

SEPTEMBER

Montessori School of Sonoma

Important Dates:

September 2nd
First Day of School!

October 2nd
Toddler & Primary
Picture Day

October 13th
Teacher Work Day
School Closed

October 16th
Open House

October 24th
Harvest Party

November 4th-7th
Primary Parent
Teacher Conferences

November 11th
Veterans Day
School Closed

“The goal of early
childhood education
should be to activate
the child’s own
natural desire to
learn.”

- *Maria Montessori*



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year, our 53rd year serving children and families in the Sonoma Valley! We are looking forward to this year of growth and development with your children! To help facilitate a smooth start to the school year, please read through our monthly newsletter.

Special Thanks!

During our Summer Sessions several families made donations to enrich our programs! Special thanks to Jim Marshall (Julia’s dad!) for bringing his hot air balloon to our New Mexico stop on our road trip. Thank you to Joaquin and Maxi’s family for donating Mary’s Pizza dough for our cooking camp activities. Luca’s family donated Kollar Chocolates for dipping strawberries. And thank you to Millie and Cal for bringing in a new splash pad! Thank you to all of our families, grandparents and extended families for sharing postcards from all over the world. We had a fun and enriching summer!



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.

Backpacks: Backpacks are not necessary at school. Please send your child with their lunchbox and water bottle only.

School Communication:

If your child will be out from school for any reason, please **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.**

MSS Staff:

Admin: Cathy, Sarah & Danielle

Infant Teachers: Katherine & Julia

Toddler Teachers: (AM) Christine & Caitlyn,
(PM) Cara & Hayley

Primary Teachers: Rachel, Hayley (AM), Cara (AM) &
Christine (PM)

Enrichment Teachers: Lucie, Kari & Claudia

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

School opens at 8am!

Students who arrive prior to 8:00am may wait out front with their adults, as our teachers are busy getting ready to start their day. Thank you!

Primary Students: Please drop off your child between 8:00am and 8:30am. You may drop your child off at the front door or walk with them down the hall to the Big Yard. Please let your child put their lunch box in their cubby and take their water bottles outside. A quick goodbye is best. If your child needs help to separate, a teacher will help to take them for a walk around the yard. When you pick up your child you will find them on the Big Yard. If you pick up at 2PM you may find your child in the Childcare Enrichment classroom. Please let your child collect their lunch, water bottles and any jackets that may have been removed during the day. Please allow your child time to check their files by the front bench for their work and art work to take home. **Morning Primary files are BLUE** and **Afternoon Primary files are RED**. Children should be encouraged to carry their own work and personal items to and from school. This will help them to become independent and confident at school.

Toddler Students: Please drop off your child at the gate to the Toddler Yard. You will be greeted by a teacher who will help your child put away their lunch box and water bottles. A quick goodbye is best! 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. Thank you for your cooperation!

Infant Corner

Hello Families!

Summer flew by and as we enter the regular school year we would like to welcome our new and incoming friends, welcome Beau, Bodie, Dahlia, Frances, Jackson, Louis, Luca and Whitney!

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.

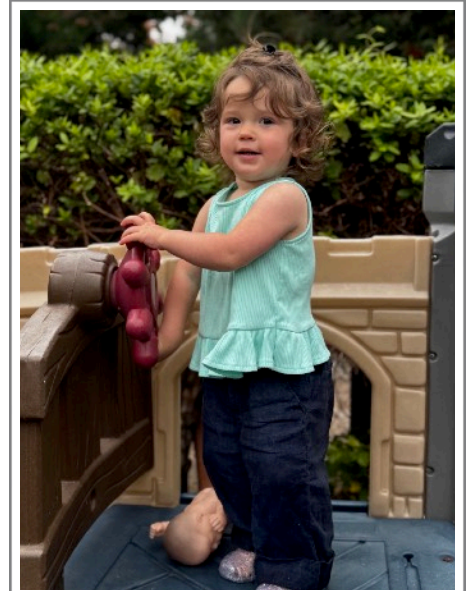
When you drop off your child please place their items in their cubby or on their hooks when you enter the room. Any information about what they have happening in their life, how they are sleeping, food related issues or anything else they may have going on is very helpful with a brief exchange in the 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 you and your child will be greeted at the Toddler Yard gate. Please give your child their water bottle and lunch. We will take any other items. A quick goodbye at the gate is the easiest way for your child to begin their day. Your child will place their water on our outside table and their lunch in their classroom cubby. Separating can be difficult for everyone. Please leave without hesitating. Sometimes children will cry, it usually only lasts for a bit. If there is a problem, we will contact 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 Bria and Cora, and Earl and Ellis.
There's Grant and Isaac, and Lola and Max.
There's Maxi and Ross, and Santi and Sebastian.
There's Woody and Caitlyn, and Christine and all the friends!.
The more we get together the happier we'll be!*

Toddler Teachers,
Christine & Caitlyn (AM), Cara & Hayley (PM)



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 Routine for Both Morning and Afternoon Classes

- Group Time: group lesson, songs, stories, movement
- Work Time: individual lessons, independent work
- Group Time: songs, stories, movement

All Primary Students begin with morning outdoor time which is devoted to social play and physical activity. Our morning class begins promptly at 9:00am with our group circle time. We have observed that children who arrive by 8:30am have an easier time transitioning to school, visiting with friends and teachers, and playing! The afternoon class begins at 12:30pm with our group circle time. Children who stay all day will enjoy outdoor time at the end of the day as well.

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. Accessories, jewelry, and belts are not allowed at school. Please only send your child in shoes with laces if they are able to tie them.



Classroom Family Photo Album

This first month of school we are learning about our classroom community. Please send in a family photo with your child anytime this month. We will be creating a photo album with these photos to enjoy during the year in class.

"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, Hayley (AM), Cara (AM) & Christine (PM)

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 the books of 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.

Our Daily Routine

Our daily routine is the same for both our Morning and Afternoon Enrichment classes. All Primary aged students begin their day with outdoor play, have recess in the big yard after lunch, and end their day in the big yard. Our class time follows this routine:


- Circle Time - Welcome songs, calendar, weather
- Work Time - Independent work, group projects, art and cooking activities
- Circle Time - Clean up time, hand washing, story time

During the week we will be doing projects on our monthly theme, practicing our writing skills, learning our numbers, having a weekly cooking activity and making our letter of the week. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children!

Thank you,

Lucie, Kari & Claudia

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<div><div>1</div><div>Happy Birthday Pfeifer!</div></div> <div><div>Labor Day</div><div>No School!</div></div>	<div><div>2</div></div> <div><div>FIRST</div><div>DAY OF</div><div>SCHOOL!</div></div>	<div><div>3</div></div>	<div><div>4</div></div>	<div><div>5</div></div>	<div><div>6</div></div>
<div><div>7</div></div>	<div><div>8</div></div>	<div><div>9</div></div>	<div><div>10</div><div>Happy Birthday Hudson!</div></div>	<div><div>11</div><div>Happy Birthday Ben & Ross!</div></div>	<div><div>12</div></div>	<div><div>13</div><div>Happy Birthday Adeleine!</div></div>
<div><div>14</div></div>	<div><div>15</div></div>	<div><div>16</div></div>	<div><div>17</div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div>Happy Birthday Mikko!</div></div>	<div><div>19</div></div>	<div><div>20</div></div>
<div><div>21</div><div>Happy Birthday Rue & Maxi!</div></div>	<div><div>22</div></div>	<div><div>23</div></div>	<div><div>24</div></div>	<div><div>25</div></div>	<div><div>26</div></div>	<div><div>27</div></div>
<div><div>28</div><div>Happy Birthday Frances!</div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div>Happy Birthday Thomas!</div></div>	<div><div>30</div><div>Happy Birthday Maddison!</div></div>				