



# Montessori School of Ojai

Educating the Individual · Building Community · Caring for the World

## The Acorn: Monthly Newsletter for MSO

October 2019

### Thank You!



*MSO Director, Janet Lindquist-Lang*

Dear MSO families and friends,

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how appreciative I am of the support I see every day at our amazing school. From the parents who step up and help in the garden, in the classroom, and on special projects around the campus – to our staff that go the extra mile in providing a superior education and are willing to stay long hours after class, for events, and often on weekends – to our Board of Directors who oversee the all-over wellbeing of the school. We are truly a community, in all senses of the word, and for that I am thankful.

This month I also want to call special attention and thanks to everyone involved with Harvest Moon:

- Karleen Cole and Abby Magill Henry, for the fantastic efforts they made to help Harvest Moon be the fun it was. The final figures are not in yet, but it looks as though it will be the most lucrative Harvest Moon ever!
- Joelle Duff, coordinating (venue, décor, catering, etc.); David Taylor, our event emcee; Pierre Bouvier (videographer) and Tammy Taylor (production supervisor) for the fabulous video they premiered at Harvest Moon; Elise Rayner, for stepping up to share her love of the school and promoting giving; Shannon Menzel, for graphic design; and all the many others that helped gather donations, set up the auction, cleaning up, etc.

Last but not least, thank you to all the guests at the event who came together to celebrate and support our school. We can not do any of this without you!

Please reach out to me at any point throughout the year with your questions, or to set up a time to visit a classroom together! I can be reached via email [janet@montessorischoolofjai.org](mailto:janet@montessorischoolofjai.org), or phone 805-649-2525.

## Around Campus

### Dig In!



Liz Cossairt, Garden Specialist, Assistant Director and Lower Elementary Teacher invites the community to enjoy the MSO garden! Here are some highlights from a letter she sent out to families last week:

*I want to offer some ways you can enjoy the garden if you have a few minutes after you pick up your child in the afternoon. Most of your children are familiar with the arrangement of the tools in the greenhouse area and will naturally find some things to do with little encouragement.*

*Many of you expressed interest in helping out in the garden both personally and financially. Now that Harvest Moon projects are complete, I will create a schedule of times I will be out in the garden if you would like to help. This is likely to be two or three hours on Saturday mornings and one afternoon during the week.*

*Additionally, I have an ongoing and changing [Wish List](#) for the Garden included here in the active Amazon link, as well as on the MSO website. On it are things like wire baskets to keep the gophers from eating what we plant.*

### Middle School Camping Trip



For the 9th year in a row, the Middle School classroom kicked off the year with a 3-night camping trip at Refugio State Beach. The camping tradition is over 30 years old and it's a fantastic way for students and staff to get to know and trust one another. Students get to spend the days swimming, hiking, fishing, reading, playing cards, etc. Everyone chips in with setting up tents, cooking and cleaning up after meals, participating in a beach clean-up day, and generally taking on more responsibility as Middle School students. Thank you to our dedicated staff who chaperone on the trip: Libby Hawkins, David Taylor, Stan

Schneider & Shannon Kay. You're amazing!

## New Apparel

We invite you to show off your MSO pride with our new t-shirts and sweatshirts! The shirts showcase our new logo with the Matilija Poppy. They are available for purchase in our office.



*100% Cotton Black T-Shirt*  
*Adult & Youth Sizes*  
*\$25.00 each*

*Soft Black Zip Hoodie*  
*Adult & Youth Sizes*  
*\$50.00 each*



## Events

October 22	Boccali's Pumpkin Patch field trip, rooms 6, 8 & 9.
October 25	Ojai Storytelling field trip, rooms 8 & 9.
November 4-8	Conference week. 12:30 dismissal M-F.
November 11	Veteran's Day. No school. No day care.
November 25-29	Fall Break. No school. Day care available Nov 25-27.
December 3	Giving Tuesday

## Montessori Feature

### Why Montessori?



Ruby Cossairt, Upper Elementary Teacher

As a teacher, I am often asked what attracts me to Montessori education specifically, and this is a question I'm certain many parents can relate to. Inquiring minds want to know: What is it about our school that sets it apart from other educational institutions?

So--Why Montessori? Maria Montessori defined education as "the development of a complete human being oriented to the environment and adapted to one's time, place and culture." This means that Montessori didn't create an educational method so much as a philosophy; one that integrates geographical, cultural and temporal differences. Montessori education is not static; it's vibrant and versatile.

Why Montessori? Because Montessori was a scientist, she taught us about the importance of observing the children...Continue reading all the reasons "Why Montessori" on Ruby's blog <https://theabsorbentteacher.wordpress.com/>.

## Parent Corner

*What I love about the Montessori School is the vast unpaved open spaces for the kids to roam and play, the abundance of shade provided by the oak trees, and the solidly built mid-century school building where I know my daughter is safe. But most of all, I deeply appreciate the sense of community that is nurtured by everyone that works there as evidenced by the fact that our daughter wants to get to school early and often negotiates with me to stay late.*

-MSO Parent

## Animal Crackers



Meet Billy and Frankie, our two wonderful goats. Billy and Frankie came to us as babies and were bottle fed by the students. They are very friendly, love munching on leaves, and they occasionally socialize with Thomas the pig. Stop by and say hi to these two anytime you're on campus!

## Giving Back: What's Your Story?

*Elise Rayner, Mom to Kai (Room 9) and Jack (Room 8), Development/Communications volunteer*

What's your MSO story? Why do you choose to invest in your child's education at MSO?

We've chosen to invest in Kai and Jack's education at this early age because this is when the development of the whole person happens; this is when it counts. We want to raise strong, smart, resilient children. Children who can think for themselves. Children who care for their friends and who care for the wider world. The best way to do that is to let them spend their days in an environment that promotes these values. And we found that environment at MSO.

Our 12 year old has the freedom to be himself. Not an easy task in Middle School! The focus on each individual's worth, the intentional teaching of how to be in community, and the safe space to share feelings all lead to a student body that's not free from conflict, but which is free from bullying.

Our 10 year old with dyslexia no longer fears reading out loud in class. Ruby's curriculum is exactly what experts use to teach dyslexic children to read, so we no longer need to pay an after-school tutor. And now he's reading novels. Out loud. To anyone/any dog who'll listen!

We choose to give above and beyond our tuition dollars because we see how effective the school is at inspiring the kids to learn, to care for each other, and to give back. We believe in supporting the things that make this world a better place. And MSO is doing just that!

The school would love to hear all our MSO stories, so please do not hesitate to reach out to your teachers or any of the staff and share yours!



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