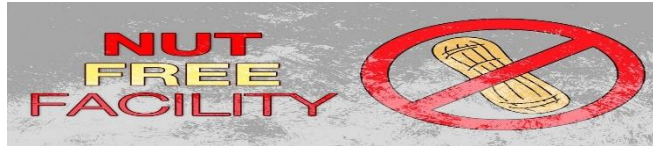


SCHOOL NEWS

OAK PARK MONTESSORI

MARCH / APRIL 2023





SCHOOL INFORMATION

Nut Free School – please do not send snacks or foods containing nuts.

School Birthday Policy- We will celebrate your child’s birthday with a traditional Montessori birthday “walk around the sun”.

Please, no cupcakes or candy, only individually wrapped fruit bars (store bought and packaged), yogurt, etc. are a few examples of what is allowed. No toys or gift bags.

Sick Policy - Please do not send your child to school if they have a fever, runny nose or /and cough. If child has a fever, he/she must be 24 hours fever free (without use of fever reducing medication) in order to return to school. Please do not send your child to school if they have green or yellow mucus, or any inflammation or redness in or around the eyes. Possible symptoms for pink eye.

If your child has any symptoms, we may call and ask you to pick up your child. The health and safety of our students, families and staff are our priority. Thank You for your continued support.

IMPORTANCE OF A HEALTHY BREAKFAST

As we know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Breakfast fuels up the body to face the day’s activities.

Children have such busy mornings at school that they need a healthy start.

Please remember to have your child eat their breakfast BEFORE coming to school. Sometimes if you’re running late, a fast breakfast in the car on the way to school works too.



THE PARENTS' CORNER

The principles of Montessori education

Let's take a look at the 7 most important principles of Montessori education. These principles can be used both at Montessori schools and at home.



1. Play is work

We should take the play very seriously as it is the way the child expresses himself.

Maria Montessori believed that playing is the ultimate way of learning and that children have a natural desire for knowledge that should be supported through the right tools.

2. Prepared environment

The prepared environment is an essential part of the Montessori method. It should be an **environment of beauty**, where children can move freely and act independently.

The Montessori environment should also be structured and have the order. It may seem counter-intuitive to the “freedom of movement” but the truth is – **toddlers love order and routine**. It helps them to navigate the world they live in.

3. Independence

Montessori education leads to independence. It encourages exploration and teaches toddlers to take responsibility for themselves, their belongings, and the environment. **The Montessori schedule often includes practical activities like sweeping or personal care.**

4. Hands-on learning

Children learn through experience. From birth to the age of 6, **the child is able to learn new things effortlessly and unconsciously**, just by being in the right environment and having the opportunities to explore.

Maria Montessori called this concept **the absorbent mind**. It means the child can absorb information like a sponge.

5. Observation

Raising children in the Montessori philosophy means observing them carefully and noticing what they are interested in.

There are certain periods – called sensitive periods – when the child is very interested in one kind of activity. It can be climbing, transporting things, focus on small details or language.

By observing the children, we can provide appropriate activities and create an environment that will support the development of the skill they are currently focused on.

6. Freedom within limits

Freedom doesn't mean children can do whatever they want. It means **we give them the opportunity to choose freely from the options we approved and that are good for them** – whether it's the activity they want to engage in or the dress they want to wear.

Montessori teachers and parents are guides (or, as Maria Montessori used to say, gardeners). We can provide the right conditions and point in the right direction, but we show respect to the way our children decide to go.

Which brings us to the last principle...

7. Respect

The Montessori method is about mutual respect between the child and the parent.

It also means that we understand that **each child is a unique individual** with his or her own needs, capabilities, and way of learning.

LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

Parents, please make sure that your child's name is on all their belongings – such as lunch bags, if they are bringing lunch to school, water bottles, jackets, and sweaters. Write their name on the bottom of their shoes as well.

(Children sometimes have the same pair of shoes)

We ask that you label these items so that if it is lost or misplaced, we can return it to your child in a timely manner. It will be helpful to our staff and you if your child's name is on their personal items, as sometimes other children have the very same item as your child does.

Immunization Updates:

If your child has had his or her immunization updated, please notify our school administration so we are able to keep student files current. If you are unsure of any immunization requirements, please email or call our office for any questions. We can not accept a child into Oak Park Montessori who is not immunized. Any new information: address change, phone numbers, etc. Please notify school.

Authorized Pick Up List

Please email our office at:

oakparkmontessori@gmail.com when adding persons authorized to pick up your child and on the day certain persons will be picking up.

We require full name of person and a photo ID.

We will NOT release your child to persons not on your list or if we do not receive an email letting us know.

CLOTHING REMINDER

As we are all aware, the children at school participate in a variety of activities each and every day, it is important that the children come to school dressed comfortably and in play clothes.

Please provide extra clothes so that we can keep them at school in case there is a potty accident.

The children are required to wear closed toe shoes to school. Please dress your child appropriately according to the weather. As weather can be unpredictable, pack an extra jacket or put layers on the children.

Please keep 2 sets of extra clothes, pull – ups, diapers and wipes at school. If your child happens to borrow any school clothing items, please wash and return to the school the following day.

THANK YOU!!

LATE PICK UP

Our school closes promptly at ***6 p.m.***

Please pick your child up by closing time as our staff have personal obligations to attend to after work. There is a late pick up fee that is ***due on the spot to the teacher on staff*** for parents picking up children after closing time.

There is a 10-minute grace period. If your child is picked up after the grace period, a \$1.00 per minute fee will be charged. There are no exceptions. We thank you for doing your best to arrive on time. If you have any questions, please see the Director.

We know emergencies arise and we are not always able to predict traffic situations. When teachers are in the classroom for after care, we are not always able to check our emails in a timely manner. If you are notifying us of a late pick up, please call our school number at **818-532-7006**

Oak Park Montessori!!

We take great pride in our school and great respect in the care of your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us or call:

montessorioakpark@gmail.com

ARRIVING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

We are sure that you are already aware of the importance of having your child arrive to school on time, but there are times when arriving late cannot be avoided. If your child will be late, please call our school – 818-532-7006 or send an email to : montessorioakpark@gmail.com and let us know when to expect your child to arrive.

This will help the teachers to determine the snack and lunch count for the day.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Tuition Payments

Monthly tuition is due the FIRST of each month and no later than the 5th of the month.

If tuition is received AFTER the grace period, it is considered late, at which time a late fee of \$25 will apply.

Sign In and Out

Please sign your child IN / OUT on a daily basis. By law, we are required to have all of our parents sign their child in upon arrival and out when picking up at end of their day.

Potty Trained

Your child is considered FULLY potty trained if they do not have any accidents for one month straight.

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As we continue to work together, we ask for your patience and understanding if any maintenance work is required during school hours. The safety of our students is always a priority. We will communicate and notify you if there will be a need to close the school earlier than usual (and will provide detailed information)

THANK YOU!

Allergies

Please have an EpiPen and provide the school with one if your child has allergies.

Label the EpiPen to keep at school in case of emergencies.

If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms: fever, nasal congestion, cough, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea or shortness of breath, please keep your child home and see your physician. We require a note from your doctor stating your child is cleared to return to school. We continue to abide by the CDC guidelines for the safety of our students, parents, and staff.



Friday, March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, April 5th

Easter Egg Hunt

Friday, April 7

Good Friday- School Closed



The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of Independence.

-Dr. Maria Montessori

The two phrases for the months are:

March: I Can/We Can

April: Love

MONTHLY THEMES

March: National Reading Awareness Month

April: National Autism Awareness Month/Child Abuse Prevention Month

2023 MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



