

Ventura Montessori School

38 Teloma Drive Ventura, CA 93003 (805)642-9567

MONTESSORI NEWS

Founded 1969

March/April 2011

Who's Who

School Staff

Directress: Indranee Wijesekera
(Mrs. VJ)

Lead Teacher: Lori Brunger

Asst. Teacher: Amy Freehauf

Asst. Teacher: Melody Raguini

Ventura Montessori School Board of Directors 2010-11

President:

Audrey Thomas

510-384-9310

alforquethomas@gmail.com

Vice President:

Amy Bisgard

619-995-2613

tucac164@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Veronika Khadzhi

805-850-5190

Veronika@avcadvisory.com

Treasurer

Theresa Henuber

805-443-4074

TheresaHenuber@msn.com

Finance Manager:

Chryshanee McNeely

William Burke,

Board Member Emeritus

Irene Medina,

Board Member Emerita

Tom Olson,

Board Member Emeritus

Joan Sprinkle,

Board Member Emerita

Welcome New Student!

We are delighted to have **Lana A., Nada A. and Kiran M.** as our newest students this year. Please join us in welcoming their families to the Ventura Montessori School community.

Mrs. V.J.'s Corner

It is that time of the year again to reenroll your child. I hope you read the printed article from your child's "take-home" folder "Frequently asked questions about Montessori Kindergarten: Early Elementary."

As you all know Montessori classroom is a rich environment that has been specifically designed to prepare the child to "Learn how to Learn." The curriculum is based on a three-year cycle, where each year is built upon the last one.

The third year gives the child the opportunity to develop leadership skills, academic skills, and give him/her a sense of self-confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

This year is an exciting year for your child, thus preparing him/her for the abstract academic concepts of learning.

Mrs. Brunger's Corner

Valentine's Day was a lot of fun for the students. They enjoyed exchanging cards with their friends and the spaghetti lunch too! They also had a great experience with the Chinese New Year Celebration. The Dragon Parade and delicious Chinese lunch made it a fun day for all.

Spring is here! We will be discussing all the wonderful things that happen during this time of year, and practicing for our Annual Spring Program. ☺

Thank you to all the parents who donated all the wish list items. It is truly appreciated.

We are continuing to work on classroom etiquette, personal hygiene, and practical life skills. Please reinforce good practices at home as well.

Please have your child carry his/her own lunch box and hang up their jackets. Thank you.

Happy Spring!

Enrollment Application 2011-2012

Current Students Re-enrollment Fee :

- Fee is waived if 10% tuition deposit is paid on or **before April 1st**
- \$100 after April 1st

New Students Application/Enrollment Fee:

- \$100 on or before May 1st
- \$150 after May 1st

Parent-Teacher Conferences – March 10-15

In March of each year we conduct parent-teacher conferences. Conferences are scheduled for 15 minutes for each child. We feel that the parent-teacher conferences are invaluable aids for parents as well as the teachers and this type of communication between home and school is beneficial for the children. In order to have a successful conference, it is important to meet with your child's teacher without any children present.

All-Parent Meeting - March 23

Ventura Montessori does not hold PTA meetings monthly like many other schools do. Rather, just two general meetings per year are conducted for all parents. You are strongly encouraged to attend and share your voice.

Childcare will be available.

Extended Day Options

Before-school Library Time begins at 7:30 am

\$100/month or \$5/day drop-in

Please register by the Friday prior to your planned Before-school Library Time.

After-school Enrichment Programs until 4:00 pm

Current schedule:

- Monday - Hip Hop / Jazz by Premiere Dance Studio
- Tuesday – Mandarin Language Class by Young Bamboo
- Wednesday – Kindermusik with Andrea King
- Thursday – Mandarin Language Class by Young Bamboo
- Friday - Soccer Class by Soccer Shots

After-school Enrichment Programs – prices vary (average \$12 per day)

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Irish Dancing Performance – March 17 at 9:00 am

Student from Claddagh Dance Company will have a short performance (Irish Dancing) for us at 9:00 am at the Friendship Hall. Please make sure you are here a little before 9:00 am. You do not want to miss this.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Julia - March 14
Aubrey - March 17
Eloise - March 17
Sienna - March 23
Miss Amy - April 6
Emily - April 8
Sebastian - April 27
Evin - April 29

Congratulations to the Esherick family
in welcoming a baby sister for Zoel!

Automatic Bill Payment Option

We highly recommend signing up for automatic monthly school payment at your bank. It is a safe, convenient payment option that frees you from the worry of missing a payment or getting a late payment charge. You can reduce paper waste and save on check writing fees when you sign up for automatic bill payment. And normally there's no start-up fee, and there's no charge each time a payment transfer is made. Please ask at your bank.



Absences

Consistent attendance is extremely important for a student's success. However, we understand there are times when absence from school is necessary. Please notify the school if your child is going to be absent. Regretfully, we cannot refund tuition for absences from school.

Parents' Coffee Social

8:45-10am

March 8

March 22

April 11



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Spring Program Preparations

Historically, VMS has held two main fundraising events each year: Our Annual Giving Campaign in February, and the wonderfully entertaining Spring Program with Silent Auction and Raffle.

There is a small group of parents organizing and coordinating this fundraising event. We are looking for any volunteers willing to help with the auction. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact a Board Member.

As in the past years we would like to encourage all families to think of something they may be able to donate to the auction, or if there is an item they may be able to solicit from a local company/organization.

We will be contacting a number of stores, restaurants, business and entertainment/ sporting/ recreation venues to try and obtain gift certificates or items we can auction off. If you have a business that you frequent or have a personal relationship with that you think may be willing to donate please feel free to ask.

So far we have:

- Package from Kindermusik
- Box of Farm Fresh Produce (delivery date to be on a Tuesday), a family picnic and farm tour donated by Rio Gozo Farms
- Book baskets
- Family game night basket
- Patagonia fleece
- Vacation package consisting of either a week at a mountain cottage in Maui OR up to a month at a beach house in Spain, airfare not included!

Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest Seaside Promenade Park, Ventura 10 am to 5 pm, April 16, 2011

Ventura Montessori School will be a part of Ventura's Earth Day Eco Fest 2011! This is an amazing opportunity to market our school to up to 7000 attendants. Please contact a Board Member to sign up for this fun volunteer opportunity.

Summer Camp

Summer is just a few months away. VMS Summer Camp is open to campers ages 2.5 – 8 years, including children outside of VMS. So feel free to tell your friends that do not go to the school. Space is limited.

This year summer camp is extended through August 26th. The enrichment programs will continue through summer, also.

Additional camp sign-up/info forms can be obtained from the teachers or board members.

Tuition: \$175/week full time, \$145/week half time

Please **register by June 1st** for your preferred weeks.

Week of	Theme	Description
June 20	Art	Monet, van Gogh, Picasso Work with pastels and water color
June 27	Music	Famous composers; different styles of rhythm; music appreciation and more
July 5	Science	Hands-on experiments designed around materials found in the kitchen Solutions, mixtures, chemical reactions
July 11	Marine Biology	Discover the amazing under-water world
July 18	Rain Forest	Life in the rain forests Animals, habitats and survival
July 25	Culinary Arts	Hands-on culinary journey Enjoy tasting cuisine from around the world
Aug 1 -22		To be announced

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Parent Involvement Opportunities

We are excited to introduce opportunities for parent involvement at VMS. During all-parent meeting we will be having an information table with sign ups for different groups of volunteers - Committees. Stop by and check out the description and see what catches your attention.

- Hospitality Committee
- Garden Committee
- Teacher Appreciation Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Recycle Committee
- Fresh& Easy Fundraiser Committee
- Spring Program Committee

Congratulations to parents who already joined the following committees:

Hospitality

- Lynn (Evin and Vivienne's mom)
- Kendra (Cassie's mom)
- Michelle (McKenna and Joseph's mom)
- Melinda (Alexandra and Noelle's mom)
- Yvonne (Sienna and Daisy's mom)
- Deepa (Akshai's mom)

Recycle

- Eric (Thatcher's dad)
- Wes (Emily's dad)
- Ryan (Aubrey and Chloe's dad)
- Ethan (Calvin, Eloise, and Vivian's dad)
- Melinda (Alexandra and Noelle's mom)

Box tops

We will be collecting box tops again to submit in the month of April. Please collect as many as possible and bring them to school. The children enjoy this activity of cutting and pasting. Last season we made \$90! 😊

A BIG "THANK YOU"

to our Annual Non-Event Donors

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our community

Ventura Montessori Alumni

- Erin Burke Benson & John Benson (Natalie)
- William Burke (Erin, Rob, Brian, and Maia)
- Brian Burke (VMS Alumnus)
- Kristin & Charles Vaughan (Chloe)
- Dara & Paul Farry (Devon)

Extended Families of Current Students

- Kathleen & Andre Alforque (Calvin and Eloise)
- Jessamine & Alfredo Alforque, II (Calvin and Eloise)
- Minerva & Alfredo Alforque (Calvin and Eloise)
- Ruth Beardsley (Alexandra)
- Lila & Garrett Billings (Eden)
- Judy & William Bisgard (Henry and Camille)
- Marianne & Jack Rotenberg (Macie and Baylee)
- Valerie & Dietrich Schmidt (Cassie)
- Tyson Schmidt (Cassie)

Corporate Donors

- Amgen (London)
- Beardsley & Son (Alexandra)
- Ryvel Healthways (Aubrey)

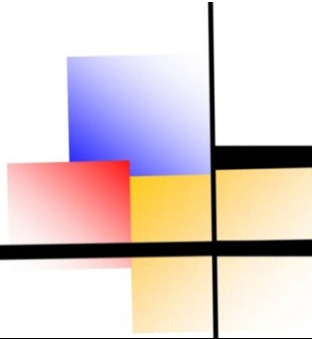
Current Families

- Veronika & Chris Davies (Sebastian)
- Anne & Eric Eaton (Thatcher)
- Audrey & Ethan Thomas (Calvin and Eloise)
- Alice Wertheim & Mark Tubbs (Jada and Marlo)

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March 2011

		1	3	3	4	5
6	7	8 8:45 Coffee Social	9	10 Parent-Teacher Conferences - HALF DAYS	11	12
13	14 Parent-Teacher Conferences - HALF DAYS	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Celebration	18	19
20	21	22 8:45 Coffee Social	23 All-Parent Meeting	24	25	26 Family Portrait
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2011

					1	2
3	4	5 No School – Spring Break	6	7	8	9
10	11 8:45 Coffee Social	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Half Day – Egg Hunt	22 No School	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30