



# Montessori School of Ojai

Educating the Individual · Building Community · Caring for the World

## The Acorn: Monthly Newsletter for MSO

November 2019

### Investing in Our Future



*MSO Director, Janet Lindquist-Lang*

This month we'll be welcoming Ojai Trees to our campus to plant nine donated trees. The timing is great because the trees themselves provide the perfect metaphor for where we are as a school: we were planted over 45 years ago and thanks to the continued support of our community we have weathered the Great Recession, stood tall during the Thomas Fire, and now find ourselves in another exciting phase of growth. We have waitlists in many of our classrooms, and we continue to add new staff to support our students and our mission.

In order to sustain our growth we must also deepen our roots and make investments in the school. After more than 30 years on this campus, our buildings and grounds are showing their age and are in need of a facelift. And of course we can never have a large enough scholarship fund. But these "big ticket" items rely on donations. Tuition only covers the cost of day-to-day operations.

Just as a tree needs water to grow, MSO relies on everyone's support to help us grow and flourish.

Therefore, **this year I would like to challenge every member of the MSO community (families, friends, staff) to invest in MSO by giving a little or giving a lot on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Giving Tuesday.** Every act of generosity counts, and each means even more when we give together. Everyone has something to give. You can give time or expertise, monetary donations large or small, or simple acts of kindness.

Will you join me in taking a moment to invest in our future on Giving Tuesday? Everything counts!

## Around Campus

### Ojai Trees

We are so grateful to Ojai Trees for donating nine trees to our campus this month! We will be planting the trees on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> thanks to a grant they were given by the Ojai Women's Fund. Ojai Trees calls the program "Shade for Kids." The mission of Ojai Trees is to maintain the urban canopy and educate the community on how to care for trees, and they welcome parents to help out on the day. Please join us!

### Adopt-A-Family

Once again we are working with the Ojai Community Assistance Program to help needy local families with meals and gifts. We are collecting non-perishable foods and gifts for two families. Rooms 6, 7, 8, & 9 have adopted Family A, and rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4 have adopted Family B. Detailed information is being distributed in each room. This is a great way to get the entire MSO community involved in giving back to the local community.

### Performances to Grow On



Our students, faculty and staff were entertained earlier this month when Norman Foote from Performances to Grow On returned to campus. Norman led us in silly songs, told great stories, and invited a few of the students to join the performance. This was the first of three performances we have lined up for the year. It has become an annual tradition that students in every grade enjoy.

### Seeking Clothing Donations

Rooms 1 and 2 are in need of donated t-shirts, underwear and elastic waistband shirts in sizes 2- 5T for when accidents happen (and they do!). Please feel free to bring them to the office or give them directly to Rooms 1 and 2. Thank you!

## Events

November 22	Ojai Trees tree planting on campus, 7:30 – 11 a.m. Friendship Feast (student-only event)
November 25-29	Fall Break. No school. Day care available Nov 25-27.
December 3	Giving Tuesday.
December 11	MOXI Museum Field Trip, Rooms 8 & 9.
December 23 – January 3	Winter Break. No school. Day care available Dec 23, 27, 30, Jan 3.

## Montessori Feature: The Three Period Lesson



Ruby Cossairt, Upper  
Elementary Teacher

We Montessori teachers like to joke about our passion for naming things. In fact, Nomenclature Cards are a classic Montessori material. We have them for everything, from Types of Transportation to Parts of an Atom. But our work with names begins before that, with something called the Three Period Lesson. Developed by Édouard Séguin, and adapted by Dr. Montessori for use in the classroom, the Three Period Lesson (also known as the Three Stage Lesson) is a tool we use every day. Its purpose is to build the relationship between names and objects, symbols or qualities... *Continue reading about the Three Period Lesson on Ruby's blog*

[\(https://theabsorbentteacher.wordpress.com/2015/10/07/montessori-matters-the-three-period-lesson/\)](https://theabsorbentteacher.wordpress.com/2015/10/07/montessori-matters-the-three-period-lesson/) which includes a short video of Jenny Schneider, Room 1 teacher, demonstrating the lesson.



Mark your calendar!

December 3 is #GivingTuesday - a global giving movement of individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities coming together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live.

Invite your friends and family to join us on #GivingTuesday and **support the Montessori School of Ojai's Annual Fund** !



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