



Description of Special Events

Each year the Ocean State Montessori School hosts a variety of special events. Here's a description of what they are, who is involved, and if parent volunteers are needed.

Enrolled Family Open House

This event is held just prior to phase-in days for our currently enrolled students. Parents and students are encouraged to visit during the specified times, pick up a welcome folder and take a tour of the school.

International Day of Peace

On September 21 (or as close to it if the 21st is on a weekend) students celebrate International Peace Day during school by gathering together for the first of our monthly all-school assemblies.

Welcome to OSMS Potluck Dinner

This event begins with a brief meeting and introduction to the OSMS Board members and committees. Faculty and staff will be introduced to the parents and school policies will be reviewed. All parents (new and returning) are required to attend this event. After the meeting adjourns, the staff hosts a Potluck Dinner as a welcome to new and returning families. We ask each family to bring in a food item to share. The staff makes dessert for all. Parents, siblings and students are invited to attend. (Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up.)

Pizza Friday

Every Friday (beginning in late September or early October) we offer the option for parents to buy pizza for lunch for any student who eats lunch at school (Primary 3, Children's Room, Elementary). For a set fee of \$3/week the student gets two slices of Ronzio pizza. Parents can supplement with other foods from home if desired. Pizza Fridays is a fundraising event for OSMS. Sign-up sheets are distributed in September (for September-December) and in December (for January-June).

Hat Day

In exchange for wearing a hat in school on Fridays, students donate \$1. The monies are collected and tallied regularly and are used to fund community outreach projects through the OSMS's Community Service Club or other local charities.

Flu Clinic

Each October the OSMS hosts a flu clinic through The Wellness Company. All adults and children, age 3 and older, are welcome to attend the clinic and get vaccinated at no out-of-pocket cost.

Discovering Montessori: Parent Education Night

Our first parent education event of the year is an interactive tour of the Montessori Method at work in our Primary, Lower and Upper Elementary programs. Guided by our faculty, this immersive evening is a great way to experience the child's journey of discovery that occurs during each of our three-year cycles. We ask that at least one parent/guardian from each family attend this event.

Parent Observations and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents are invited to observe in their child's classroom twice a year. The first observation is in October and the second is in March (Elementary) or May (Primary and Wee Threes). Observations last approximately 30 minutes from 8:45 to 9:15 am. Observations are followed by Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences are 20 minutes. Parents should make child care arrangements during their conference time—students do not attend.

Grandfriends' Day

Each year we host Grandfriends' Day to welcome our students' grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other special friends (parents are welcome if other family or friends are unable to attend) to OSMS. Visiting times vary depending on the students' age (so classrooms are not overcrowded) and last approximately an hour. Parent volunteers are needed to bake refreshments for our guests and to take coats and escort grandfriends to the classrooms.

Early Morning Montessori

Parents are invited to work in their child's classroom from 7:45-8:15am. This allows parents the opportunity to spend time with their child, working together on his/her favorite Montessori materials.

All School Thanksgiving Feast

This new tradition allows every OSMS student, faculty and staff member to share a meal of gratitude. All students and staff will feast together at 11:15am in the multi-purpose room (pizza and water will be provided, families are welcome to supplement the meal by sending in other lunch items with their child). During this community celebration we will share what makes us feel thankful about the OSMS.

Admissions Open Houses

Faculty, staff and parent volunteers open the school on the Sunday before Thanksgiving to show prospective parents and students what the Ocean State Montessori School has to offer. A second Open House will be held during school hours in January. (Volunteers needed to greet visiting families and answer questions about OSMS.)

Open Classroom Visits

Current and prospective parents are welcome to visit any classroom of their choosing to observe the Montessori Method in action. This is an opportunity for Wee Three parents to visit Primary, Primary parents to visit Lower El, and Lower El parents to see the Upper Elementary program.

Book Fair

In late fall and early spring of each school year the OSMS hosts a book fair during which parents and students can purchase books that have been specially selected for our school community. In the past we have had Usborne, Best Book Fair or Scholastic host the fair. Proceeds from the book fair helps to purchase new books for our classrooms. (Volunteers needed to serve as cashiers while the book fair is open.)

Winter Program and Parent Social

Parents gather at the St. Francis Xavier Church's auditorium after dropping off their child to his/her morning classroom. The Parent Social, hosted by the OSMS Development Committee, is a great opportunity to enjoy spending time with other members of the OSMS Community. At 10:00am the students will take the stage and showcase music they have been learning each week. All students will be dismissed immediately after the concert. No extended day programs are available. (Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up.)

Breakfast Buddies

Moms, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, Grandfriends, Babysitters or just someone special is invited to share a breakfast treat while visiting the classroom. (Volunteers needed for clean-up.)

Pajama Day

Students, faculty and staff wear their favorite PJ's to school. Each classroom hosts a different theme for the morning, such as Building Blocks, Art, Library, Games and Dance. Students are free to visit each classroom at their leisure.

Elementary Spring Social

A parent, guardian or another special adult enjoys a sweet treat with their elementary student.

Primary 3 Tea with Me

Primary 3 students invite a special guest to join them for tea in the classroom. Preparations include creating a menu, making decorations and preparing the food for this very special event. Primary 3 Tea with Me is the culmination of Practical Life skills for the Primary 3 student.

New Parent Orientation

New parents of students enrolled for the upcoming school year are invited. The Orientation provides parents answers to the burning question "What do I need to know before my child comes to school?". (Volunteers needed for set-up and to answer parent-to-parent questions for new families.)