

Fountain Valley Montessori

February 2012

"The word education must not be understood in the sense of teaching, but of assisting the psychological development of the child." ~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Important Dates:

Elementary Information Night (Parents Only Please)

Thursday, February 23rd

School Closed in Observance of President's Day

Friday and Monday, February 17th and 20th

Mosaic Tile Wall: Thank you to all the families that participated in our tile wall. The children seemed to have fun painting a tile. We are excited to be celebrating 10 amazing Montessori years and we can't wait to see the mosaic tile wall once it is all done!

Re-Enrollment 2012-2013: Please watch for re-enrollment packets that will be coming home this month. We will be offering placement for the summer and fall to existing students and siblings first. We will then open enrollment to new students and those on our waitlist. Please make sure to return your re-enrollment forms ASAP, in order to ensure placement for your child.

Elementary Program K-3: Meet the Teachers! For those parents who are interested in our Elementary Program K-3rd Grade, one-on-one meetings are available with those teachers. (Ms. Paula, Ms. Gloria, and Ms. Riza) To set up a meeting to meet the teachers and learn more about the Elementary Program, please contact Ms. Wendy, wendy@fvmontessori, 714.593.8333 or stop by her office, and she will coordinate a time that works for you.

Pick-Up: If you have someone else picking up your child from school, please make sure to call the office ahead of time; even if they are on your contact list. This helps us be prepared for a new face. Thank you!

Tax Time: Our tax ID # is 33 0961742. Please see the office if you need any statements.

Valentine's Day: Valentine's Day is coming up!

Please feel free to bring Valentines for your child to distribute on Tuesday, February 14th. Each valentine should be addressed "To My Friend" and "From: Child's name". Please keep in mind we have a low-sugar policy. Any candy or treats the children receive will not be eaten at school but will be sent home, so each parent can decide what is appropriate for their child to eat. We hope everyone has a sweet and heart filled Valentine's Day!

Birthday Celebrations: We love celebrating your little ones' special day here at school. We want to remind you of our Birthday Celebration policy. The following is taken from our Parent Handbook: "Children may celebrate their birthday at school as long as the teacher is notified in advance. We ask that the low sugar policy be followed as much as possible during this time. Birthdays at school are not intended to be the child's primary celebration. Please do not bring balloons on that day." Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch: Please note that your child has a very busy work time. It is important for them to get a well balanced lunch. Please make sure that enough food is included in your child's lunch to provide a healthy balance of the food groups.

Some suggestions include:

Protein- turkey meat, chicken nuggets, tuna sandwich

Fruit and/or vegetable- apples, dried fruit, celery, carrots, raisins

Dairy product- cheese, milk, yogurt

Grains- cereal, bread

With our low-sugar policy, some nutritious treats might be a granola bar, pretzels, or graham crackers.

Happy Birthday...

Ms. Wendy... 7th

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Art and Music with Ms. Meredith: In January, I changed things up a little bit for our art curriculum, and deviated from my original plan (ah, the whims of an artist). All I had to do was look outside for inspiration in those fabulous sunsets we've been having, and I wanted to share that with the children.

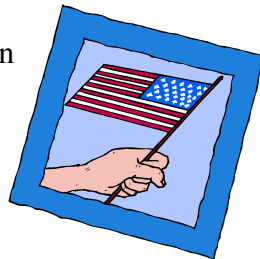


We've been having a blast working with watercolors, creating landscapes, and silhouettes, which are brand new vocabulary words for some of our students, as well as conducting a science experiment by attempting to mix oil-based crayons with the watercolors!

The fun continues as we will be learning about Wassily Kandinsky and exploring his colorful, abstract style, with "Compositions" of our own.

Check the school walls to see your child's own unique interpretation. In music, our focus on patriotic songs continues, all the while increasing our sign language vocabulary.

The elementary students have even learned the sign language alphabet, and I've encouraged them to practice by having covert conversations with classmates to see how fast they can get. It's all very mysterious and spy-like....my favorite!



Room 1- Ms. Riza and Ms. Jessica: It felt great to get back to our regular routine. All the students seemed to have missed going to school and doing challenging work after two weeks of vacation. Our work period has become quieter and more productive. Our fieldtrip to Fountain Valley Bowl was fun and full of excitement. Everyone behaved so well. I am pleased of how mindful they were of their manners while still having a great time. Thank you to all the moms who chauffeured us to our fieldtrip site.

In the month of love, our class will have a card exchange on Tuesday, the 14th of February to celebrate Valentine's Day. Please have your child bring 24 Valentines to school. Also, please ensure that each card is labeled, "To My Friend" and "From: (your child's name)". I hope that everyone will participate in this activity and spread love to each other.

Our unit of study for Kindergarten and 1st Grade students is North America. We will mainly focus on the United States of America. We will study the map of our country, the fifty states, and the key cities. The students will work on Telling Time and each child's Family and Personal Time Line. The 2nd Grade students will work on map reading and Layers of the Atmosphere. They will also continue working on the Geological Clock in History. The 3rd Grade students will study the Parts of the Biome in Geography, the Time Line of the Development of Life in History, how plants reproduce in Botany, and Body Functions of a Bird in Zoology.

As always, thank you for your continued support and effort in closely monitoring your child's work at home and for making sure that it is properly done and submitted on time.

Happy Birthday:
Aidan N. - 24th

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Room 2- Ms. Stephanie and Ms. Kieu: January was a great month! We were busy learning all about community helpers. Thank you to the parents for your support with decorating the cutouts according to what your child wants to be when they grow up. They all talked about their future careers! A huge thank you to Mr. Flores (Nathan's Dad), for coming in and talking to us on two different occasions; first as a Fire Fighter then as a Marine! The children loved it and learned so much from him! We also learned a lot about peace keepers such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. Maria Montessori. The children discovered that they are also peace keepers! We can't forget about our Lunar New Year celebration! We had a blast learning about the traditions of the Asian culture on this holiday!

It's February and we have a lot of fun things planned. We'll be learning all about Volcanoes! We'll be doing science projects, art projects, and we will have many discussions in order to help the children better understand the wonder of Volcanoes. Along with discovering Volcanoes, we will learn about different kinds of rocks and how they are formed. We will also be exploring the continent of Antarctica! We will find the coldest continent on the map, learn about glaciers, and different types of penguins. Also, in honor of Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day, we will discuss some of our past presidents. On the 14th of February we will celebrate by decorating cookies with pink frosting that we will mix. The children are welcome to pass out Valentines to their friends as well. In order to make this a successful and fun experience for your child, I'm asking that the Valentines not be directly written to any particular child, they should just be signed with your child's name. This will make things easier for them to pass out. If you would like to have separate boy and girl Valentines, that is fine. We have a total of 16 boys and 10 girls. I'm also asking for your child to bring one **large** brown paper bag (from a grocery store). We will decorate them in class, and they will be used

to hold all their Valentines. Please send your child's bag to school no later than February 10th. Since February is National Dental Awareness month, we will also be learning about our teeth and how important teeth are for us! In Spanish we will learn how to say the weather.

February Birthdays:

Vankai-5th Ben- 12th Monique- 11th

Room 3- Ms. Angela and Ms. Laura: 2012 is off to a wonderful start! The children have shown such curiosity and enthusiasm! We had fun learning all about the Weather and the Water Cycle in January.

For the month of February we will be very busy! Our unit of study will be Volcanoes. We will be learning the different layers of Volcanoes and where Volcanoes can be found. We will also be making some fun Volcano art projects. We become scientists and make our very own Volcano! We will also be talking about the importance of a healthy heart and clean teeth because February is Heart and Dental Awareness month! On Monday, February 13th we will be celebrating the 100th day of school! February is such a lovely month! We'll be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday February 14th! The children will be able to participate in a Valentine's exchange. Please remember that we have a total of 25 children in the class. Please address all Valentine's "To: My Friend, From: your child's name". We will be having a potluck that day as well, so look for the sign-up sheet. I will also be asking parents to bring in a large brown grocery bag for the children to decorate and to collect all of their Valentine's cards in! In Spanish we will be learning the names of the continents!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me:
angela@fvmontessori.com

Happy Birthday: William - 4th Maia- 20th

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Room 4- Ms. Jamie, Ms. Roseanna, Ms. Josie, and Ms. Rasika: Room 4 started off our new year by learning about nutrition. The children learned about many different types of foods and how to choose healthy food options.

For the lovely month of February, we will be learning about colors and shapes. This will be a fun and exciting month for our class! We will be experimenting with a color science project. A fun and exciting color project will be picking a different color to wear on the dates listed below. That color will be the special topic of the day. The following colors will be worn on the dates listed below:

Feb. 7th- Raspberry Red

Feb. 8th- Grassy Green

Feb. 9th- Bouncing Blue

Feb. 14th- Red and Pink for our Valentine's Day Party

Feb. 16th- Yo-Yo Yellow

Feb. 21st- Outstanding Orange

Feb. 23rd-Bashful Brown

Feb. 28th- Bold Black

To incorporate the color into our day, we will be doing a color art project and would also like to coordinate our snack to match the color of that day. We will also discuss with the children how we can make shapes out of our bodies. For example, how many friends does it take to make a triangle?

We will be sending home precut hearts with your children. Please write down on each heart something your child has done to be helpful or kind. Please return hearts to school by February 6th.

On Tuesday, February 14th, we will be having a Valentine's potluck. The potluck sign-up sheet will be posted on the classroom door. On this day, we will be having a card exchange. Please write the following on the cards:

To: My Friend.

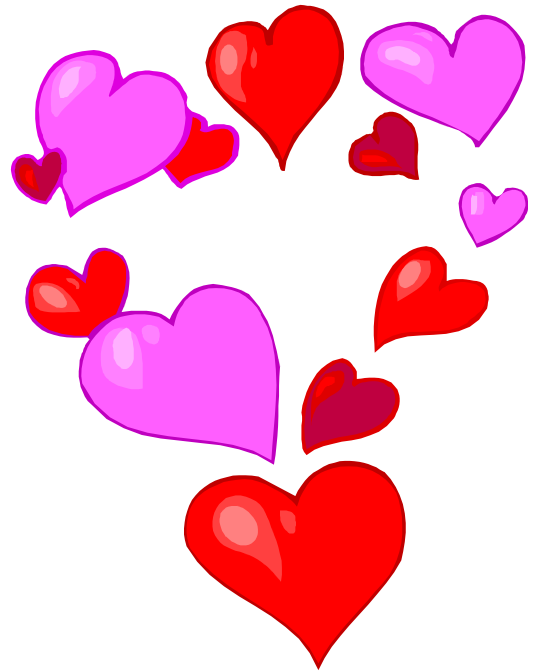
From: (your child's name).

We will be passing out the cards during circle time. Parents please keep in mind (also our school policy) that we have a low-sugar policy at school. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Jamie or Ms. Roseanna.

We want to take this time to thank you for choosing us to be a part of your child's education. They bring so many smiles and give so much love to our lives each and everyday!

Happy Birthday...

Cruz - 17th Quynh-Anh- 27th



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Room 5- Ms. Leah and Ms. Lindsay: This month was a wonderful start to the New Year! We had so much fun learning all about Turtles. We also enjoyed traveling to Asia, where we studied the various countries and cultures. Thank you to Mei, Sammy's mom for coming in to speak to us about the Lunar New Year! We learned so much. Also, thank you to Emmy's mom, Quynh for providing the Lunar New Year lunch, it was so yummy! We had a blast making our Winter Snow Owls that will be displayed at Lakeshore on the 29th of January; please make sure you come in to view your child's hard work. Thank you to our Room parent, Jennifer for helping with this beautiful art project.

This month we will be studying Monkeys, which will tie into our Geography lessons on Africa! We will also be studying numbers 21-30 in Spanish. In the spirit of the month of love and friendship, we will be making a friendship fruit salad and we will be discussing the importance of sharing, caring and friendship! Please look for more details to come on this event. We will also be having our annual valentine card exchange. If your child wants to participate, please remember to bring Valentines on Tuesday, February 14th, enough for 26 students. On the valentine, write "to my friend" and "love, your child's name". Please bring in a shoebox wrapped in solid paper or a brown paper bag by Friday, February 10th for your child to decorate on Monday, February 13th.

Reminder: As always, please remember school starts promptly at 9:00am. We encourage all students to be here by 9:00 am, as this ensures a consistent morning circle time. Also, if you did not do so, please bring in a new set of extra clothing for the weather. As always, thank you for entrusting us with your precious little ones!

February Birthdays: Isaac- 15th Jonathan-18th
Colton-19th Hayden-24th

Room 6- Ms. Dilusha and Ms. Haley: Even though I have been out of the classroom for the most part of January many thanks to Ms. Leah and Ms. Haley for keeping the class together and for keeping the children happy. The children made their own solar systems and were busy making Chinese lanterns. They also learned many facts about the solar system and the Lunar New Year. Thank you to everyone for their support as my back recovered.

The cultural unit for the month of February is Transportation. We will be discussing land, water and air transportation. We will also be busy making Valentine art projects. We will be having a Valentine's Day potluck to celebrate, so please look out for a sign-up sheet. When bringing valentines to your child's friends, please keep in mind that our school has a low sugar policy, and we encourage families to bring non-candy items to pass out as Valentines.

During the month of February we will be learning to count in Spanish and we are very excited about Mrs. Sherman coming into our class to share a Spanish learning experience.

Please remember to bring your child to school by 9.00 a.m. because our morning circle consists of very important activities that your child misses if they show up late. Please also remember to check your child's folder every day.

Happy Birthday...
Dylan- 27th



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Room 7- Ms. Paula and Ms. Gloria: In January, we started to explore Asia. We have covered the map of Asia and the flags. In Zoology, we enjoyed fun facts about the panda, orangutan, the elk and the tiger as well as the reptiles and snakes. We celebrated the Lunar New Year with a Chinese lunch and a presentation by Ms. Chow. We learned fun facts about Japan from Ms. Ahara and Ms. Niiizumi. We wish to thank them for their time spent with us and for the Asian experience we had. Our heartfelt thanks go to the parents who volunteered to help with the Lunar New Year celebration, lunch set-up and clean-up.

February is the second and shortest month of the year. Usually, this month has only twenty-eight days. But every fourth year, called a Leap Year, an extra day is added. This keeps the calendar in time with the seasons. If you were born on February 29th, you have a real birthday only once every four years. This year is a leap year, as well as the year of the dragon.

In February, Room 7 children will learn about the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean". Ms. Gloria is excited to share this presentation and is looking forward to sharing the map of Sri Lanka and pictures taken in Sri Lanka. An information sheet about this will be given out separately.

On February 13th, we will be celebrating the one hundredth day of school. The book *100th Day Worries* will be read to the children on that day. An information sheet containing how we will celebrate this special occasion will follow shortly.

Celebrating St. Valentine's Day on February 14th is also in our plans. We will be making a card on this occasion. Please make sure that your child brings in 28 valentines to be shared with the class on this day. We will also learn about the US presidents past and present. Please note that FVM will be closed on February 17th and February 20th in observance of Presidents' Day.

We still have more marvelous mysteries to discover about Asia and will continue to cover Asia until mid February. Then we will travel from Asia to Europe to learn fun facts on the map of Europe, animals, flags, The Eiffel Tower and Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Isabella Nghiem is the baby of the month, who will be 5 years old on February 12th. She shares her special day with Abraham Lincoln also known as "Honest Abe", "The Rail-splitter" and "The Great Emancipator" meaning one who sets people free from slavery.

Hoping that you enjoyed reading your child's report and as always, our heartfelt thanks for sharing your great commodity with us here at FVM.

Ms. Paula & Ms. Gloria

