them to find their cubby. If you pick up at 11:45AM or 2PM, please wait at the front door for your child. If you pick up between 3-4PM, please walk down the main hall to the play yard to collect your child.

Toddler Students: Please enter the Toddler Classroom via the Toddler Side Yard with your child. Help them to find their cubby and place their lunch inside. Then please drop them off with their teachers in the toddler yard. Pick up at 12PM and 4PM are from the Toddler Yard.

Infant Students: Please walk your child down the main hall to the Infant Classroom. You will be greeted by a teacher who will help put away your child's things in their cubby. Pick up at 12PM and 4PM is the same.

Overtime Charge: Children that remain more than 6 minutes after school closes (4PM) will be charged a late fee of \$6 plus \$1 per minute for each additional minute thereafter. For children who are registered to stay until 5PM the same guidelines apply. A late fee of \$6 will be charged for children picked up after 5:06PM and \$1 per minute thereafter. Please note that you must be registered for the extended hour in order to stay until 5PM. Due to ratio restrictions we cannot accommodate drop-ins. Thank you for your cooperation!

MSS Staff:

Admin: Cathy, Sarah & Danielle

Infant Teachers: Katherine & Julia

Toddler Teachers: Christine, Caitlyn (September), Hayley(PM)
& Welcome Back Cara in October!

Primary Teachers: Rachel, Brenda, Hayley(AM) & Christine(PM)
Enrichment Teachers: Lucie, Kari & Claudia

Infant Corner:

Hello Families!

Summer flew by and as we enter the regular school year we would like to welcome our incoming friends, welcome Woodland, Max, Sebastian and Maxi!

A few reminders as we continue through some warmer weather. Please be sure to apply sunscreen before school starts, we will reapply in the afternoons. If you have a specific brand you prefer for your child, feel free to leave some with us at school. If clothes go home wet or dirty, please replenish your child's stash of clean extra clothes.

When you drop off your child please place their items in their cubby or on their hooks when you enter the room. Any information about what they have happening in their life, how they are sleeping, food related issues or anything else they may have going on is very helpful with a brief exchange in the morning. A quick and consistent goodbye with your child is most effective in the long term as they acclimate to their new routine.

Thank you all for continuing to respect our health policy. We appreciate you keeping all of our students, families, and staff healthy as many bugs get passed around. If you have any questions about the school health policy, please see Danielle.

We look forward to another school year with your wonderful children! Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions for us.

Thank you!

Katherine & Julia



Toddler Corner:

Welcome to our Toddler Class at Montessori School of Sonoma. We are very excited and happy to begin a new school year. Here are a few details and suggestions that will facilitate a smooth start.

- **Diapers - Please No Pull Ups:** If your child wears diapers, please bring a package on the first day of school. These will be kept in our Toddler bathroom on a shelf with your child's name on it. We will request more as needed.
- **Extra Clothes:** Please bring a full set of clothes for your child. Each child is provided a bag in our class for their extra clothes. Please be sure to label each item.
- **Name:** Please clearly put your child's name on their lunchbox, water bottle, sweaters, jackets, hats, etc. Please help us keep your child's things with your child by labeling every item that comes to school. We have 12 children each day to care for, and it's easy for items to get mixed together in the daily shuffle of school!

Each morning we ask your child to put their water on our umbrella table and their lunch in their cubby. It is sometimes difficult for a parent to separate from their child, just as it may be for the child to separate from their parent. Please help your child with their tasks and then say a quick goodbye. As the year progresses you will be able to say goodbye at the gate and your child will take care of their own tasks. If your child cries, let them know that you understand how they feel and that you'll be back soon. Leave without hesitating. Children usually will not continue to cry for more than a few minutes. If there is a problem, we will call you.

The classroom is a community and the ground rules are introduced to keep order, clarify expectations, give the child limits/boundaries and keep everyone safe. The ground rules such as walking, carrying an activity with two hands, rolling up a rug, pushing in chairs, cleaning up after oneself, not disturbing others while working, help provide order, cleanliness, and a safe place to be. The child is able to move freely, which as Maria Montessori says, allows for independence, coordination, order and concentration which leads to a high self-esteem and self-confidence; as well as, self-control and patience. Finally the ground rules teach social responsibility in that we do not do anything that hurts ourselves, others, or the environment.



Each month we will include the lyrics to a song we are singing in the Newsletter. Here is our first song:

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, together, together,

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

'Cause your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends.

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

The more we get together, together, together,

The more we get together, the happier we'll be.

There's Adeline and Callan, and Callie and Cece.

There's Eira and Emma, and Heidi and Jameson.

There's Leo and Lucas, and Mikko and Nash.

There's Ruby and Skylar, and Val and Zane.

The more we get together the happier we'll be!

Toddler Teachers,

Christine, Caitlyn (September Sub), & Hayley (PM)



We are excited to welcome Cara back from her maternity leave in October! Claudia will be graduating to our Childcare Enrichment Program in September, moving up with our transitioning Toddlers. For the month of September, please say hello to Caitlyn who will be subbing for Cara until she returns.

Primary Corner:

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year! We are so glad to see our familiar friends and we look forward to meeting our new families! We are excited to begin a new year of learning, wondering, exploring, and growing. Here’s a little information about our class.

Daily Schedule

Morning Class	Activity	Afternoon Class
9:00-9:20AM	Group time: group lesson, songs, stories, movement	12:30-12:50
9:20-11:20	Work time: individual lessons, independent work	12:50-2:50
11:20-11:45	Group time: songs, stories, movement	2:50-3:15
11:45 Lunch/Dismissal		3:15 Outside play

Our indoor class time begins at 9:00 and our morning outdoor time is devoted to social play and physical activity. We have observed that children who arrive by 8:30 have an easier time transitioning to school, visiting with friends and teachers, and playing!

Curriculum Spotlight: Building Community through Grace and Courtesy Lessons.

“Montessori classrooms are designed to support the development of independence and responsibility in students. This is achieved through a variety of practices, such as allowing students to choose their own work, encouraging them to take care of their own needs (such as getting a snack or using the bathroom), and providing opportunities for them to contribute to the classroom community (such as cleaning up after themselves or helping younger students). By fostering

independence and responsibility, students learn to take ownership of their actions and develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments. Grace and Courtesy lessons help build a strong sense of community within the classroom, as students learn to work together and support one another." (from *Trillium Montessori*)

Clothes and dressing

It is important that your child comes to school in clothes and shoes that are comfortable, easy to manage, and conducive to active movement. Your child may need to change their clothes during the day (Accidents happen! Please supply extra clothes!) We encourage independence and will let your child change him/her self. Please support this practice at home and allow your child to dress so he/she is confident and successful at school. Please only send your child in shoes with laces if they are able to tie them.

Sharing Day is on Thursdays

Your child is welcome to bring one item for sharing. Books, crafts, pictures, photos, and nature treasures are welcome. Toys are best left at home. There is a basket outside our classroom for sharing items.

"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence." Dr. Maria Montessori

We look forward to a productive year working together!

Rachel, Brenda, Hayley & Christine



Childcare Enrichment Corner:

Dear Enrichment Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! We are so excited to start our new year with your children. We will be working side by side with Primary to compliment the Montessori work in their classroom. We will begin the new school year by learning all about ourselves with the theme "All About Me!" We will incorporate this into art projects, work and other activities, including self-portraits and an all about me book.

We will begin each month with our author of the month curriculum, September will be featuring Mo Willems. His books are wonderful stories that focus on friendships, sharing, empathy and playing with friends. We will create art around his books to complement the curriculum.

On Fridays in our classroom we will have "Stuffed Animal Fridays." Your child is welcome to bring in a small stuffy to share on Fridays. Please note that they should be approximately the size of your child's forearm.

Our Daily Schedule

8:00-9:00	Drop Off
9:10-9:15	Line up, come to class, wash hands
9:15-9:30	Circle, welcome songs, calendar, weather
9:30-10:40	Work time
10:40-11:00	Clean up, wash hands, circle, story time
11:00-11:30	Lunchtime
11:30-12:30	Outside play
12:30	Groups switch classrooms
12:30-3:00	Nap time for those who nap
1:00-1:15	Circle
1:15-2:45	Work time
2:45-3:00	Clean up, story time
3:00-4:00	Outside play, pick up
4:00-5:00	Extended hour in the classroom

During the week we will be doing projects, working on our writing skills, learning our numbers, cooking and making our letter of the week. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Thank you,
Lucie, Kari & Claudia



September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  ★ <i>Happy</i> ★ LABOR DAY	3  Happy Birthday Miles! 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10  Happy Birthday Hudson!	11  Happy Birthday Ben & Nova!	12	13  Happy Birthday Adeleine!	14
15	16	17	18  Happy Birthday Mikko!	19  Happy Birthday Nellie!	20	21  Happy Birthday Athena & Maximiliano!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					