



Montessori School of Ojai
Educating the Individual · Building Community · Caring for the World

The Acorn: Monthly Newsletter for MSO

February, 2020

Amazing Community



MSO Director, Janet Lindquist-Lang

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for your outpouring of support during my brief absence at the start of this year. I'm happy to report that my ankle recovery is going smoothly, and that I'm back at school every day.

Next week is our spring conference week. This is an important time of year for teachers and families to connect and reflect on the progress of your student(s). Thank you for taking the time to meet with your teacher.

Two weeks later, we'll be out on the yard cheering students on during our annual Sportathon on March 4. It's such a great tradition as the students themselves raise funds for the school and have the opportunity to see their hard work result in a tangible benefit. This year, they will be raising money to improve the yurt (see Giving Back section for more details).

People sometimes ask why we don't try to raise more money by offering incentive prizes to the students. This is such a good question, and like most things at MSO, the answer lies in Montessori tradition. According to Montessori philosophy, students are taught the importance of intrinsic motivation vs. extrinsic, as well as the importance of community and giving back. We use the annual Sportathon as an opportunity to reinforce this philosophy.

As always, my door is open and I welcome the opportunity to meet with families throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to email me at janet@montessorischoolofojai.org or call our main office to set up a meeting. Thank you for all you do to make MSO such a wonderful community!

Around Campus

Fresh School Lunches!



When you're short on time, don't forget about our amazing hot lunch program. Chef Jen cooks up fresh, low sugar, primarily organic meals from scratch. Students can choose to have hot lunch the "day of" and we'll simply add the cost to your monthly bill, eliminating the need for students to bring cash to school.

Usborne Book Fair February 18-21



Don't miss the Usborne Book Fair taking place during conference week! A representative from Usborne is bringing a wide selection of books to choose from, for all ages, and you are invited to our office between 12:30 – 3:30p.m. to explore and shop.

My Body Belongs to Me Presentation

In early March, we will be sending out information to families about our March 16th presentation of "My Body Belongs to Me" given by Interface Children & Family Services. The 30 to 45 minute age-appropriate classroom lesson focuses on engaging children through an interactive-learning approach, as they are taught that their body belongs to them and how to recognize and respond to NOT OK touches. If you do not want your child to be in the classroom during the presentation, there will be an exculsion form for you to fill out.

There will also be a 60-minute parent presentation on Tuesday, March 10th at 2:45. This will include a preview of the student presentation, followed by an educational workshop for parents and caregivers on child personal safety. Detailed information about both presentations to follow.

Garden Update from Liz Cossairt



Work in the garden is taking a pause for the remainder of February as we focus on conferences. However, I would like to thank MSO parents Evan Lashley and Andrea Barrett for taking the time this past month to come out and work with me in the garden on a Saturday. It's always such a treat to share this gem with our community and get to know one another better. I will be scheduling more garden work days in March and I look forward to welcoming you!

Events

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.
February 25, March 3, 17, 24	Philosophy of Montessori class for staff and parents. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Room 8. No child care.
March 4	Sportathon! Volunteers needed! Please contact Lesley Foster (lesley@montessorischoolofojai.org) to sign-up.
March 12 – 13	Staff in-service. No school. Child care available.

Montessori Feature: Philosophy of Montessori Class



Ruby Cossairt, Upper Elementary Teacher

This spring, I am pleased to be able to offer a Philosophy of Montessori class to MSO families and staff. The course will provide a useful primer to new families and staff, as well as a helpful refresher to those already familiar with Maria Montessori's philosophy.

Tuesdays 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. (no child care available)

February 25, March 3, 17, 24

Montessori School of Ojai – Room 8

The course is offered free of charge to current MSO families. Please RSVP at mso@montessorischoolofojai.org or 805-649-2525.

Giving Back: Sportathon Raising Money for the Yurt



Join us on Wednesday, March 4th for our annual Sportathon!

Students will 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. Please be sure to let your friends and family know that their donations are 100% tax-deductible!

This year, we're raising funds to improve our beloved yurt. If we can raise \$5,500, we can replace the top and side covers. If we can **raise \$11,000**, we can replace the covers, AND install insulation and double-glazed windows, making the yurt usable year-round.



The yurt, also affectionately known as the Performing Arts Center, houses our collection of guitars, pianos, drums, and other instruments and it's always a blast to hear the students "rocking out" during music class each week. It's an iconic structure on our school grounds, but it's no longer providing adequate shelter due to the rips, tears, and weather-related battering it's taken over the past 20 years. Therefore, we desperately need to replace the covers to extend its life by another 20 years.

If we can raise enough money to insulate and install windows, too, we will be able to use the structure year-round. Double-glazed windows will allow us to keep the covers open regardless of the weather and fill the space with light, reducing our reliance on electricity. Insulating the yurt will mean that we can comfortably use it on chilly winter mornings and hot summer days.

If you have any questions, please contact Elise Rayner at 805.649.2525 or elise@montessorischoolofojai.org. Thank you!



Montessori School of Ojai

806 West Baldwin Road | Ojai, CA 93023

(805) 649-2525 (Main Office)

(805) 649-1543 (Child Care)

website: msojai.org

License #566212532 & 561702317

If you no longer wish to receive our monthly newsletter, please email us at mso@montessorischoolofojai.org with "Unsubscribe Newsletter" in the subject line.