



Montessori School of Ojai

Educating the Individual · Building Community · Caring for the World

The Acorn: Monthly Newsletter for MSO

January, 2020

Happy New Year!



MSO Director, Janet Lindquist-Lang

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a nice, relaxing break and enjoyed time with family and friends.

As our families know by now, I had a slip-and-fall accident in my home over the break and ended up with a broken ankle. I had surgery to remedy the situation and am staying home for the time being to facilitate my recovery.

I am so grateful to our tremendous staff who have stepped up and helped out with different parts of my duties. If you have any questions or concerns, our office staff can direct you to the appropriate person. You are also welcome to reach out to me via email (janet@montessorischoolofojai.org). I'm sure I will feel better and have more mobility every day and hope to be back in the office as soon as possible.

In the meantime, while I am at home recovering, the rest of the school is gearing up for the many fun things coming up this spring, including:

- Usborne Book Fair in February
- Sportathon in March
- Spring Sing in April
- A Day in the Country in early May
- Musical in late May

Each of these events is only possible because of the dedication of our staff and the generous donation of time from our parent volunteers. Please contact the main office if you would like to help out with any (or all!) of these upcoming events. And thank you in advance for your time!

Around Campus

New Student Information and Messaging System



This spring we are transitioning to a new Student Information System (SIS) operated by FACTS Management which will allow us to streamline our admissions and enrollment process and enhance communication between the school and parents. This month we will be implementing one of the first features of this new system for sending out school-wide emails, texts, and voicemails to all enrolled families, called Parent Alert. These alerts can be used for many reasons but also it will provide us a fast, efficient way to communicate with our families in case of emergency.

Moving forward, any text alerts from our school will be sent from “22-383” and will begin with MSO OJAI; calls will show from “805-649-2525.”

Note: Per Telephone Consumer Protection Act we have to provide all recipients the option to Opt Out of receiving our alerts. Anytime we send a out a text alert you will see “STOP to end.” If you reply “STOP” you will no longer receive our text alerts, except in the case of emergency.

Events Explained



If you are new to the school this year, you may be wondering what to expect with each of the upcoming events. We hope this primer will help!

Sportathon – see the Giving Back section in this month’s newsletter for more information.

Spring Sing – this annual tradition is an opportunity to showcase the musical talents of all of our students. The younger students perform pieces taught by their head teachers, while our elementary and middle school students perform pieces taught by Music Specialist, Jani Baldwin. The Spring Sing takes place at MSO.

A Day in the Country – A Day in the Country is MSO’s annual thank you gift to the community. We open our doors to everyone and celebrate the year together with carnival games, a bounce house, food trucks, and more!

Musical – the musical is a fun collaboration between our Drama and Vocal Music specialists, involving the whole school. The musical takes place at the Matilija Junior High theatre.

Garden Update from Liz Cossairt



Winter is a fairly quiet time for the MSO Garden in terms of plant growth. When the weather is nice, however there are projects I am working on during the weekends and I welcome families to stop by and help or to just visit. Here are some things I could use help with:

Trimming the grapevine, spreading mulch in the walkways, adding compost to beds, digging in the compost, weeding, preparing baskets for planting, and burying baskets in the soil.

I plan to be out in the garden on Saturday mornings between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., weather permitting, on these dates: 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8. It would be wonderful to have company. It's a great time to enrich the soil for spring and enjoy being out of doors!

Events

January 20	Martin Luther King Day. No school. No child care.
February 17	President's Day. No school. No child care.
February 18 – 21	Conference week. 12:30 dismissal. Usborne Book Fair, 12:30 – 3:30 in the office.
March 4	Sportathon
March 12 – 13	Staff in-service. No school. Child care available.

Montessori Feature: Independence



Ruby Cossairt, Upper
Elementary Teacher

Here at MSO, we strive to create environments in which our students can function independently. This means we provide the children in our classrooms with shelves, tables and chairs that match them in size so they can easily manipulate them. We also offer lessons and work that we know will result in positive independent experiences. Why is all of this so important? ...*Continue reading about Independence on Ruby's blog (<https://theabsorbentteacher.wordpress.com>).*

Specialist Profile: Shannon Kay, Social Empowerment



Shannon Kay is no stranger to MSO. Each of her 5 children have attended (or are currently attending) MSO. And now she's a regular fixture on campus, serving as the Social Empowerment Specialist for our Upper Elementary and Middle School classrooms.

Shannon is the Director of Education, Lead Facilitator and Teacher Trainer for the The Girl's Empowerment Workshop based in Ojai. Once per week, Shannon guides both classes through The Empowerment Project's workbook, providing age-appropriate work for each group. The Workshop aims to educate, empower and inspire students by raising awareness, developing communication skills and cultivating self respect. These are such critical skills and we are thrilled to be able to offer both the program and Shannon's expertise to our students.

Giving Back: Sportathon Time!



Join us on Wednesday, March 4th for our annual Sportathon! This signature event is an opportunity for everyone to be involved in giving back to MSO and celebrate good health. Last year, MSO students raised over \$5000 for the school!

All students are invited to participate. Rooms 6, 8, & 9 will have 30 minutes to run laps or ride their bikes (with helmets!) around the basketball court. Rooms 1, 2, 3, & 7 have 30 minutes to complete an obstacle course as many times as they can, at their own pace.

Students will each receive a packet in late February to take home and use for donations. Students can collect donations in their envelope, or invite their friends and family to donate online.

We made the conscious decision years ago to promote good health instead of asking the students to sell something to raise money for the school. It's turned out to be one of the most popular events of the year because it's fun for the students, and 100% of every penny raised goes directly to the school.

Questions or wish to volunteer (prep oranges, set up water stations, spritz athletes, keep track of laps completed, cheerleading, etc)? Please contact Lesley Foster in our office at 805.649.2525 or lesley@montessorischoolofojai.org. Thank you!



Montessori School of Ojai

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