

# *Fountain Valley Montessori*

## April 2016

*“Above all it is to be noted that the child has a passionate love for order and work, and possesses intellectual qualities superior by far to what might have been expected.” ~ Dr. Maria Montessori*

### **Important Dates:**

Spring Break

**Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> -Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Earth Day Celebration

**Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

Ms. Ashley... 1<sup>st</sup> Ms. Lindsay... 18<sup>th</sup>

**Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Pick up:** Classes start promptly at 9:00am and end at 12:00pm for our half day students and 3:00pm for our full day students. We encourage all students to be dropped off between 8:45-9:00am to ensure a smooth transition into school. Please note, when dropping your child off on the playgrounds in the morning, please ensure that your goodbyes are short and sweet. This is a time for the children to interact with each other and their teachers. Please observe through our classroom observation windows. 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. If you are going to be late, please quietly drop your child off in class, and one of the teachers will escort them to morning circle. Please make sure that your child is picked up promptly at the end of the school day.

**Extra Clothing:** Please bring **two** extra sets of clothing (including socks and underwear) to leave in your child's cubby.

**Toy Policy:** In keeping with our “No Toy” Policy, we ask that all children leave toys at home. Share items can be pictures pertaining to our unit of study or something special from a trip. Talking shares; in which your child tells their friends about a special vacation, etc. are always welcome too!

**Checking your Child In and Out:** As you know, signing your child in and out each day is a function mandated by the State of California. Each person who has your permission to drop off or pick up your child on a regular basis must register their OWN door code and fingerprint. This acts as an electronic signature. Throughout the year, reasons do arise that you may have someone pick-up your child who may or may not be on your “authorized pick-up list. Please fill out a pink authorization slip from the office for these situations. Also, please ensure that they have a picture ID. Children will not be released to anyone without your prior permission.

**Snack and our Low-Sugar Policy:** As part of the children's Practical Life activities, each classroom has a monthly snack host/hostess sign-up calendar. This will allow the children to experience the full process of creating a meal: shopping, preparing, and serving. Each month please see the snack sign-up sheets located outside each classroom door. Please plan on serving 24 children and adhere to our "low sugar" policy. Please remember when signing up for classroom snack to bring at least two food groups. Also, please make sure items are pre-washed. Individually packaged or pre-distributed items are greatly appreciated.

**Social Media:** 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. Follow us on Instagram @ [fvmontessori](https://www.instagram.com/fvmontessori)

**Room 1- Ms. Paula & Ms. Lindsay:** We loved talking to you about your loved one during the conferences. Thank you for your participation. Thank you to the parents who saved time to be available for our Fundraiser at Chipotle. Fun was had by all!

In March, we started our safari to the continent of Africa. So far, we have studied the geographic regions (central, eastern, northern, southern and western), the Nile River and the body of water surrounding the continent. We will continue to explore Africa and learn about the flags, their housing and languages. Children will learn about the countries in Africa where they will each work on food, languages, currency, types of homes, education system, weather and climate, animals and clothing.

In Zoology, we will study parts of the giraffe. Our artist will be Frida Kahlo. In Spanish we will cover months of the year. We will also be listening to Carlos Santana as our musician of the month. After Spring Break we will start our journey to South America.

We will be working on a writing project that will have the children exploring whether or not they would like to live in Africa. April is also National Poetry Month! We will be writing our own poems based on rhyming words! Our classic reader will be *Black Beauty*.

Happy Birthday: Kalyn D. -6<sup>th</sup>

**Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> -Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>: Spring Break  
Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Earth Day**

**Room 2- Ms. Zyerie & Ms. Josie:** I hope you have had enough time adjusting to the time change last month! It was a pleasure meeting with all of you during conferences. The children were busy learning about the solar system. They enjoyed their exploration of Africa. Their African Sunset painting looks beautiful and they enjoyed listening to African Music during work time. Fountain Valley Montessori would like to thank you for all your donations made to WAGS. We are now hopping into the month of April!

For the month of April, our unit will be nutrition! We will be learning about the different food groups. In science we will be experimenting with the concept of sink and float using a variety of fruits and vegetables. For zoology, we will focus on the lifecycle of a butterfly. To further understand the lifecycle of a butterfly I will have a butterfly garden on display for the children to observe. In Spanish, I will be introducing shapes.

Our exploration will lead us to South America! The children will be introduced to popular animals and monuments of the continent. We will also discuss the layers of a rainforest. During work time we will be listening to Latin Music. We will be painting butterflies using the pointillism technique. The finished artwork will be displayed on our outside wall.

**Friendly Reminder:** Please assure the jackets/clothing your child takes home belongs to them. It is easy to identify their belonging when their name is written on the tag.

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**Room 3- Ms. Alecia & Ms. Christine:** Thank you everyone who made it to parent/teacher conferences. It was a pleasure speaking to you about your child's progress. During the month of March the children enjoyed learning all about community helpers and loved sharing what they wanted to be when they grow up! We also learned all about Africa and the animals that live there. Thank you to everyone who brought in your favorite Dr. Seuss book. We had fun sharing and reading them throughout the month!

For the month of April we will be taking a safari to the outback of Australia. We will be learning all about the animals focusing on the Kangaroo and the native aborigines of Australia. We will also study about parts of flower. We will have a special gardening project for Earth Day that we will be celebrating on the 22<sup>nd</sup> along with talking about recycling.

In Spanish, we will be learning about different types of animals. The composer of the month is Vivaldi whose music we will listen to during work time. For our artist of the month we will be learning about Georgia O'Keefe and her amazing work.

Happy Birthday: Sarah S. - 9<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 4- Ms. Angela:** Thank you so much for all the parent volunteers for our field trip! It was a great success and everyone really enjoyed "Beauty and the Beast" and our yummy lunch at Johnny Rockets! I can't wait for some April showers so we can have beautiful May flowers! This month will be filled with the miraculous changing surroundings of spring. We will be celebrating Earth Day where the children will be learning how to take care of our environment for today and for the future.

For our cultural subjects we will continue to explore the geography of Africa along with how they find and keep clean drinking water to sustain life. We will also be listening to tribal and traditional African music. For Science we will bring together Spring and Earth Day each child will be planting a seed and watering it daily to see the growth throughout the month. I will also have 2 additional control plants—one with no sunlight and one with no water. This will show how important everything is for survival. We will also review the lifecycle of a plant so they can see what is to come. Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the end of our Spring Break. We will celebrate upon our return on April 24<sup>th</sup> and will be recycling and reusing scrap paper to make our very own papyrus! Look for announcements for our annual school planting day as well.

Finally, we get to explore the world of poetry as April is National Poetry Month. The children will be writing their own poems and exploring different types of poetry.

The children continue to do well in our cotillion class. This month we are focusing on Thank you letters and how a simple gesture can make a big impact. Please ask and encourage their lessons at home. Our Spanish study will add African animals and continue with the differences between masculine and feminine parts of speech in Spanish. Our Artist of the month is Paul Klee. We will explore yet another type of medium to understand the diverse world of art and how beauty is in the eye of the beholder and there are no mistakes in art. We are working on choral and vocal arrangements along with scales in music this month.

We hope everyone has a safe and fun-filled Spring break—we can't wait to hear all about your many adventures. Thank you once again for the opportunity to work with your child. If you need to get a message to me anytime: AngelaC.fvm@gmail.com

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**Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Earth Day**

**Room 4-Ms. Neranja:** This school year has been flying by and we are so excited that springtime is here at last!

Shouldn't we celebrate poetry all year round, not just in April? By all means, yes! We encourage the year-round, life-long reading of poetry. In April, we will be celebrating the National Poetry Month. We will be highlighting the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets. We will be also working on reading/writing Poem- a - day activities. Save the date for Poem in Your Pocket Day which will be held on Thursday, April 27: on Poem in Your Pocket Day, people throughout the United States select a poem, carry it with them, and share it with others throughout the day. This year, we would also be taking part in 2017 National Poetry Month's education project, "Dear Poet." This unit incorporates multimedia and classroom activities to encourage students to explore and interact with poetry by first writing letters to important historical poets as practice, for writing letters to the Academy of American Poets Board of Chancellors, a group that represents poetry in America at its best. More details to follow!

"A line drawing is like taking a dot for a walk." said, Paul Klee. For art in April, we will be learning about this famous artist and his technique of Continuous Line Drawing. Often used as a technique to warm up art students and get their creative blocks tumbling, continuous line drawing is actually a very powerful way to create a piece that is both hard edged and fluid, representational and abstract, rational and emotional all in one. The children will be creating their own masterpiece based on this technique.

#### Cultural Units:

- American History - Encounters in the Americas: Conquest of the Aztecs and Incas, The search for Gold and Riches.
- History - The Retelling of 'Coming of Life'. The students will be exploring a notion of immensity of the length of time it took to prepare the earth for man's arrival and the contribution of each creature for making it possible. By performing their cosmic tasks, each plant and animal formation paved the way in a parade leading to man's entrance.
- Geology - Volcanoes
- Biology - Human Body Systems
- Geography - Continue study about Africa: Global connections/ African politics and government

Happy Birthday: Natalie N.- 21<sup>st</sup>

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**Room 5- Ms. Gloria & Ms. Jahaira:** The month of March has been a fabulous month as we discussed about Shamrocks and Leprechauns for St. Patrick's Day. The leprechaun did make our lemonade green but our plan and trap set to catch it was unsuccessful! We also made a "Cat in the Hat" hat to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and discussed the importance of reading. Thank you to all the parents who met me for parent/teacher conferences. We had a wonderful time during our safari to Africa.

During April, in Geography, we will study the continent of Australia. It will be an exciting continent to explore as I look forward to sharing some personal souvenirs and artifacts. They will learn the region, states, animals and famous places to visit. We will also focus on the parts of a Platypus. The unit of the month is Ocean Life and the children will work on an art project related to the subject.

In April, we will learn about insects in general and observe bugs while on the playground. In Spanish, we will be learning about ocean life.

We will listen to aboriginal music during work time and create aboriginal art. In observance of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will discuss the importance of recycling. Plastic bottles will be recycled in our room when we return. It will be nice if the children can continue to recycle outside of the school. We will plant seeds in biodegradable pots which can be directly planted in soil later.

Prior to going on Spring Recess, we will go on a "Spring Egg Hunt", which we believe will be an exciting event.

Happy Birthday: Gabriel S.-15<sup>th</sup> Logan K.-6<sup>th</sup>

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**Room 6- Ms. Rasika & Ms. Bea:** Welcome spring! Thank you everyone who made it to parent/teacher conferences, it was a pleasure speaking with you about your child's progress. During the month of March the children enjoyed learning all about community helpers. Thank you to all the parents who supported the classroom art project. The children had so much fun presenting their carrier goals to the class with decorated artwork. We also learned all about Africa and the animals that live there. Thank you to everyone who brought in your favorite Dr. Seuss book. We had fun sharing and reading them throughout the month!

Our study unit for the month of April will be the water cycle. In Geography we will be learning about the continent of Australia. In Zoology, we will study about parts of a kangaroo. In Spanish, we will be learning about different types of animals. We will also work on aboriginal art and will listen to aboriginal music during this month.

In observance of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the importance of recycling will be discussed. Plastic bottles will be recycled in our room. It will be nice if the children can continue to recycle outside of the school.

Reminders: As the weather changes, please replenish your child's extra clothing, and as always school starts promptly at 9:00am.

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**Room 7- Ms. Kelli, Ms. Britney, & Ms. Nikki:** What a lucky month we have had. The children really enjoyed Lucky our leprechaun messing up the classroom! That sneaky guy messed up our chairs and left pieces of the rainbow (lifesavers) in our room!

We say goodbye to Riley, as he moved into one of our Preschool classrooms. I would like to introduce Dean and Garrett into our class! Welcome Dean and Garrett!

I think we are all excited that spring has begun! Let bring on the warm weather! We will explore all about spring and the beautiful flowers that are blooming, along with all the new insects that will be coming out!

We will be reading a classical book, that everyone will enjoy, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Beatrix Potter. Please look for your child's art project on the outside wall

Our color of the month will be purple.

Please be mindful that I strive to provide a clean, organized classroom for the children to work in every day. If your child/children take work off the shelves when class is not in session, please make sure to place it back in the correct spot. This will ensure I can provide a clean and prepared environment. Also, your child/children will have the opportunity to present their work to you during Open House coming up on May 18<sup>th</sup>!

Reminders:

- Please check your child's extra clothing. Please change out the long sleeves/pants, for short sleeves/pants.
- Class start promptly at 9:00am. Even though we are on the playground, this extra time outside is allowing all the children to transition into class.

Happy Birthday:

Ardo M.-1<sup>st</sup>    Jacob P.-6<sup>th</sup>    Blake T.-14<sup>th</sup>    Jensen S.-28<sup>th</sup>  
Senna S.-28<sup>th</sup>

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