

# March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 ~ Descanso Family Social Dine-in Event (anytime between 11:30am and 9pm)	6	7
8  Daylight Savings begins—Spring Forward!	9	10	11	12 ~ Mi Casa Family Social Dine-in Event (anytime between 11am and 10pm) <b>BOOK FAIR</b> Teacher Preview	13 Reading Rita reads today <b>BOOK FAIR</b> begins	14
15	16 <b>BOOK FAIR</b>	17 St Patrick's Day  <b>BOOK FAIR</b>	18 <b>BOOK FAIR</b>	19 <b>BOOK FAIR</b>	20 <b>BOOK FAIR</b>	21 Garden Work Day 9am-12pm 
22	OCC Spring Break/ Children's Center is OPEN OPEN March 23, 24, & 25			26 Children's Center is CLOSED for Staff Training	27 Children's Center is CLOSED OCC Campus is CLOSED	28
29	30	31 NCL Jrs. Reading & Gardening Party	1	2	3	4

Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30am-6pm; Friday 7:30am-5pm; Infants-YP 7:30am-5pm  
Serving Infants 6month—18 months; Toddlers 18 months—2 years; Young Preschool 2 years; Preschool 3 years—5 years



**April**  
at a glance:

- 4/18 - Garden Work Day
- 4/25 - Kiwanis Circle K Project Work Day

**Reading Rita Reads**  
Reading Rita has been part of the Children's Center for over 25 years and was an ECE instructor specializing in literacy and story telling. Reading Rita is still going strong at the Children's Center and will read to our little ones on March 13th in the morning. Thank you, Rita!

**National Charity League Jrs. Reading and Gardening Party**  
On March 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 - 5:30 pm the National Charity League Juniors will be here to play games and engage in gardening and reading activities with our preschool children. National Charity League is a philanthropic group that has donated more than \$200,000 over the last 18 years. Much of our equipment, materials, art studio supplies, animal care and feed funds have come from this yearly donation.



MARCH 2020

# CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWS

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

We would like to recognize a couple of our awesome staff members! Debbie Womack and Barbara Cortes have been exceptional employees, with a combined service of over 50 years serving our children! The most exemplary teaching teams that provide a warm, caring, and responsive approach serving our little ones! Barbara has directed gardening, cooks her annual fritters for our Staff Thanksgiving Feast, and shares her many activities for the Children's Center. We thank her so much! Debbie, with her beautiful smile and magical talents, exudes the love that lasts children a lifetime! It seems nearly impossible to thank them for all they have done for the children they serve. Yet, when we hear children say, "but I don't want to go on vacation, I want to go to school with Teacher Debbie!" OR when you see an infant responding to the kind and caring voice of Teacher Barbara, soon to speak their first word, it is with greatest thanks we give to each one!

### GARDEN WORK DAY

Join us as we begin the planting phase of our spring garden on Saturday, 3/21 from 9am - 12pm!

The garden program allows our children to learn about nature, nutrition, and nurturing life; it is a huge part of what make this center such a special place for your children to grow and learn. We welcome you to invite your family and friends to join us for a fun morning - the more the merrier! Bring a snack to share and wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Dig deep and join us!

### Kindness rules at the Children's Center!

As reflected in the interactions between children, modeled by staff and parents, you will see children being kind, helping other children; respecting their friends, using their words to be safe. Even our most active children will take a moment to check in on a friend, just in case they moved a little too quickly, and, for example, stepped on a toe, they'll say, "How can I make you feel better? Do you want a hug?" If someone is in their space, they may say, "Stop! Move Back!" or may help a friend remember that, "Hands are for helping." Our children are amazing to listen to, so approach them calmly, observe what they are doing, understand what they need, acknowledge their feelings, gently guide them, give them a choice if they need a reminder, and for safety a firm direction, such as, "hold my hand as we walk out to the car." You are your child's first and most important teacher and will always be the one that loves them most. We're pretty sure we come in a strong second!

**OCC Spring Break: Monday through Wednesday, March 23 -25**

(We are CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, March 26th & 27th)

**Full-Cost Parents:** Spring Break childcare is included in your 2019-2020 childcare contracts.

**Subsidized Student Parents:** Schedules will remain the same. If you choose not to bring your child during Spring Break, they will be considered "best interest days". Please note families only receive 10 best interest days during each school year.

**REMEMBER**

**Daily Health Check** To protect others, if your child isn't feeling well enough to be at school, has a fever, or is vomiting, keep your child home.

### Important Preventative Reminders

To protect your child and others, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeves (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, immediately throw used tissue in the trash.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home when sick.

Don't forget to **LABEL ALL CLOTHES** that your child wears to school. Classrooms cannot keep track of what each child wears to school and many children have the same clothes and shoes. So please, help us out with keeping track of your child's clothes by *labeling everything with permanent marker*. Remember to keep extra change of clothes in your child's cubby.  
**THANKS!**

PLEASE!!

We would like to remind all Children Center families to keep to your schedule. Also, please be sure to drop-off by 10am in order to not be disruptive to the classroom schedules and children's routines. If there is an emergency, doctor's appointment, or a pre-arranged agreement with your classroom teacher, then we will make an exception. We ask that you give us a courtesy call in advance.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Thank you to everyone that joined us at the Family Social dine-in event at the Firehouse Subs. It was a delicious event! We hope you enjoyed your meals and time together. In March, we have two additional Family Social dine-in events. Our first is this week at Descanso Restaurant on March 5th from 11:30am to 9pm. Flyers will be at the front office counter. The second will be on March 12th from 11am to 10pm. A flyer will be placed at the front office counter next week.

A moment to once again thank our most dedicated and loyal staff, from our kitchen staff, front office staff, our support staff, to our teaching teams, we have the very best! A very special thanks to each of them!

Thanks to everyone, Pat Mendoza, M.Ed., Director, Children's Center