

# Fountain Valley Montessori

January 2017

"Growth is not merely a harmonious increase in size, but a transformation." ~ Dr. Maria Montessori

## **Important Dates:**

### **Winter Break (School Closed)**

Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (School Closed)**

Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Progress Reports Distributed**

Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Happy Birthday...**

Ms. Neranja...8<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Alecia...24<sup>th</sup>



**Sees Candies Fundraiser:** Thank you to all the families who participated in our See's Candies Fundraiser and for making it such a success. Thank you to our PTU President Tara DiGiovanni for heading up this event. A special thank you to all the teachers who helped sort the candy.

**Holiday Program:** Thank you to everyone who attended your child's Holiday Show. We had so much fun and we hope you enjoyed watching your children! It was great to share the holiday season with everyone. A special thank you to Ms. Woo for the fabulous music selections!

**International Potluck:** Thank you to all the families who participated in our International Potluck. The children enjoyed tasting so many different dishes from around the world!

**Extra Clothing:** Please make sure your child has enough extra clothing in case of accidents. Thank you!

**Child Files and Email:** Please make sure to check your child's file folder daily, as well as check your emails regularly to ensure you are kept up to date with notes and emails from the office or teachers. Please see the office if you need to update your email information.

**Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Pick up:** Classes start promptly at **9:00am** and conclude at **12:00pm** for our **half day students** and **3:00pm** for our **full day students**. There is a 15 minute grace period during morning drop-off. We encourage all students to be dropped off during the grace period, to ensure a smooth transition into their school day. Please note, if utilizing this grace period or dropping your child off on the playgrounds in the morning, please ensure that your goodbyes are short and sweet. If you are running a little late, please enter the class quietly when dropping your child off in class.

If you require afternoon daycare for your child, this must be pre-arranged with the office. **We do offer occasional daycare at the rate of \$15.00/hr., which will automatically be billed to your account if your child is picked up after 3:15pm.** However, we do require that you call ahead and let us know, so that we can make sure that we are within ratio.

**Cold and Flu Season:** The cold and flu Season is here! Please follow our school illness policy to ensure our children and staff stay healthy. Please keep all ill children home. If a child becomes ill at school or has a fever, the parent will be called to pick up their child. Children must be picked up by a parent or authorized contact within **30 minutes** of notification. Children must be home for 24 hours or until all symptoms are gone. Please keep your child home if:

-They have had a fever, diarrhea or have been vomiting within the last 24 hours.

-A persistent cough and/or nasal drainage that's colored.

-They have an infectious or communicable disease without a doctor's release. (Please see your parent handbook for more information.)

**Facebook and Website:** Like us on Facebook! We post updates and pictures from recent events.

Visit us at [fvmontessori.com](http://fvmontessori.com) for the newsletter, calendar, etc.

**Room 1- Ms. Paula & Ms. Lindsay:** Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season! We wish all the families of Fountain Valley Montessori a happy and peaceful New Year!

In the month of December, we explored places of interest in Antarctica, the animals of Antarctica, and the Antarctic Treaty. We are sure that you enjoyed the December holiday show performed by the movie stars of room one. We extend our sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness and gift giving during the holiday season. Thank you for acknowledging my birthday which was truly a pleasant surprise.

January is the first month of the year. It has thirty one days, and is named after the Roman God Janus. Janus was the god of beginnings and the god of gates and doorways. He is shown with two faces. One face looks to the future and the other face looks back upon the past.

For the month of January, we will be covering the continent of Asia. We will learn about the Asian culture, study the map, and flags. We will learn about the animals that are indigenous to Asia. In Science, we will be making frost and exploring liquids. As you know, Martin Luther King Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and was shot in 1968. We will be acknowledging the life of this hero and learn about his message to the world. We will be learning about parts of a reptile in Zoology. Our composer will be Ludwig Beethoven and artist will be Katsushika Hokusai.

Happy Birthday: Natalie N. - 12<sup>th</sup>  
Esme C. - January 16    Shanaya M. -  
24<sup>th</sup>    Shane P.-24<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 2- Ms. Zyerie & Ms. Josie:** Welcome back parents! December was a merry month indeed! The children enjoyed learning about polar bears, the Arctic, and Antarctica. The children also explored the parts of a penguin, parts of a fish, and the parts of a tree. The children used Paul Klee's artwork as an inspiration for their version of "Castle and Sun."

Thank you Parents for joining us during our holiday events. Tasting and sharing the different foods was a great experience for the children. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break, and are ready to embrace 2017!

In January, we will be learning about transportation. We will discuss the different types of transportation available to us, and share our personal experiences. In science, we will be learning about the water cycle. In Zoology, we will focus on parts of a horse. In Spanish, I will be introducing numbers 1-10. We will also discuss equality and peace, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Our exploration of the continents will lead us to the continent of Asia! We will explore popular animals, famous monuments, and we will learn about the upcoming Lunar New Year.

Our artist of the month will be Katsushika Hokusai. The artwork they create will be displayed on our outside wall. Our composer of the month will be Yo Yo Ma.

Happy Birthday: Riley N.-9<sup>th</sup>  
Avery D. - 15<sup>th</sup>    Sophie T. 31<sup>st</sup>

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**Room 3- Ms. Alecia & Ms. Christine:** Happy New Year!! We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break and we can't wait to dive into January! Our holiday show was amazing and the children were so excited to perform for you. Thank you all for coming! The book exchange was a big hit and all the children love participating in it. Thank you all so much for thinking about Ms. Christine and I during your holiday shopping. We really appreciate all of your kindness!

For the month of January, we will be traveling to the continent of Asia. We will learn about the culture, landmarks, and animals of Asia. Our unit of study will be transportation. We will also learn all about volcanoes. We will talk about the parts of a volcano and the difference between a dormant and an active volcano. We will also erupt our very own volcano during class!

In Spanish, we will be learning transportation words. Our art of the month is going to be Rangoli, the ancient art of decorating with powdered colors; originating in India. Please take a look at our outside wall to see our interpretation of Rangoli art. Our composer will be Ravi Shankar.

We will also be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and have a fun art projects planned!

Happy Birthday: Ms. Alecia - 24<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 4- Ms. Angela:** Happy New Year! With the New Year brings reflection on the past year. I feel so honored to have your children in my classroom. They have blossomed and grown so much since September. I want to thank all of you for all your participation and hard work with all the festivities we had in 2016—whew! They were all successful because of you. The children absolutely loved seeing all of you as they preformed their holiday show. We are looking forward to an incredible 2017!

In the month of January, we will be learning about the wonderful world of Asia. We will explore the landmarks and animals that encapsulate this amazing and diverse continent. This will also include music, instruments, art, sculptures and our Lunar New Year Celebration. In addition, our Spanish study will be reviewing the days of the week and months of the year (including proper spelling of each).

January Artist: South Asian Art

January Composer: Ravi Shankar (Composer and sitar maestro from India)

January Music: Shihan Mihiranga (Sri Lankan Artist)

We will talk about New Year Resolutions and learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will discuss his life and teachings and how they have made a lasting impact on present time. Our class New Year Resolution will be Junior Cotillion. Each month from January onwards, we will add a new cotillion lesson. This will include social etiquette and grace, formal table settings and manners, introductions and greetings, writing letters and thank you cards, and (of course) formal ballroom dance to end the year.

Happy Birthday: Ms. Naranja- 8<sup>th</sup> Matthew T.-13<sup>th</sup>  
Zoe M. - 26<sup>th</sup>

Please remember to send sweaters or jackets with your child's name on the inside. Also, remember to please have your child to school on time so they can best benefit from our program. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to a fun filled January!

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**Room 4-Ms. Neranja:** Welcome to 2017! We hope you and your family had an enjoyable and relaxing vacation. Thank you so much to all the parents who made our International potluck so wonderful! The dishes were absolutely delicious and the children had such a great time. Thank you for coming to see our holiday program, as this made a big difference to the children.

January is considered our academic push of the school year and the workday will resume back to normal. This month the children are going to be extremely busy, working on all of their Math, Reading, Language, Geometry, Writing as well as cultural subjects. Please make sure the children are here on time so they will not miss out what our program has to offer.

The Units for the month of January will be:

**A Tribute to the One Who is Fighting for Humanity**

- Inspired by the story of Martin Luther King, and the magnificent "I have a Dream" speech, the children will discuss why it is important for us to take action for what we think is right and to speak up for humanity. They will research biographies on human rights activists/Nobel Peace Prize winners and write a thank you letter for their great contributions to humanity.

**American History** - Introduction to the Age of Exploration: The Greenland Saga, Europeans and the known world, and history of map making.

**Geology** - "What is Geology", Layers of the Earth.

**Science** - Parts of a cell: Plant cells vs Animal Cells, How do cells make and use energy?, How cells are organized.

**Music** - Study of South Asian Music

**Art** - Study of Chinese art and culture with a study of Chinese vases.

We will also be reviewing our schedule and allow the children to ease their way back into school after their wonderful vacations. Last but not least, we would like to thank you for all those thoughtful holiday gifts. Have a great January!

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**Room 5- Ms. Gloria & Ms. Jahaira:** Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful and joyous time during the holidays! Ms. Jahaira and I would like to wish everyone at FVM a happy and prosperous New Year! May 2017 be filled with joy, love and peace throughout the year!

We like to start the year by being thankful to everyone for all the gifts and gift cards that we were showered with during December. We are very appreciative for your love and generosity.

In January, in Geography, the children will explore the continent of Asia and learn about the major countries, flags and its geographic location on the world map. Being a native of Sri Lanka, I will give the children a presentation on Sri Lanka and watch an educational documentary about the island, animals, food, clothes, language, art and other interesting facts the country has to offer. Parents, you are welcome to talk about a country in Asia on a day that works best for you. Please let me know if you are interested.

The children will learn about the parts of a volcano and we will observe the eruption of a volcano in class. In Zoology, we will learn about the parts of a bird.

In Spanish, children will learn about transportation. The unit of study being Transportation, your child will work on a mode of transportation of her/his choice: air, land or water.

We will also listen to the Asian musicians Ravi Shankar on Sitar and Yo Yo Ma on Cello. In Art, we will reproduce the Japanese Cherry Blossom by Katsushika Hokusai. The children will also learn about the philosopher, Dr. Martin Luther King. They will listen to a book about him and make a bookmark to encourage them to read. We will end our continent study of Asia with a potluck celebrating the year of the Rooster for Lunar New Year.

From January onwards, we will work on Physical Fitness every Friday.

Reminder: Your child's extra clothes were sent home in December so you may replenish with weather-appropriate, size-fitting clothes. Please make sure to bring some in.

Happy Birthday Aveline N.-2<sup>nd</sup> Emma N.-15<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 6- Ms. Rasika & Ms. Bea:** Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a restful holiday and that the year 2017 will continue to bring peace, love, joy, happiness and good health to all of you. We had so much fun learning all about the holidays celebrated around the world as well as learning about arctic animals and Antarctica. Thank you for thinking of us during the holiday season! We really appreciate it.

For the month of January we will be traveling to the continent of Asia where we will be studying the beautiful and historic architecture, popular landmarks, and talk about the people and animals of the continent. During the month of January we will be learning about the solar system. In Art, we will learn about Rangoli art which is an art form native to Nepal, India and Bangladesh. We will also be learning all about parts of a fish. The composer of the month will be Ravi Shankar.

In Spanish, we will learn the names of clothing items as well as review what we have learned throughout the year. We will also be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and have a fun art project planned.

Reminders:

- \* Please make sure your child has the proper extra clothing in their cubby.
- \* Please make sure all jackets are labeled with your child's name.
- \* Please remember class start at 9:00am. It is important that children don't miss out on morning circle

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**Room 7- Ms. Kelli, Ms. Britney, & Ms. Alicia:** Welcome to the New Year! We can't wait to get 2017 started! We hope you all had a wonderful and restful break. A huge thank you for making December so amazing! We had so much fun at our Holiday Performance and such yummy food at the potluck! Thank you all for cooking and bringing in all homemade foods! We changed up the classroom a bit and can't wait for the children to enjoy the new layout!

We say goodbye to Olivia, Coral, and Eli as they move into our preschool rooms. We welcome 3 new students to the class this month! Welcome to Leanne, Alex, and Italy!

For the month of January, we will be diving right back into our daily routine. We will be learning all about the Moon and Stars. Our book of the month is a classic favorite, "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown. We have some fun moon inspired artwork, so please be on the lookout!

Our color of the month will be Black. The children will be enjoying another fun craft using black paint. We might even dabble into some color mixing with black and white! This month, we will focus on the Star as our shape of the month. We are excited to announce that we will also adding song of the month! This month, we will be singing, "Moon, Moon, Moon.

In Celebration of the Lunar New Years, we will enjoy Chinese food in lieu if pizza, on January 28<sup>th</sup>!

Reminders:

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