



Diablo Valley Montessori School

May 17, 2023

Headlines

Message from Jayne

- Parking Lot Safety

- Volunteer Opportunities

Parent Survey

Summer Music Camp with Andrea

"How to Say Goodbye" Parent Article

Important Dates

Message from Jayne

Thank you for your patience with our sign in process these past few days. The server which hosts our student management system has become rather cranky and uncooperative. Upgrading our technology and IT infrastructure is on the summer 'to do' list.

Speaking of summer, June is almost here. If your child is enrolled in session #1 of The Wonders of Land, Air, and Water, (Preschool/Kindergarten), you will receive e-mail confirmation of their teachers early next week. Shawna and Sherry are ready to Zoom Zoom to the Moon with the Buttercups starting on June 5th.

Parking Lot Safety

This is an important reminder to never leave children unattended in parked cars. **It is imperative that children are always supervised, even older siblings of DVMS students.** If you need to bring other children in your care on campus to check you child in or out, that is ok! We just ask that you always have them with you. Parents, if you have other adults dropping off and picking up children, please pass this important message along.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

In the coming weeks and months there are lots of campus improvement projects planned. [Click here](#) to find what opportunities there are to volunteer to help, or check out the links on our webpage. Keep checking back as more items will be added. These are great opportunities to fulfill your family's 15 hour work hours commitment.

We are here for any questions, concerns, and comments! Just give us a call or e-mail.

Have a great week!
Jayne

DVMS Children Enjoying the Sunshine this Week



The Honeysuckle Class' on-campus
Firetruck Fieldtrip



The Poppy Class Playing on
the Soccer Field

Parent Survey

Hello DVMS parents --

With the end of the 2022 - 2023 school year approaching, it is time for the annual DVMS parent survey.

The goal of this survey is to hear about areas where we have excelled in the past year and where there are improvement opportunities for the following school year.

We count on your feedback to help our teachers, staff, and board in planning for

the following school year.

The survey is anonymous and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. Please [click here](#) to share your feedback.

We appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions -- the more information you provide the better!

DVMS Board of Directors

Summer Music Camp with Andrea - Three Spots Still Available

Join Andrea Gaspari of Andrea's musical adventures for Castle tales musical theater camp this summer.

June 5 - June 16
3pm - 4pm

Follow us over enchanted lands and seas. You're young actor or actress, (aged 3.5 - 5 years), will love helping Moana and Maui return the heart of te fiti, getting ready for the ball with Cinderella, kissing frogs to find a prince or fighting the dragon with St George and so much more like singing songs, playing acting games, dressing up and crafting their own costumes and props.

A performance for our families happens the last day of camp, June 16

There are only 3 spots left. Don't miss out sign up today!

To register, bring your check for \$200 made out to Andrea Gaspari in an envelope, (on envelope put your child's name and DVMS classroom), to the DVMS office.

See you soon!!!

How to Say Good Bye

The following article by Catherine McTamaney, Ed.D is a great read as we prepare for the end of the school year. Catherine's website <https://www.montessoridaoshi.com/> is a wonderful resource for parents to learn more about Montessori.

It's time for the end of the school year celebration, teacher thank-you's and summer plans. For teachers and parents, this is a time of year that feels chaotic: thinking ahead to next year, trying to be sure that everyone who supported or cared for the children this year is appropriately acknowledged, making sure everything you wanted to accomplish gets done in the few last weeks of the year.

But for the children, especially children in the First Plane of development with its strong need for structure and order, all this excitement feels more like a disruption than a celebration. While you're getting ready for what's coming next, be sure not to overlook what the children need now.

Give your child notice about the upcoming changes, but not too much. Children in early childhood need about a week's notice before any visible changes in their environment. That is to say, think about a week out from when the child's schedule might change or something in their environment might be new or missing, and let them know the change is coming. Telling children about changes (even good ones!) sooner than their ability to conceptualize those changes causes undue stress.

Give the details they need, knowing that they might not need as many as you do. Explain how whatever is changing will change. "Next week, we will have a big celebration party to say goodbye to this classroom and get ready for summer." "Next Monday, you'll begin swim lessons. After lunch each day, we'll go to the pool together. We'll do that every day for one week."

Offer supports that are at their level: Ask your child what questions they have about the upcoming change. Listen carefully and take their concerns seriously, and remember that they may need time to think about what's changing before they can articulate their questions. Check in as you approach the transition to see what sense they're making.

Engage them: If there are things to do to prepare for the end of the school year, be sure to let the children take the lead. So, for example, if your child is giving a thank-you gift to their teacher, let them help to choose the gift, talking them through what they know about the recipient and what they think would be of value to them. As an adult, you might give a different gift, but the ones that come from your child should come from your child. If there is packing up to do, let them be involved whenever it's happening. You wouldn't want to return to a space that you knew well to learn that someone else had packed up

your things while you were gone. The children don't, either.

Be honest about what's coming next: If a teacher is changing positions or if you are going to a new school, be honest, but again, don't offer more details than your child needs sooner than they need them. " Next Friday will be your last day at Willow School. Last days places can feel a little different. What questions do you have about your last day at school?" Answer their questions, but offer the information that's useful to them rather than complicated lists of facts that might be more than they can take in.

Finally, remember, as in all parenting, to offer the truth, in a way they can hear, with the kindness they need to feel safe. Your child may demonstrate all sorts of emotions as they prepare for a big change at school, from fear to excitement, and some of those emotions might end up presenting like they're very different things. A child who's scared might act more energetic or silly. A child who's sad might act more hesitant or assertive. Acknowledge the emotions that you notice, and ask your child to talk about them in a loving way. You're modeling for your child the full range of experience that comes with saying goodbye, both the enthusiasm for what's coming next and the sadness for what you're leaving behind. Let them have the time to make sense of those emotions, and share them compassionately, assuring your child that, even when things change, your love for them remains constant.

Important Dates!



May 18: Honeysuckle Teddy Bear Picnic

May 22: Petunia End-of-year Party

May 23: Lavender End-of-year Party 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

May 24: Daisy and Honeysuckle End-of-year Parties

May 25: Last Day of School

May 25: Jasmin and Buttercup End-of-year Parties

May 26 - May 31: Teacher In-Service Days - No classes for children

June 1: IT House reopens

June 1 - 2: Buttercup and PreK/K Summer Camp Teacher In-Service Days

June 2: Sunflower End-of-year Party

June 5: First Day of Buttercup and PreK/K Summer Camp Session #1

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