



**DiabloValleyMontessoriSchool**

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*March 11, 2022*

*Headlines*

*Message from Jayne*  
*COVID Updates*  
*Back to the 80s Auction*  
*Important Dates*

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## **Message from Jayne**

Hello DVMS Families,

It has been another eventful week at DVMS! We are busy processing requests for extended care during parent conferences and Spring Break. All spaces are full with the exception of Friday, April 8.

The Half-Day Twos and Preschool Summer Camp enrollment is underway. There are just a few spaces available. If your child is on the wait list, you will receive an email next week. Enrolled children will receive confirmation with their class placements in May.

Once again, THANK YOU to every family that donated goods for Ukraine last week. Your generosity was overwhelming. The people of Ukraine will need our love for weeks and months to come. If you wish to continue to give, we encourage you to support World Central Kitchen at [wck.org](http://wck.org). Nina Lisitsa, a Poppy and Petunia parent has a direct connection with this fundraiser for medical supplies:

[click here](#)

Our DVMS teachers are the BEST! Their love for the children and dedication to Montessori education shines through every day. Recently there were a few anniversaries. Please join me in recognizing these amazing women!

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# DVMS EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY



**SHAWNA COMISKEY**

**JANUARY 3, 2011 - 11 YEARS**

What do you love most about DVMS?

I love the families and the children. It's like a family and I feel like it's a second home.

What are your favorite things to do when your not at DVMS?

Walking and taking photos. I also love doing crafts and traveling.

Any other fun fact about yourself to share?

I used to live in the Netherland and I know Dutch, German and Sign Language.

**SUSANNE POWERS**

**JANUARY 3, 2007 - 15 YEARS**

What do you love most about DVMS?

I love the families, the children and the staff. It's unconditional love and support from everyone.

What are your favorite things to do when your not at DVMS?

I love to read, craft and watch movies.

Any other fun fact about yourself to share?

I have a 3 year old Golden Retriever and a Bernedoodle puppy who is almost a year old.



**ALMA SANCHEZ**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2011 - 11 YEARS**

What do you love most about DVMS?

I love the atmosphere, the parents, the children and the staff. It's a wonderful place to work. It's a very happy place!

What are your favorite things to do when your not at DVMS?

I love to walk and hike with my dog. I also love the beach, the sun and the warm water. I love spending time with my family and also enjoy visiting Mexico.

Any other fun fact about yourself to share?

Can't wait to finish my teaching credential. I am in the second year of the program.



# Congratulations

## COVID and Masking Updates

Since the beginning of March, there have been many developments in California's approach to COVID-19. This pandemic has changed our lives and impacted how we care for our families and each other. In the past two weeks I have attended a variety of sessions with the California Department of Health, Contra Costa Health, and Community Care Licensing. All three organizations are aligned in how we move forward. COVID-19 is not going away, however we know so much more and have many more resources to protect our communities.

As a childcare program we must continue to take all necessary precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Keeping the children and staff safe is our top priority. Access to testing, vaccines, mask wearing, cleaning protocols, and proper ventilation have all helped mitigate the risk and transmission of the virus.

The universal mask mandate for schools and childcare ends at the end of day today, March 11. Effective March 12, the California Department of Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Social Services, both of which oversee Licensing, "strongly recommend" that all individuals continue to wear a mask indoors. CDC data shows that mask wearing lowers the odds of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 by 56%-83%, (depending on the type of mask such as cloth or N95). As the majority of our children remain ineligible for the vaccine, masks are a significant tool to help reduce illness.

The decision to continue wearing a mask is complicated and requires a thoughtful approach. Setting aside concerns over the transmission of illness, there are many factors to consider. The children's social emotional and language development are vitally important to consider. Additionally, everyone can also agree that we are all ready to smile at one another!

I have asked our staff as well as several childcare providers about their opinions and policies on this issue in addition to further research. Many parents have shared about perspectives and I welcome you to share your ideas.

On Tuesday, March 22, the DVMS Board of Directors will discuss any changes to the current DVMS masking policy based on information and feedback gathered from resources in our community.

So until further notice, the DVMS masking policy remains unchanged. Masks are required for all adults when onsite with the children at DVMS, (within the gates). Children may remove their masks while playing outdoors. Staff members may choose to be unmasked while outdoors when they are not in close proximity to the children.

Thank you for your support and patience as we all navigate this next chapter of COVID together.

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## Back to the 80s Auction - Get Involved and Last Call for Tickets!



It is almost time for the party of the year! We are so excited to get the DVMS community together. **We need your help to put it all together.** Here is a great opportunity to put in some of the DVMS work hours. Take a look at the Sign Up Genius for ways you can contribute to this event:

[click here](#)

Today is the **last day** to purchase your tickets for the party of the year! Delicious heavy appetizers, hosted bar, a totally awesome DJ, along with incredible experiences and items to bid on are all part of this night.

[Click here](#) to purchase now!

Even if you can't join us for the party, there are ways for you to participate and contribute to this important fundraiser for DVMS. Thank you to all of the families that have already gone ALL IN. This contribution level starts at \$300 and gives you:

- your child's individual art project, a one-of-a-kind keepsake
- a spot in your child's class party
- a contribution to your classroom Fund A Need

[Click here](#) to go ALL IN now.

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## Important Dates!



March 22: DVMS Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30pm at DVMS

March 26: DVMS Back to the 80s Auction

March 28: Teacher In-Service Day - No classes

March 29-April 1: Parent-Teacher Conferences. Early dismissal for all children. Extended care available on a limited basis.

April 4-8: Spring Break for Buttercup and Preschool classes. Preschool extended care available on a limited basis.

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