

Fountain Valley Montessori

December 2020 Newsletter

Important Dates:

Holiday Shows:

Tuesday, December 15th- Thursday, December 17th

Pajama Day & Book Exchange!

Friday, December 18th

Winter Recess

Monday, December 21st- Friday, January 1st
(School Closed)



Happy Birthday...

Ms. Paula- 17th
Ms. Lisa- 24th

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Thank you to all the parents who attended Parent/Teacher Conferences. It was great to speak with you all and we hope you enjoyed learning about your child's progress.

Holiday Program: As part of our curriculum, the children learn about holidays from around the world. In December, the children also learn songs about the winter season as well as holiday songs! This year, the children are excited to perform for all their parents via **ZOOM!** We will be setting up our back-picnic area as a performance space for the children to perform as you watch from home! Below, you will find the date and time your child will be performing.

Tuesday, December 15th:	Wednesday, December 16th:	Thursday, December 17th:
Room 1 @ 10:00	Room 7 @ 10:00	Room 4 Lower @ 10:30
Room 2 @ 10:30	Room 5 @ 10:30	Room 4 Upper @ 11:00
Room 3 @ 11:00	Room 6 @ 11:00	

Pajama Day & Book Exchange: On Friday, December 18th, we will be having a Pajama Day. Feel free to have your child come to school in their favorite pajamas. This is a day to just have fun and relax. Please make sure they wear school appropriate shoes. Each classroom will also be participating in a Book Exchange. Please have your child bring a wrapped book (up to \$5.00 value) to school on Friday, December 18th. Also, please make sure that the gift has a tag that says, "To my Friends" and "From (your child's name)" Thank you!

Tuition Reminder: Please keep in mind that tuition is due between the 15th and the 20th for the following month. For example, the tuition for November is due between the 15th and 20th of October. A late fee will be assessed to all payments received after the 20th.

Sign In/Out Reminder: It is a mandatory STATE requirement that each child's daily arrival and departure be noted in the sign in and sign out keypads. Please do not allow your child to check themselves in or out. This is a legal document and must be treated as such. In addition, please inform us in writing if anyone other than the parent will be picking up your child from school.

Like us on Facebook and Instagram! We post updates and pictures from recent events. Visit us at fvmontessori.com for the newsletter, calendar, etc.

Room 1- Ms. Jahaira & Ms. Vicky: Brrrr... Grab your jacket, scarf and gloves because it's getting coold in here! It must be because we are getting ready to travel to the coldest places on earth and learn about the North and South Pole! We will be turning our room into a winter wonderland with reindeers, snowmen, and snowflakes! We will explore the animals of the Arctic region too, but our focus will be on the Emperor penguin, the unique bird from Antarctica! Did you know the father penguin is responsible for balancing their egg on its feet and stand for 65 days through icy temperatures, cruel winds, and freezing storms? Wow... I cannot imagine, that is truly amazing! Estaremos aprendiendo la cancion de Feliz Navidad cantada por Jose Feliciano y tambien come decir los animales del artico! You guessed it.... we will be singing the song Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano and we will learn about animals of the arctic in Spanish!

We are all super excited for our Holiday Show this year! The children have been practicing all month and cannot wait to perform for you! My crafty little elves have also been working on a surprise to give you as the holidays approach. Ms. Vicky and I have fun holiday activities for the children to enjoy as the festivities approach!

A funny incident:

As we wrapped up our Spanish lesson for the week, I told the children they were learning so fast and they were my little bilinguals!! A child said "what!... We are your little burritos"? And I said nooo...not burritos, I cannot eat you guys! And we all started giggling!

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Room 2- Ms. Marian: I cannot believe we are a month away from the New Year! November was such a fun and exciting month for the children. We learned about the beautiful country we live in and explored the 50 states. We enjoyed counting the stars on our flag and learned about oceans around the world along with discovering some yummy fruits and vegetables. We created beautiful fall trees and turkeys using multimedia coloring techniques and our Stone Soup was delicious!

December is the twelfth month of the year. It has thirty-one days. In the northern half of the world, winter begins on December 21st or 22nd. There, it is the shortest day of the year. At the same time, summer starts in the southern half of the world.

In December, be ready to hear your child say Feliz Navidad and Eid Saeed as we will learn about holidays around the world. This is an excellent opportunity to explore how people worldwide celebrate the holidays, learn about their traditions, and participate in joyful experiences. We will listen to festive music from around the world and will even try to learn a few songs!

We will also be discussing the continent of Antarctica and its climate and animals. I will take the opportunity to talk about the difference between the Arctic and the Antarctic region and we will learn about the parts of the penguin. Our Spanish lessons will be based on the winter season.

The children will enjoy winter-themed art as they learn a new painting technique.

Happy Holidays to all and have a great time with friends and family!

Happy Birthday: Max P.- 3rd Isaac P.- 4th

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Room 3- Ms. Bea: Hello Parents,

Hope you had a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving break! We had a great month of November with our Stone soup, while we also focused on what we were thankful for. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the children innocently talk about what they appreciate the most. They were excited as we visited some of the most important landmarks of Europe and we all agreed that it would be fun to visit them in person someday! We talked about Living and Non-Living things, some of them were surprised to find out about some things that are part of the living environment.

December will be a fun, busy month. We will visit the continent of Antarctica and the cold Arctic region in the north! We will discover some of the most beautiful animals native to the coldest places on earth, one of them being a penguin. We will learn about the parts of a penguin and about the different types of penguins that inhabit the continent. We will be making holiday inspired artwork to make our room look festive and beautiful for the season! American artist Grandma Moses will be our inspiration as we recreate one of her famous winter scenes. We will be staying local as we also listen to the songs of Aretha Franklin as our artist of the month. The children will also listen to holiday songs, and practice for the holiday program. Finally, we will learn numbers and terms for popular winter clothing in Spanish class.

Sending warm wishes as we begin the holiday season!

Ms. Bea

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Room 4 Lower- Ms. Paula & Ms. Yasmin: Hello Parents,

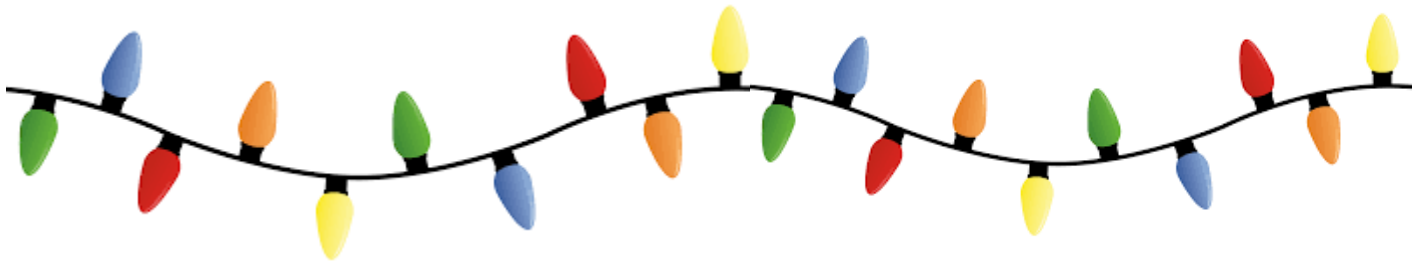
We had an amazing month of November as we learned about our beautiful country and about our beautiful state. I look forward to moving on to another great month as we approach the last month of 2020! Yay!

December is the twelfth month of the year. It has thirty-one days. In the northern half of the world, winter begins on December 21st or 22nd. There, it is the shortest day of the year. At the same time, summer begins in the southern half of the world. There, it is the longest day of the year. People living in England long ago called this month Winter-monath or "winter month".

December is always a month to remember, and our weather is generally not frightful. But it is so in Antarctica, the most southern continent, and the site of the south. We will learn about this unique continent, about the animals that inhabit this land and the Antarctic Treaty. Children love to learn about the penguin and are always amazed to discover the different types of penguins that are found here. I will also take this opportunity to introduce the Arctic, the northernmost region of the world. We will explore the arctic and the children will learn about some differences between the two. This part of the world has certain unique characteristics, and I am certain the children will be fascinated!

With glee we will be learning about the various holiday traditions. This will include the Feast of Saint Nicholas on December 25th, St Lucia Day, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa and Christmas. We will learn about holiday plants and review parts of a leaf for our study of botany. Our artist of the month will be Grandma Moses as we try to recreate one of her endearing winter wonderland scenes. We will listen to holiday songs as we get ready for our holiday show. Looking forward to the magic of the season!

Happy Birthday: Nathan P.- 24th



Holiday Show via ZOOM: Thursday, December 17th @ 10:30 am

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Room 4 Upper- Ms. Neranja & Ms. Yasmin: Welcome to the frosty month of December! It is so hard to believe that November is over, and the holidays are already approaching. I look forward to covering the following topics during this short month.

Cultural Units:

- **World holidays:** This would be a great opportunity for them to explore together how holidays are celebrated in other countries and how they have incorporated some of those traditions into their own family celebrations. In this way, children realize that all cultures can offer positive experiences.
- **Elementary heritage Project:**
The Elementary heritage project is set up for students to discover their heritage while learning why the United States is called the “melting pot” of the world. The goal of this project is for each student to research and reflect on their individual backgrounds and share their knowledge with their peers through their poster.
- **Winter and December Writing Prompts:**
 - a. “The best gifts are gifts from the heart” What does this phrase mean to you?
 - b. “If I see snow outside my window”. What would I do?
- **Art:** Catching a Snowflake Monart Art Project.
- **Music:** The Nutcracker ballet and the music by Tchaikovsky – The students will listen to selections from the Nutcracker and discuss the mood evoked by each.

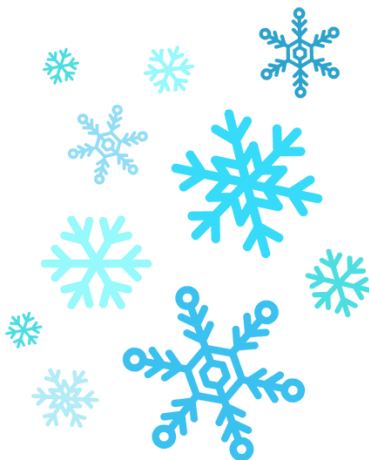
More information regarding the holiday program will be sent out in an email once all the finer details have been decided on. Please be sure to enjoy these last days of the year 2020 and hope that everyone has a warm and cozy December!

Happy Birthday: Natalie N.- 16th

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Room 5- Ms. Gloria & Ms. Jocelyn: Phew... See how time has flown as we reach the end of the year and 2021 is around the corner! It has been a year that will always be remembered with some sadness but let's all look forward to a better tomorrow with hope and conviction! It was so nice to be able to see you and talk to you during parent/teacher conferences. Thank you for taking the time.

Brrr.... Put your winter clothes on as we will be travelling to Antarctica to discover the penguins! I am certain the favorite type of penguin will be the Macaroni Penguin. The children will study about parts of a penguin and enjoy an art project. At the end of the month, we will watch a documentary about the coldest continent on our planet.

Beat it...beat it...beat it...We will put our Rock & Roll shoes on to listen and "Moon dance" to Michael Jackson's music during December! It is the holiday season, and the children will be introduced to the great artist, Andy Warhol, and his holiday themed cards. The children will make their version of his famous "Christmas Card Art" using die cuts of trees, snowmen, candy canes to create the Art. We will also work on holiday themed art projects during the month of December. Ms. Jocelyn will teach modes of transportation in Spanish and the children will learn "Las Ruedas del Autobus", the Spanish version of the ever-popular Wheels on the Bus! I will also introduce the parts of a bird.

Please mark your calendar to watch your child participate in our annual holiday show on Wednesday, December 16th. Please be on the lookout for the zoom invite that will follow soon. We have planned a book exchange for the children for Friday, December 18th. The children will have a fun day in their favorite pajamas while eating popcorn and watching a movie! It sure is going to be an enjoyable event!

We thank you for entrusting your child's education and growth with us and Ms. Jocelyn and I wish you all happy and safe holidays!

Ms. Gloria & Ms. Jocelyn

Happy Birthday: Harper L.- 7th

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Room 6- Ms. Enoka: Dear Room 6 Parents,

Can you believe we have arrived in the last month of the year 2020? What a year it has been, with unexpected challenges, changes, and growth for us all. However, as always December will be a month filled with lots of joy from all the holiday activities around the classroom and the children have a lot to look forward to.

The onset of the cold weather is a perfect time to journey to the coldest part of the world in Antarctica! We will learn about the endless icecaps and the wonderful animals such as the penguins & whales that enjoy the cold freezing weather. The children will learn about the parts of the penguin, which is one special bird, with flippers & feathers!

We will learn about the parts of a tree and the children will enjoy crafting and decorating their own pinecone holiday tree. In addition, the children will enjoy a variety of other crafts such as the making of holiday ornaments, decorating cookies etc. to help make our classroom festive and bright for the holidays. Lastly, the children will continue to practice their holiday songs for the holiday show which will keep the spirits merry and bright around the classroom. Please be on the lookout for the zoom invite closer to the event.

For our monthly art project, we will do a salt and paint art piece in keeping with the seasonal theme. As always, the children will also continue to work on their academic lessons such as their numbers, letters, reading and writing. Through it all, we will keep the spirits high with the holidays in mind.

Thank you for your exceptional support throughout this challenging year! Be safe and enjoy your holidays!

Best regards,
Ms. Enoka

Happy Birthday: Dallas H.- 18th Benjamin T.- 26th

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Room 7- Ms. Alicia, Ms. Jenae, & Ms. Michelle: November has come and gone in the blink of an eye! The children did a great job making their turkeys, owls, and scarecrows. They also enjoyed singing the songs "I'm A Little Turkey", "Autumn Leaves" and "I'm A Little Scarecrow."

December brings lots of holiday cheer! Our book of the month is "Bear Stays Up for Christmas." The children will be making lots of fun artwork, such as: a handprint tree, a gingerbread man, a stocking, and a wreath. They will be painting with the color green which is our color of the month. I look forward to introducing "I'm A Little Snowman" as our song of the month and we will work on making lots of stars for our shape of the month project!

I thoroughly enjoy this time of the year since it gives me an opportunity to sing and introduce fun holiday songs! Be ready to hear the 2-year old sing these melodies in their cute voices and in their inimitable style at our Holiday Show! 😊

We wish you Happy Holidays! See you all in 2021!

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FVM HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

Tips to staying healthy!

It is now more important than ever to keep both your mind and body healthy! Here are some helpful tips for you and your family to stay healthy and keep your immune system in tip top shape during this global pandemic...

1. DRINK lots of water.
2. EXERCISE at least 30 minutes per day!
3. EAT lots of vegetables.
4. WASH your hands often!
5. LIMIT screen time.



How to make exercise FUN for the whole family!

- Family bike rides!
- Go on walks together after dinner.
- Encourage healthy eating habits!
- Yoga & stretching before bedtime.
 - Have dance parties!