

Fountain Valley Montessori

January 2026 Newsletter

Important Dates:



Winter Break

Monday, Dec. 22nd -
Friday January 2nd
(School Closed)

Monday, January 19th

School closed in honor
of Martin Luther King Jr.
Day
(School Closed)

Wednesday, January 21st

Chipotle Night

Friday, January 30th

Progress Reports Out

Thursday, February 12th

Open House
(8:00 - 9:00 AM)

Tuesday, February 17th

Lunar New Year
Celebration

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Ms. Neranja- January 8th

See's Candies Fundraiser: Thank you to all the families who participated in our See's Candies Fundraiser and for making it such a success! We'd like to send a special thank you to Makai K. in room 6, Reid and Hope H. in room 1 for selling the most candy this year!

Holiday Shows: Thank you to everyone who attended our Holiday Shows. The children had so much fun, and we hope you enjoyed watching your children perform! The international potluck was also a hit, and it was all thanks to everyone who participated! It was wonderful sharing the holiday season with everyone.

Open House: All parents are welcome to attend our open house that is coming up on February 12th from 8:00 - 9:00 am. You will have the opportunity to see what your child has been working on in class!

Morning Drop Off / Afternoon Pick up: If you require AM/PM daycare for your child, this must be pre-arranged with the office. We do offer occasional daycare at the rate of \$20.00/hr., which will automatically be billed to your account if your child is dropped off before 8:45 or 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.

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

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. Keep all sick children home. Children must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.



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Montessori



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Room 1: Ms. Paula & Ms. Vivian



Happy New Year to All!

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a joyful and restful holiday break. It was truly wonderful to see the children perform and sing during our holiday show. They were so excited to share their hard work with you, and we think they truly outdid themselves! Thank you all so much for coming and celebrating with us.

A heartfelt thank you as well to all the families for the thoughtful cards, presents, and gifts that Ms. Paula and I received. We truly appreciate your kindness, love, and generosity, it means so much to us.

With the holidays behind us, we are excited to dive into a brand-new year and all the learning January has to offer!

This month, we will begin our journey to the continent of Asia. We will explore India, China, Korea, and Japan. Did you know that the name Japan means “origin of the sun”? It is also known as the “Land of the Rising Sun”—how interesting!

The children will watch a short documentary video which will enhance their learning experience as we talk about the about cultures, landmarks, animals, and other fascinating facts as we travel to these countries.

In zoology, we will explore different types of horses and learn about the parts of a horse, expanding our understanding of animals and their characteristics. For botany, we will study the life cycle of a plant, learning how plants grow and change over time.

We will dive into physics with a fun and hands-on sink and float experiment, encouraging curiosity, prediction, and observation.

We will explore health and nutrition by learning about the food groups and discussing “What’s on My Plate.” The children will develop an understanding of balanced meals and healthy food choices in an age-appropriate and engaging way. The children will be making their own food chart for a more hands on experience. Please send pictures of different food items in a labeled zippered bag by Monday, January 12. Magazines, grocery store ads and newspapers are great resources for cutouts.

In Spanish, the children will learn the names of animals, building vocabulary through engaging and interactive lessons.

We will explore Impressionist art through the works of Claude Monet, focusing on how he captured the beauty and mood of winter in his paintings. For music, we will listen to songs by The Beatles, enjoying their melodies while developing rhythm, listening skills, and musical appreciation.

In addition, we will read a story based on the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as we celebrate his birthday on January 20th, helping the children learn about kindness, fairness, and respect for others.

We are so excited for all the learning, discovery, and fun that January will bring. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a wonderful start to the new year together!

January Birthdays: Reid H. 26th, Leo V.-14th

Room 2: Ms. Marian & Ms. Michelle



Hello Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoys a relaxing, joyful, and safe holiday break. We are thrilled to welcome the children back as we begin an exciting new year of learning together!

We would like to begin by sincerely thanking you for the thoughtful cards, warm wishes, and generous gifts we received last month. Your kindness and support truly mean so much to us. The holiday show was a wonderful celebration, and hearing the children sing with such enthusiasm along with your presence made it an unforgettable experience.

As we move past the holiday season, we eagerly look ahead to a fun-filled and educational January. This month, the children will begin an exciting journey across the continent of Asia, the largest continent in the world. We will explore its countries, cultures, people, and unique wildlife, as well as famous landmarks such as the Great Wall of China, Mount Fuji, the Taj Mahal, and the Himalayan Mountains. Animals like the Bengal tiger, elephant, and panda bear are sure to spark curiosity and imagination.

We will also explore the four seasons, learning about their characteristics and how seasonal changes impact the world around us. Our science lessons will include learning about the parts of a fish in zoology and the parts of a tree in botany. In Spanish, the children will build vocabulary by learning the names of clothing items.

We are also excited to introduce the children to the art of Jackson Pollock, focusing on his energetic “drip painting” (action painting) technique, where creativity truly comes to life through splatter painting. We will also listen to traditional music from Asia.

Additionally, we will read a story inspired by the life and work of the great philosopher Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Throughout the month, we will continue to strengthen creativity and literacy through ongoing art projects and story writing. Please remember that your child’s extra clothes were sent home in December. Kindly replenish their cubbies with weather-appropriate clothing.

Thank you for trusting us with your child’s education. We look forward to a wonderful and successful 2026 ahead!

January Birthdays: Charlotte C.- 5th, Brandon L.- 26th

Room 3: Ms. Bea & Ms. Veronica



Hello Parents,

Welcome back! Happy 2026! We hope you had a nice winter break and enjoyed this time off with your family. We would like to begin by sincerely thanking you for the thoughtful cards, warm wishes, and generous gifts we received last month. Your kindness and support truly mean so much to us. December was a busy a fun month for all. The children enjoyed the festive month as they worked on holiday inspired art. We learned about Antarctica and the Arctic and the different animals that inhabit these regions. The children enjoyed practicing and singing for the holiday performance. Thank you for coming! They also enjoyed all the yummy food from the international potluck.

January will be another exciting month as we will be traveling to Asia and learning about the different countries, the people and about the breathtaking landmarks of this beautiful continent. We will learn about the Great Wall of China, Mount Fuji, the Taj Mahal, and the Himalayan Mountains. We will set a day to watch a special documentary on unique animals such as the tiger, the elephant and the panda bear which are native to the continent of Asia.

We will learn about the parts of a fish for our zoology unit. We will talk about living and non-living things and I will have the children work on a special group project to help them learn the difference. Please send 3 to 4 pictures from magazine cut outs, newspapers or grocery store leaflets for our class posters.

We will be inspired to recreate a beautiful cherry blossom art, inspired by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. For Spanish class we will learn names of winter clothing articles. We will be listening to sounds of beautiful Japanese guitar and instrumental music. We will enjoy cooking noodles for our cooking project.

This month also gives us the opportunity to learn about Martin Luther King and his very important message. I will be reading an age-appropriate biography on his life.

Have a wonderful month ahead!

Happy Birthday: Armando Jan. 18th

Room 4L: Ms. Yasmin & Ms. Gurpreet

Hello Parents,

Happy New Year to all! We hope everyone had a good holiday season with friends and family. Last month was fun and festive for us as the children worked hard for their holiday show. They had a blast putting this together and we felt like true stars! Thank you all for coming. I would also like to thank you for the generous gifts, holiday wishes, cards, and the gift cards we received. Thank you!

This month we will be exploring the biggest continent of all, Asia. I will cover the western and central regions of Asia before we move on to the far east and southeastern countries. We will learn about the vast deserts and the oil producing countries of the middle east. We will locate the countries on the world map as we learn about their physical features, the prominent landmarks, talk about the people and their culture. Learning about their customs, food and traditional clothing is everyone's favorite experience! We will also talk about the camel, who is often referred to as the 'ship of the desert'!

Our study of botany will be focused on learning about parts of a root and the parts of a cherry blossom tree. We will also introduce the characteristics and the parts of a mammal for our zoology lesson.

Our study of Spanish will be based on learning how to address family members. We will focus on balance, stretching and yoga for our PE exercises.

Our musician for the month will be Richard Wagner and his extraordinary Opera compositions. We will spark the children's interest in art by introducing them to the famous artist Wassily Kandinsky. Have a great month ahead!

Thank you so much for all your support.

Ms. Yasmin: yasminc.fvm@gmail.com

Birthdays: Jasmine S. 1/2, Ryder S. 1/10 James J. 1/19, Albert N. 1/24

Room 4U: Ms. Neranja & Ms. Erika



We hope you and your family had a joyful and restful holiday season, and we're excited to begin 2026 together with renewed energy and optimism.

As we step into this new chapter, we look forward to continuing our commitment to providing your children with a high-quality Montessori education. We deeply believe that every child is unique, capable, and full of potential. Our mission is to nurture that potential by offering a supportive, engaging, and carefully prepared learning environment where each child can grow at their own pace and develop a lifelong love of learning.

We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to another wonderful year filled with curiosity, discovery, and meaningful growth.

The Units for January will be:

Science

- Part of a seed, Deciduous vs evergreen, Conifer stud
- Biology: Circulatory and Respiratory Systems
- Electricity: Circuits and Conductors
- Physics: Light and shadows
- Arctic and Antarctic Animal Adaptations (Hibernation, Insulation and Blubber,
- Camouflage, Migration
- Engineering: Simple Machines

History

- The Story of Humans
- Martin Luther King's research and projects

Social Studies

- Western & Central Asia: Desert Biomes/ Nomadic Life/ Major Landforms (Arabian peninsula, Zagros Mountains, Dead Sea/ Cultural Studies (Middle Eastern food, traditional dress, famous architecture, Stories from the region)

Art: Art inspired by "The Ships of the Desert: Camels"

We are pleased to let you know that we will be thoughtfully adjusting our schedule to help children transition smoothly back into school after their delightful vacations. Additionally, we sincerely appreciate your thoughtful and generous holiday wishes. We are excited to collaborate with you in supporting your children's success. Wishing you a fantastic January!

Happy Birthday: Ansh B. 23rd

Room 5: Ms. Gloria & Ms. Navpreet



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope all FVM families enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday season. Ms. Navpreet and I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026. We are delighted to begin the new year together in Room 5.

During the month of December, the children in Room 5 engaged in a study of Antarctica. Through hands-on materials, books, online documentaries and discussions, the children explored fascinating facts about polar regions, Arctic animals, and the different species of penguins. Our cultural studies expanded to include holidays celebrated around the world, culminating in a joyful International Potluck. Thank you to all the families who participated and to the parents who spent their time helping make this community event such a success. We truly could not have done it without you.

Geography work will focus on the continent of Asia. The children will explore major countries, national flags, geographic location on the world map, and aspects of culture using Montessori materials such as puzzle maps and cultural artifacts. As Asia is the largest continent, this study will continue into February.

In connection with our study and the upcoming Lunar New Year (February 17 – Year of the Horse), we will work on related Art projects. I will share a special presentation on Sri Lanka, my country of origin. The children will watch an educational documentary and learn about the island's geography, culture, and wildlife. As part of this study, we will compare the Asian elephant and the African elephant, focusing on their physical differences and habitats. The children will also learn about the elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka and observe images of elephants being fed, bathed, and cared for. One particularly fascinating sight is watching elephants lineup when the mahout claps—trunk in tail—which amusingly reminds me of our children lining up after recess!

We are fortunate to have families in our classroom with ancestral roots in Asia. You are warmly invited to visit Room 5 to share your country's culture, including food, clothing, language, art, or any other meaningful traditions. Please reach out to let me know which Wednesday works best for you, as that is the day with the highest attendance.

Our January cooking project will be Sri Lankan Coconut Milk Rice, which many of you sampled during our International Potluck. The children will actively participate in the preparation process, learning how to measure rice and water, and observing changes during cooking. I will be using a rice cooker for the project.

In Zoology, the children will study the parts of a bird using three-part cards and hands-on materials. Our broader Science theme for the month is Ocean Life, where the children will explore animals and habitats of the ocean. Families are welcome to send in pictures or posters related to ocean life to be shared and displayed in the classroom.

In Spanish, the children will learn the days of the week through songs and repetition. During Music appreciation, we will listen to works by Yo-Yo Ma and Ravi Shankar, introducing the children to classical music from Asia. In Art, the children will reproduce works inspired by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. Please be sure to visit the hallway bulletin board to view their beautiful artwork featuring Japanese Cherry Blossoms.

Happy Birthday: Caynan 5th, Tatum 17th, Mila Sky 23rd

Room 6: Ms. Enoka & Ms. Lindsay

Hello Parents,

Welcome to the year 2026! I wish you all a very happy and wonderful year ahead. I hope everyone had a lovely holiday with family and friends. Thank you all for the presents and gifts Ms. Lindsay and I received. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

In January, we are going to learn all about snow and snowflakes. We will be making paper craft snowflakes and snowmen. We will read many books related to winter and snow during this month.

In the month of January, the children are going to tour the largest continent of Asia. I will be introducing the Asia continent puzzle and naming all the countries in this vast continent. Children will be given lessons about the animals, the people and their food habits and the unique landmarks found on this continent. The diverse people, culture, food and fascinating animals such as tigers, elephants, pandas, orangutans, and other reptiles are sure to catch their interest.

For the Zoology lesson, I will introduce the parts of a horse, their function, their food and other fun facts. Children will learn about the parts of the root in our Botany lessons.

Since we are learning about the continent of Asia, children will be listening to music by two famous musicians from the continent, Yo Yo Ma and Ravi Shanker. For Art, we will create beautiful cherry blossom trees inspired by the very famous Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai. Your child's extra clothes were sent home in December so you may please replenish with weather appropriate clothes.

Thank you so much for entrusting your child's education with us. We look forward to a great 2025 year ahead!

Have a wonderful January!

January Birthdays: Tygo 1st

Room 7: Ms. Alicia

Ms. Ana, Ms. Maggie and Ms. Valerie



Hello Parents,

Happy New Year!! We hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday with your family. Ms. Ana, Ms. Maggie, Ms. Valerie and I would like to thank everyone for the gifts! We really appreciate all your love and generosity.

We welcome all new families to Room7! Welcome to our beautiful classroom! I would like to remind all returning families that coming back to school after spending time with loved ones is sometimes unsettling for 2-year-olds. They may face some separation anxiety initially. Please continue to maintain routine and consistency with the drop-off process. Please make sure to bring them to school by 8:45a.m. so they can resume their morning routine at school with ease. We are happy to be back with the little ones and look forward to a great 2026 year ahead!

We are so excited to begin the New Year with lots of fun projects and activities. The Winter Wonderland theme leads us into learning about snow and ice, making snowmen and penguins. The children will be exploring with the color white. They will sponge paint, dot art and paint with a paint brush on the easel. Our book will be "Five Little Penguins Slipping On Ice." How Cute!!! Our shape of the month will be a diamond. "I'm A Little Penguin" and "Five Little Snowmen" will be our songs of the month. I will continue to give lessons from all areas of work in the classroom. With special focus on pre language and pre math activities such as matching one-to-one correspondence, seriation of objects and shapes and matching number to quantity.

Reminder:

1. Please make sure your child has weather appropriate extra clothes in a Ziploc bag in their cubby.
2. Please make sure to label all your child's belongings with your child's name.

Please email me at fvm.alicia@gmail.com if you have any questions!

January Birthdays: Mason N. 5th, Ezekiel 30th