



August Newsletter



Lodi Montessori Preschool & Kindergarten

August 1, 2018



A Message From Miss Jolie

Welcome LoMo Parents!

The time of year has arrived again! Although Summer school is a time we look forward to each year, it seems to always fly by so quickly. Summer was a great opportunity to get to know a few of our brand new families, and of course the students did a great job of welcoming their new classmates, making them feel right at home. Now, at the start of the new school year, we look forward to meeting the remainder of our new families. On behalf of Lodi Montessori, I would like to officially welcome both our new and returning families to the 2018-2019 school year!

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for our staff. The teachers look forward to

going back to the basics, by revisiting the "building blocks" of the Montessori philosophy, and starting fresh with a brand new mix of children. They are able to take the opportunity to focus on a few of the important things, such as building relationships with one another, and transforming their classroom into their own loving, respectful work place that will be home to them this year.

Both the administration team and staff look forward to building that foundation with all of our parents. When it comes to our children's success, we believe in the power of partnership, and truly being involved with our students and parents. With this partnership, and our common goal of fostering that nurturing learning environment for

your child, we know they are on their way to success this year! As we make our way through this first month, please feel free to reach out to us for anything at all, as we are here to make this transition as smooth as possible for both you and your child.

Parents, we look forward to joining you, as we will both have the pleasure of watching your child grow and blossom with each passing day!

On behalf of the Administration team,

Jolie Zins

Director of Personnel

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Dates to Remember

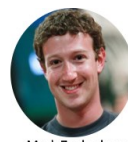
August 8: Back 2 School Night (530pm - 630pm)

August 19: Lodi Montessori's Birthday

August 22: Fall Picture Day (More information will be sent home when the time is near.)

August 31: Dr. Maria Montessori's 148th Birthday

September 3: ~~NO SCHOOL~~ (Labor Day)



Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook Founder



Jeff Bezos
Amazon Founder



Larry Page



Sergey Brin
Google Founders



Prince Harry



Prince William



Bill Clinton
Former US President



Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State



George Clooney
Actor



Sean "P Diddy" Combs
Musician/Producer



Dakota Fanning
Actress



Hugh Grant
Actor

Montessori Alumni

Curriculum In A Nutshell: Room 101 Pre-K & Kinder

Hello parents! My name is Miss Alicia and I'd like to welcome both our new and returning students to room 101.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and that your child is ready for an exciting year of fun and learning ahead. My assistant, Ms. Mahogany, and I are eager to work with your child and establish a trusting relationship with him/her. My goal is for my students to reach their highest potential this year, but in due course. As Maria Montessori once said, "Follow the child, they will show you what they need to do, what they need to develop in themselves and what area they need to be challenged in."

This month, students will become familiar with the classroom, as well as our daily routine. They will get to know the different areas of the room from math, language, sensorial, cultural, science, and practical life. They will be reminded of our procedures, such as cleaning up after



themselves, returning activities to where they belong, treating our classroom materials with care, and sitting quietly and patiently during circle time. Care of self will be focused on, which includes washing hands thoroughly, how to clean their face,

and how to use a tissue. Students will also be introduced/reminded of our playground and clean up rules during recess. As students get to know each other, they will be encouraged to practice their social skills and how to communicate with one another in a polite and respectful manner. Since this is a mixed age class, older students will assist younger students and lead by example.



I encourage all students to arrive to school on time every day. This helps them get back into a routine and also ensures they are present for important lessons at circle time. A monthly lesson plan can be found on the bulletin board for your reference. If you have any questions or concerns, there are several ways to reach me. Feel free to call the school at (209) 366-1012, leave a note in the teacher's box by the sign in/out binder, or email me at aliciad@lodimontessori.com.

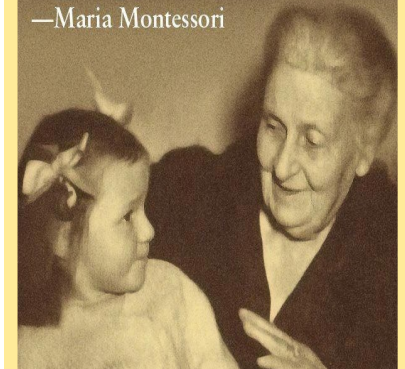
As some of you may know, I was an assistant teacher at Lodi Montessori for several years prior to taking over room 101 at the

start of summer. I earned my Montessori certification last year from the North American Montessori Center and my experience in the Montessori setting spans 8 years. I'm excited to apply what I've learned from my Montessori training, my fellow lead teachers, and my experience to make the next school year a fun and stimulating one for your child.

Thank you,
Miss Alicia

Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.

—Maria Montessori

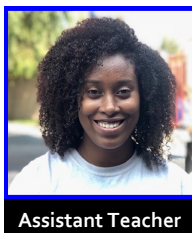


Meet Your Child's Teachers



Head Teacher

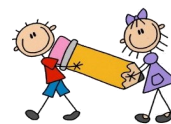
Alicia Dace first gained an interest in the education field while serving as a teacher's aide and tutor in high school. She has earned her Associate's Degree in Humanities, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts & Science, and her Associate's Teacher certificate from San Joaquin Delta College. She has over eight years of experience working as a teacher's aide in the Montessori setting, working with toddlers and preschool aged children. Alicia obtained her Montessori Certification through NAMC.



Assistant Teacher

Mahogany Binder has always wanted to work with children from a young age. She knew she wanted to help inspire young minds and guide them to be successful individuals. Mahogany graduated from ABLE charter school, while simultaneously beginning the journey of obtaining her A.A. Degree in Liberal Studies from Humphreys College. She has recently graduated with her Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education, in addition to obtaining her Child Development Permit. Mahogany's long term goal is to become a second grade teacher, and eventually complete her Doctorate Degree in Education.

Curriculum In A Nutshell: Room 102 Pre-K & Kinder



Welcome new and returning families to Room 102! My name is Lizzet but I go by Ms. Liz. I have worked in a Montessori setting for the past 6 years, and this will be my second year being Lead Teacher here at LoMo. For those of you who don't know, I was the Early Preschool teacher last year in room 103. I am excited for the opportunity to work with my former students who have graduated onto Pre-k, and also, I am thrilled to meet our new friends that will be joining my class this school year.

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are ready for a fun-filled year of learning! To begin the school year, we will be reviewing 'grace and courtesy.' We will expand our vocabulary words for 'courtesy,' identifying feelings and appropriate actions. Grace and courtesy is an integral part of the Montessori curriculum beginning in the early childhood classroom. As creator of the Montessori Method, Dr. Maria Montessori states, "Considering the method as a whole, we must begin our work by preparing the child for the forms of social life, and we must attract his attention to these forms." The

lessons that help children to learn these social norms (like learning how to stay in their own space during work time, instead of getting into his or her neighbors' space) are taught in order to give them the tools needed to navigate and communicate with classmates. These skills will continue to grow as they build relationships here at school, and will continue to benefit them throughout their life.

This year I have designed my classroom in a way that responds to the child's developmental needs. Children observe carefully and want to participate in the hustle and bustle of life around them. Learning how to be part of society and develop relationships with others is extremely attractive to children. It is a skill I look forward to helping them acquire as we start off our school year. Creating a positive working environment from the get-go is the reason why Montessori students thrive. My main goal

when setting up my classroom is to create an environment in which children will get to move freely throughout their space and choose activities that interest and challenge them. It is also important to provide a setting in which they can easily work with me one-on-one, work independently, or in small groups. The students' environment is set up to liberate their energy for growth and learning. Movement in the classroom will be unrestricted unless it endangers themselves, other people, or their surroundings. There are five areas in my classroom your child will discover. These areas are: Practical life, Sensorial, Mathematics, Language, and Cultural Studies. As their lead teacher, I will be challenging my students by changing out the activities on my shelves that correspond to our studies each month. ***I ask that parents bring their child to school on time, as being late may disrupt their learning experience.*** If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at liz@lodimontessori.com, leave a note in my message box near the sign-in binder, or see me when you have the chance!

Thank you,
Ms. Liz



Meet Your Child's Teachers



Head Teacher

Lizzet Picos found her passion for working with young children at a young age. It was in high school that she began volunteering at her first job as a teacher assistant in a preschool classroom. Liz takes her work with children very seriously, and believes that education is most important during the early years of life, when children are building connections in their brains. She studies at San Joaquin Delta College where she has earned over 30 units in early childhood education. Additionally, Liz has received her Montessori certification from North American Montessori Center. Her experience in a Montessori classroom began in 2012 while assisting and co-teaching, where she remained for the next 4 years prior to joining Lodi Montessori.



Assistant Teacher

Erica Yamane started working with children after volunteering with her swim club in 2009 teaching swim lessons. Six years later, she began babysitting for private families, and was inspired by her supportive and passionate high school teachers to make teaching her career. Currently, she is studying at San Joaquin Delta College as a Child Development major where she plans on transferring next fall to a university to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Child Development. Her long term goals are to pursue a Masters in Child Psychology, and eventually become a School Psychologist or a Kindergarten teacher to continue impacting, educating, and guiding young lives.

Curriculum In A Nutshell: Room 103 Early Preschool

I am so excited to start the new school year, I don't even know where to begin! How about a grand welcoming to our LoMo families into the 2018-2019 school year! Cheers! I hope you and the little ones are looking forward to a year long journey of learning and fun. The children in my classroom (ages 2.5- 3) are still learning independence while also possessing an egocentric way of thinking. That being said, I will try my best to support their eagerness to take on challenges, while also providing the guidance needed. It's tough being a toddler, and at times, this big new place with lots of unfamiliar faces can be overwhelmingly scary. As your child's teacher, I can reassure you that my aids and I will help your child feel as comfortable as possible as we foster a nurturing environment for each individual child. In this Montessori classroom, my goal is to prepare my students for a lifetime love for learning. That being said, our academics are laid out throughout the classroom so that your child can explore his/her own individual interests. My students will *not* be forced to learn to count 1-10 or to be able to recognize letters. Instead, they will be guided to explore those concepts during job time, when they

are ready. I will be introducing these concepts and so much more throughout the school year. This month however, "grace and courtesy" will be a main focus. Other important areas of focus will include: care of self, others and the environment, rules and procedures, respect for both people and materials, good hygiene habits, and self-awareness skills to strengthen their ability to accurately judge their own performance and behavior and to respond appropriately.



Toileting is another important part of my classroom, and it will be encouraged in various, positive ways. We will be using a "timing" method in which children are prompted to use the potty every so often, depending on where that child is in their toileting stage. Potty and diapering times will always be logged while a child is still in the early learning stages. When a diapered child begins to show signs that he/she is ready for potty-training, it is important that parents and teachers communicate. Both must work together on a plan for how to help that child learn to start using the toilet.

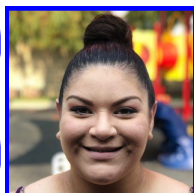
The art area in my classroom is always available for your child to explore. Your child's artwork may not look like much to some, but for them, it was an accomplishment, and for this reason I ask that my parents please not throw away any of their work at school. Not only is this a disservice to your child, but it may be disrespectful to their teacher.



I would like to wrap up the month of August with learning the famous "This is my school" and "I celebrate my family" songs, as well as other fun Montessori songs. I wish everyone a smooth school year and look forward to meeting all of my new families. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please talk to me when you get the chance. If not, there is a parent communication box in the front of the classroom I will check daily, and you can always email me at aliciaortiz@lodimontessori.com.

Thank you,
Ms. Alicia O.

Meet Your Child's Teachers



Head Teacher

Alicia Ortiz joined Lodi Montessori with over five years of experience working with young children. Three of those years were in a Montessori environment where she worked as a Toddler Teacher. She is so inspired by the Montessori Philosophy that she would like to open her own Montessori school in the future. Alicia's goal is to ignite "love" within each of the children she

works with: love for others, love for oneself and the love for learning.



Assistant Teacher

Noemy Anaya has worked as a kindergarten and first grade teacher, and was co-owner of a day care center. After taking a hiatus from the workforce to raise her four children, Noemy knew she wanted to continue to teach young children, and earned her associate teaching credentials from San Joaquin Delta College. It was here where she fell in love with the Montessori teaching philosophy, as it allows children's self-discovery and creativity to blossom.



Assistant Teacher

Rosa Nguyen received her Associate's degrees from San Joaquin Delta College and continued to pursue her new interest in childhood education by earning a B.A. in Child Development and minor in Counseling from Sacramento State. At Sacramento State, she was able to volunteer at the child center where she worked in a Montessori based classroom. Rosa appreciates and respects Montessori education which values open-ended time and creating a child centered environment. She also believes that children are capable of great learning when given the freedom and time.



PT Specialist

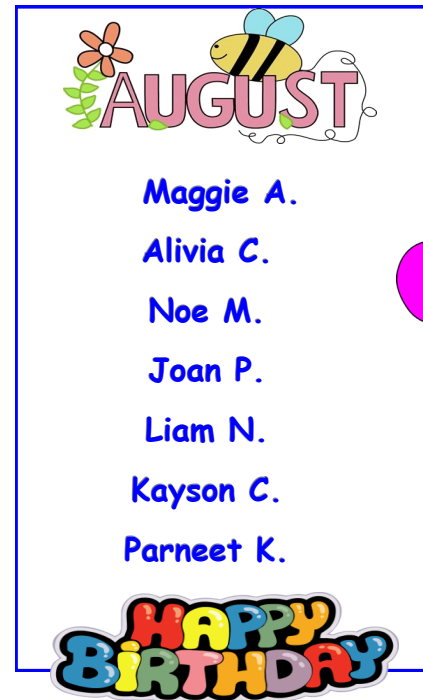
Moriah Constance received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from CSU Stanislaus, along with two Associate Degrees from San Joaquin Delta College in Teacher Preparation and Math and Science. During her educational career, she had the opportunity to participate in the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, twice. Moriah believes that children are genuine, creative, and possess an unlimited love for life, all things she strives to foster and emulate. Moriah is continuing her education in Early Childhood Development to pursue her goal to becoming a Montessori Teacher.

Back 2 School Night

The school will be holding a Back to School night on **Wednesday, August 8th** from 530 to 630pm.

August 8th @ 5:30pm!

We invite all of our Parents to attend this annual event to meet with the staff. This will be a great opportunity to get familiar with your child's classroom environment, Q & A's, and further learn about the Montessori methods. Please note that this is an evening for parents and teachers to discuss matters freely without any distractions. Therefore, we are requesting a kid-free evening. Unfortunately, there will be no childcare available on this evening.



Reminders!

To ensure a smooth start to the new school year, please be reminded of the following:

- Check the bulletin board and emails for important school information, upcoming events and your child's snack day
- Take home your child's daily work
- Ensure your child has an extra set of clothes at school (shirts, pants, socks, underwear, etc.)
- Label your child's belongings. Lodi Montessori is not responsible for lost or stolen items
- Chap-stick, lotion, hand sanitizers, OTC meds are not allowed in your child's cubby. Please hand it to a teacher for proper storage
- Lodi Montessori is a peanut and tree-nut free school zone



New? Consistency is Key.

During the first few weeks of school it is understandable that you, as the parent, might be apprehensive about leaving your child. Please feel free to speak to a staff member about using the observation area to watch as your child works within the classroom. Remember, your apprehension can easily get misinterpreted by the child and make his/her transition into a new school or a new classroom even more difficult.



Many children do experience separation anxiety in a new environment. A staff member will comfort your child until he/she feels comfortable in the classroom environment. A bond will soon develop and your child will establish a routine, learning to trust that you will return at a specific time each day. It is important in the first few weeks of school to maintain consistent drop-off and pick-up times. We will work with you and your child to make the transition as nurturing and positive as possible.



Lodi Montessori
Preschool & Kindergarten

2525 S Stockton Street

Lodi, CA 95240

Ph: 209.366.1012

Fx: 209.366.1013

info@lodimontessori.com

www.lodimontessori.com



Instagram

School Library, Located in Classroom 101

The school library, located in classroom 101 is encouraged for ALL children's use. Library check-out procedures are posted in the library for your review. Books are rotated to encourage reading development and to support parent involvement in the development of their child's decoding and fluency skills. Donations of children's books, magazines or other educational material are greatly appreciated. Please use these books with care, as they are in limited

supply.

What are some of the benefits of early reading?

- Expanded vocabulary and writing skills
- Healthy social and emotional development
- Enhanced imaginative and critical thinking skills
- A sense of closeness and intimacy between parent and child

- Enhanced memory and higher levels of concentration



Meet the Support Staff



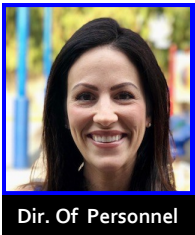
Jenni Nino received her B.A. in Communications from University of California, Davis. She went on to earn her Multiple Subjects Teaching credential as well as her Masters in Education, from Teachers College of San Joaquin. Jenni then discovered her passion for teaching young children during her four years of teaching kindergarten for Stockton Unified School

District. As the Director of Education, she strives to ensure that each child reaches his/her own potential and to provide a caring atmosphere in which your child can learn in.



A.M. Floater

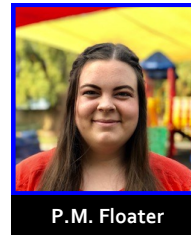
Carmen Meza has worked in the Early Childhood Education field since the year 2000. She attended San Joaquin Delta College where she completed multiple Early Childhood Education courses. These fundamental ECE courses and work experience deepened her knowledge of developmentally age-appropriate practices. Carmen greatly enjoys watching children learn and grow to their fullest capacities. Although Carmen has worked with multiple age groups, her greatest passion is working with preschool children to prepare them for their transition into elementary school. Her goal is to help children grow both creatively and academically.



Dir. Of Personnel

Jolie Zins received her Bachelors Degree from University of California, Davis and went on to explore a career in teaching. She began substitute teaching in the Lodi, Galt and Stockton school districts and quickly found her niche in the education field. She substituted at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, gaining eight years of teaching experience.

After discovering her strong connection to the elementary aged children, Jolie decided to obtain her Multiple Subjects Teaching credential.



P.M. Floater

Lynzie Waddell first gained her drive for learning about child development when watching her niece and nephew. Once graduated from high school she decided to further her education in the early childhood education field at Cosumnes River College where she is now close to earning her Associates Degree and plans to continue her schooling to earn her Bachelor's Degree. Lynzie's goal while interacting with children is to be able to help the child find their own desire to learn and guide them along the journey.



Dir. Of Operations

Vy Ergonis' professional career has spanned 15+ years in the Human Resources and Business Management/Administration field. Vy brings an extensive administrative and office management skill set along with significant customer service experience and interactions. Through her experience at major corporations such as Hewlett Packard and Adecco Group North America, Vy has developed the knowledge and skills in Business Management/Administration and Human Resources that will only help to ensure a positive experience for both our students and their families. Recently, Vy was invited to participate in Cosumnes River College's Advisory Board Meeting for their Early Childhood Education Department.



MARIA

MONTESSORI

(1870 - 1952)