

FEBRUARY

Montessori School of Sonoma

Important Dates:

February 19th
Presidents Day
School Closed

February 23rd
Registration Due!

March 4th-7th
Primary Parent
Teacher Conferences

March 11th
Teacher Work Day
School Closed

March 14th
Open House

March 19th-21st
Infant/Toddler
Parent Teacher
Conferences



*“Of all things love is
 the most potent.”*

- Maria Montessori

Summer and 2024-2025 Registration

It's that time of year when we open registration for current families to enroll for Summer 2024 and the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. **All students must re-register every year for all programs.** You will receive an email with the registration forms which are due no later than February 23rd, along with the annual \$200 registration fee. This year's placement does not guarantee the same placement for next year. All fees/tuition to hold your child's space are non-refundable. Remaining available spaces will be offered to those on the waiting list beginning in March.

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 23rd

September Tuition Due: Monday, July 1st



School Wide Reminders:

School Clothes:

If your child is sent home in school clothes, please wash and return!

School Tax ID#:

For those of you gathering information for tax purposes, the Tax ID# for The Montessori School of Sonoma is 94-2174042

Parking Lot:

Please drive slowly in the parking lot and hold your child's hand as you walk to and from school.



A Warm Welcome!

Welcome to Jeff and Shannon who have joined Vivian and Lucie in our Childcare Enrichment program. Jeff is a Sonoma native who recently moved back from the East Bay with his family and has an abundance of experience working with young children. Jeff started with us in January and is committed until the end of the school year. Shannon lives in Novato and is a current college student studying Education. Shannon started in January as well, and is hopefully with us long term! We have also welcomed a new substitute teacher, Caitlyn. Caitlyn is a local mother of two boys who attend Prestwood where she has worked at the preschool on campus. Please say "hello" when you see them!

Directors: Cathy & Sarah

Assistant Director: Danielle

Infant Teachers: Katherine & Julia

Toddler Teachers: Christine & Claudia

Primary Teachers: Rachel, Lucie (AM), Christine (PM)

Childcare Enrichment Team:

Vivian, Lucie, Jeff & Shannon

Substitutes: Laurie & Caitlyn

Infant Corner:

Hello Families!

Now that it's February, we're back in the swing of our school routines and enjoying the bits of sunshine that we've been getting here and there.

As Valentine's Day approaches we wanted to let you know that in the Infant room we won't be exchanging Valentines. However, your little love bug will come home with a sweet surprise for you.

This month we are welcoming a new friend to our classroom! Another Grant will be joining us on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Welcome Rolig family!

Here is a song we like to sing with frequency in our classroom, in celebration of Valentine's Day, and all other days of the year!

Skidamarink

Skidamarink a-dink a-dink
 Skidamarink a-doo
 I love you
 Skidamarink a-dink a-dink
 Skidamarink a-doo
 I love you

I love you in the morning
 And in the afternoon
 I love you in the evening
 And underneath the moon

Skidamarink a-dink a-dink
 Skidamarink a-doo
 I love you
 I love you!



Toddler Corner:

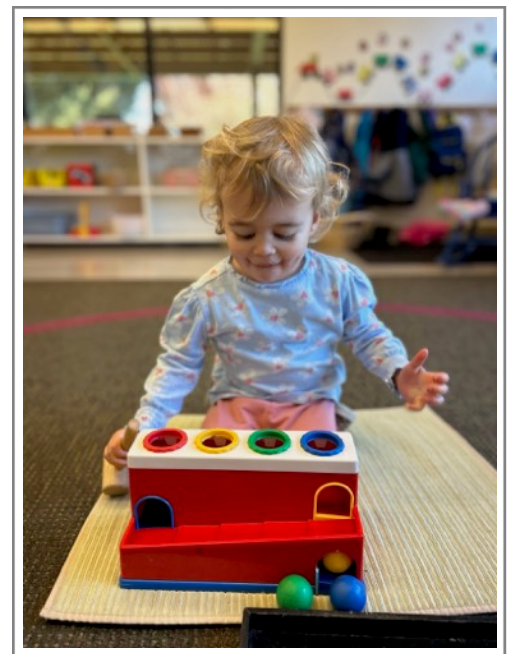
We have settled back into our classroom routine after the excitement of the holidays and the illnesses that followed. Thank you to our Toddler Class parents for their support in keeping their children home when sick! This recent bout of hand, foot and mouth was a doozy! The rain has kept us in a bit more than usual, but we are keeping busy. We've been painting snowflakes, building towers, and matching numbers. February will also be a busy month, creating Valentine's for Valentine's day. To celebrate Valentine's Day we will be having a special snack and handing out cards to all our friends. If you'd like to have your child participate please bring 16 cards for your child's classmates. Please do not address each card to individual children. We will be decorating bags to collect our Valentine's in and having our special snack during class.

We have welcomed the rain here at school and appreciate the rain clothes that the children are coming to school in. Please make sure your child has a full set of extra clothes in their extra clothes bag. The bags are in our classroom hanging next to the front door. Feel free to come in the class and check and or replenish your child's bag. Please include extra socks, they seem to be the first to get wet.

Some positive discipline thoughts....Misbehaving children are discouraged children who have mistaken ideas on how to achieve their primary goal-to belong. Their mistaken ideas lead them to the misbehavior. We cannot be effective unless we address the mistaken beliefs. Encouraging positive ideas help children make better choices.

Here is a song we have been singing in class:

Where is Thumbkin?	Where is Pointer?
Where is Thumbkin?	Where is Pointer?
Here I am.	Here I am.
Here I am.	Here I am.
How are you today, sir?	How are you today, sir?
Very well, I thank you.	Very well, I thank you.
Run away.	Run away.
Run away.	Run away.



Thank You,

Christine & Claudia

Primary Corner:

Dear Families:

January flew by and here we are already in February! With the new arrangement our students have been diligently working in all areas of the classroom. The children are busy, engaged, and embracing the challenging work!



Montessori Minute: The Practical Life exercises in the Montessori classroom are organized in three main areas: care of the person, care of the environment, and grace and courtesy. The activities found in this area of the classroom, provide real life experiences for children. The exercises provide purposeful activity, develop motor control and coordination, develop independence, concentration, and a sense of responsibility. Both large and small muscle coordination and development are involved, helping a child to have control over his movements. During grace and courtesy lessons, the children are learning to develop refinement of social interactions, be polite, and learn respect for others.

Practical Life Fan Favorites in our classes: saying please and thank you, table washing, chair washing, carpet sweeping, button dressing frame, transferring items using a spoon or tongs, pouring, and any activity involving water!

Curriculum Spotlights: This month our continent of study will be **Asia**. We will learn about the variety of cultures and the different countries of Asia. We will focus on customs, festivals, foods, and music. A highlight of our study will be celebrating the Lunar New Year with 2024 being the Year of the Dragon!

How Animals Grow and Develop. We'll begin the month with a visit from Napa Wildlife Rescue. In a special presentation students will learn that many animals are born or hatch out of eggs that already look a lot like their parents, while other animals look very different from their parents when they are born or hatch.

Be mine, Valentine! We will celebrate Valentine's Day with a valentine exchange. Your child can bring their valentines to school on the 14th. Valentines need to be signed with your child's name but not addressed. We encourage homemade valentines; they are the sweetest! Please provide enough valentines for your child's own class of 24 children.

Sharing Day is on Thursdays. We've moved our sharing day to Thursdays. Your child is welcome to bring items for sharing. Books, crafts, pictures, photos, and nature treasures are welcome. Toys are best left at home.

Warmly,

Rachel, Lucie, and Christine



Childcare Enrichment Corner:

Dear Childcare Enrichment Families,

Happy New Year! It has been such a pleasure getting to know your children and getting back in the swing of things after our break. In honor of the new year we have been reading about the Chinese New Year celebration where we decided to create dragons of our own to celebrate the year of the dragon and to bring us 'good luck' this year.



Letter of the week is "E" for Earth. The children gathered natural earthy materials from our yard to fill our letter which will be hung for display as we continue our alphabet and sign language. We will continue our winter fun by celebrating the citrus season, as our school lemons and oranges are getting ready for some taste testing, juicing and baking with. If your family has any citrus trees at home overflowing with fruit we will be happy to enjoy.

We are looking for wine boxes (cardboard shipping boxes, with wine bottle dividers) if any family comes across any, we thank you in advance for bringing 1-3 in. They will be used for the classroom writing corner that will come in handy this coming month.

Reminders:







As rainy days continue, restock children's extra clothes bags, labeling our new clothing items we received this winter break.

Thank you,

The Childcare Enrichment Team



FEBRUARY 2024

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 Presidents Day  School Closed	20	21	22	23	24 
25	26	27	28	29		