

Milpitas Montessori School

February 2012 Newsletter



Open House: We would like to remind parents that on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, we will be having our Open House from 4:30-6:30pm. Open House is the perfect opportunity for parents to visit the upper grades if they are considering their children to stay for the next school year. For example, kindergarten parents can visit the first grade classroom. During our Open House, you'll be able to tour our classrooms, meet our teachers, and review our curriculum.

Valentine's Day Party: On Tuesday, Feb. 14th the children will have a Valentine's party (Children only). All children who wish to participate should be at school by 9:30. On that day, PLEASE BRING TREATS (STICKERS, PENCILS, CANDY, PARTY FAVORS, CUPCAKES, ETC.) TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS! On that day, children may also BRING VALENTINE CARDS to give to their friends. Valentine cards usually come in a box of 20 to 30 cards and can be purchased at any drug store or supermarket, such as Rite-Aid or Target. We ask that parents help their children make their cards—this includes writing their names on each of their cards (children need to sign only their own names on each card), separating the cards, and then folding and sealing them. All children who wish to pass out cards that morning, must prepare (i.e., sign, tear, and seal each card) them at home before bringing to school. We apologize, but the teachers will not be able to prepare the cards for you. If your child is in:

Preschool Apple Room, bring at least 32 cards;
Preschool Peach Room, bring at least 24 cards;
Kindergarten, bring at least 24 cards;
1st – 2nd grade, bring at least 18 cards.



Presidents' Day: THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEB. 20th in honor of Presidents' Day. Ms. Rosa will be offering day care service this day for families who need it. Look for the sign-up sheet if you are interested. Please note: Because teachers have had difficulty in receiving payments on time, as well as parents canceling after they had signed up, *advance payment*, which is *non-refundable*, is now required for all "teacher-provided" day care service. Teachers reserve the right to cancel day care service to parents who fail to make an advance payment or if there is low enrollment.

Re-registration Week: Priority re-registration week will be held during the week of Feb. 21st through Feb. 24th. During this week, parents must re-register (\$100 per child; non-refundable fee) to reserve their child's space for the summer and/or fall sessions. After this week, enrollment for the summer/fall sessions becomes open to the public. Please look for the re-registration forms, which will be distributed in mid-February. Forms must be turned in no later than Feb. 24th for priority registration.

Graduation Picture Day: *Although it is a month away, we would like parents to know ahead of time that Graduation Picture Day will be on Thursday, March 15th. LifeTouch Portraits will be taking professional cap and gown pictures of only those children who will be moving onto kindergarten and first grade this fall.*

School Calendar: There have been a few changes in our academic calendar. We would like to draw your attention to the changes listed below:

Our International Potluck is now on Friday, 3/16.
There will be a late start on Friday, 4/20. The school day will begin at 12 PM on this day.
Our California Academy of Sciences Field Trip will be on Friday, 5/25
The school will have a one week break for Teacher In-service between 08/13-08/17. Day care may be available during this week.

Signing out: We would like to say thank you to all of our parents who have been adamant about signing out each day. We really appreciate your immediate response to the notice we sent out. Please remember you are mandated by Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing

Division to sign your child in and out each time he/she arrives and leaves the school. Please note the **ACTUAL** time you arrive to drop off or pick up your child—even if you are late—and sign your complete signature. Non-compliance of this requirement is a deficiency under title 22 regulations and can result in undesirable consequences for the school and our parents.

Scratch Paper: If you or your company has scratch paper that is clean on one side, our school can use it. Please drop it off at our office.

SCHOOL LUNCH: School lunch orders are due by the 25th before the month for which you are ordering lunch. MMS provides hardcopies of school lunch menus as a courtesy. However, all school lunch orders and payments need to be made online at SCHOOLCATERERS.COM. February's lunch order will be due before January 25th. **The office will not accept hardcopies of menus or payments.**

Day Care: We would like to remind parents that children may not stay after school longer than what their tuition plan permits. Children who are here more than 15 minutes after their scheduled pick-up time will be charged \$1.00 per minute. If you find that you are running late in picking up your child, please call the school as soon as possible and inform us of your expected arrival time. However, you will still be charged according to the late pick-up (non pre-arranged) daycare policy. Parents of half-day students are required to inform the office at least one hour prior to their scheduled pick-up time in order to be considered same-day notice (and charged based on the same-day notice rate). Advanced notice emergency daycare is available no more than 3 occasions each month.

Parking: We understand that the traffic in the parking lot can be very busy, especially around 8:30 AM and after 3:00 PM. Nevertheless, it is important to drive slowly and observe a **5 MPH speed limit**. Please be patient, as there are children walking in the parking lot. Use caution when backing up because small children are hard to see. Please park **only in designated spaces** and do not block other parked vehicles.

If you wish to call into the office to request a staff member to receive your child from your car (due to lack of parking) please remember to call **before** entering the parking lot to ensure the staff member has enough time to meet you in the lot. **Please keep in mind that there needs to be a constant flow of traffic in the parking lot in the morning. Please be considerate to other parents in not obstructing traffic by waiting for a staff member.**

The staff at MMS is happy to provide the courtesy of receiving your child in front of the school and taking him/her into the classroom. However, we would like to remind you that the teachers are busy, so please utilize this service only when the parking lot is congested.

Give Us A Hand: *We strive to make all of our children and families happy and satisfied with the service we provide. We would appreciate it if you can share your experience and feelings about our school (e.g. program, teachers) on the greatschools.org website. Your testimony would be of great value to us. 😊*