



Montessori School of Ojai

Educating the Individual · Building Community · Caring for the World

The Acorn: Monthly Newsletter for MSO

December 2019

A Moment to Reflect



MSO Director, Janet Lindquist-Lang

As we enter into our two-week Winter Break, I hope you all find time to rest and recharge. For me, it's a great time to reflect on the first half of the year and all of the growth and change that is not only happening within our students, but at the school as well.

For the first time in my years as Director, the school now has waitlists in most classes, and we are hosting an unprecedented number of campus tours. I am thrilled that word is getting out about the transformative nature of a Montessori education and that more families are seeking us out for their children! Space is still available in the Upper Elementary and Middle School

classrooms, and we welcome newcomers year-round. Thank you to everyone who has helped spread the word about MSO!

And as I'm sure you've heard by now, we had a tremendous turnout for our first annual #GivingTuesday fundraiser. In 24 hours, we were able to raise over \$5000 for scholarships and our general fund. In addition, the Gould Family Foundation pledged a \$10,000 matching grant to go towards new classroom space. [See the Giving Back section for more details on how we can unlock this additional gift].

I remain humbled by your support and your belief in the transformative nature of a Montessori education. I wish you all a happy, healthy Winter Break and I look forward to seeing all of you back on campus in January!

Around Campus

Oak Tree



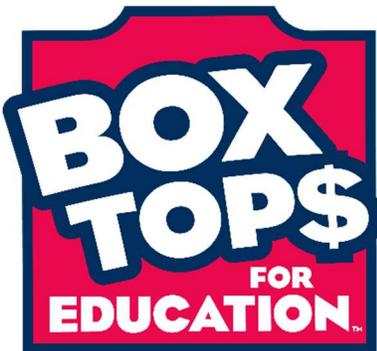
On Saturday, December 14th we were notified that one of our gorgeous old oak trees had splintered and fallen. It was a terribly sad sight to see such a giant on the ground. Remarkably, it happened in the middle of the night so no one was hurt, and there was no substantial property damage. Thank you to Dan, Forrest, and Casey Crane of Crane's Tree Service. They responded immediately and cleared the area for everyone to return safely on Monday.

Stan and His Tractor



You may have seen (a very giddy) Stan cruising around the school grounds lately, pulling a brand new heavy-duty rototiller. The new equipment is a generous donation from the family of our Board President, Eric Baldwin. Stan is busy preparing the ground to lay new grass seed. Thank you, Baldwin Family!

Box Tops Update



The Box Tops for Education program is changing the way we can earn cash for our school. Going forward, instead of clipping from packages and checking expiration dates, all Box Tops will be earned digitally by scanning your receipt. There is a new Box Tops mobile app which can be downloaded via the App Store or Google Play. If you still have traditional Box Tops clips at home, make sure to send them to school.

Thank you to the following individuals who are our top 4 Box Tops contributors so far this year: Coral Ramage, Lisa Hetrick, Barb Obermeier, and Tracey Branco. Thanks for helping our school get what it needs!

Events

December 19	Parent Sign Language Class. Sign up in office.
December 23 – January 3	Winter Break. No school.
December 23, 27, 30, 31	Child care available.
January 2, 3	Child care available.
January 20	Martin Luther King Day. No school. No child care.

Montessori Feature: Peace Through Education



Ruby Cossairt, Upper
Elementary Teacher

Peace Education is often inextricably linked with Montessori education. We place an emphasis on Peace in our curriculum, but not in the way most people think. In fact, many Montessori educators have replaced the term “Peace Education” with “Peace *through* Education”.

The addition of the preposition “through” may seem like a small change, but it is vast in terms of meaning. Peace Education is direct instruction. It implies that we teach Peace by telling our students how to achieve it. This is not something Montessori teachers claim to do. There is no three-period lesson that teaches the Golden Rule. We know, because we are Montessorians, that the work of becoming peaceful has to come from within the child. In other words, Peace, like education, is a process.

In her classroom, Lower Elementary teacher Liz Cossairt has a book titled *Peace Begins with Me*. This is the central teaching of Peace through Education, whether you are a child or an adult. Perhaps more so for us adults! We cannot expect children to be peaceful if we are not. When we set out to achieve peace, the place we must begin is with ourselves. If you’re wondering where to start, ask yourself:

- How do I feel when I am peaceful?
- What are the things/actions that make me feel this way?
- Where are my peaceful places?

Being mindful of your exploration and understanding of these questions is essential to helping children when it comes to their peaceful explorations and understandings. The holiday season, when the phrase “Peace on Earth” is on the tip of everyone’s tongue, is a reminder to reflect on the ways in which we are modeling peace for the children in our lives.

Garden Update

Liz Cossairt, Garden Specialist, Assistant Director and Lower Elementary Teacher wants to thank everyone who has donated to the garden this year. She is humbled by the support, and continues to tend to the garden with the students. Right now they are busy planting winter crops (cabbages, lettuces, carrots, onions) and cover crops. The work of mulching the walkways continues, as well.

Parent Corner: Sign Language Class December 19th



Please join our Sign Language Specialist Lisa Batchelder-Hetrick for a brief introduction to sign language. Learn the benefits of using sign language at home and how it can enhance your student's learning throughout school. The class will touch on the alphabet, numbers, colors, family, food, and manners and management. Handouts and resources will be provided.

This is an adult-only class. Child care is available through Jody (RSVP needed).

Cost: \$10 plus child care.

Date/Time: December 19th, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Place: MSO Room 7

RSVP: mso@montessorischoolofojai.org or 805-649-2525

Giving Back: Thank You Gould Family Foundation

One of our primary fundraising goals this year is to raise money to help us replace and repair our aging infrastructure. Over the past couple of years, we have been discussing and planning for this work, and we know it is going to take a tremendous commitment of time and resources to fully implement.

One of our founders, Dr. Richard Gould, has taken the lead and his Gould Family Foundation has pledged \$10,000 once we raise our first \$40,000 to go towards a new classroom building. We have already raised \$25,500 and we are grateful to have the support of the Gould Family Foundation along with that of our Board of Directors. You can expect to be hearing more about our plans in the coming year. Stay tuned!



Montessori School of Ojai

806 West Baldwin Road | Ojai, CA 93023

(805) 649-2525 (Main Office)

(805) 649-1543 (Child Care)

email: mso@montessorischoolofojai.org

website: msojai.org

License #566212532 & 561702317