Welcome to the 2013-2014 School Year!

We are a month into the school year! We hope you have enjoyed the first month of school, and we are looking forward to an amazing year. A special welcome to all of our new families that have joined TMA/TR!

This is the first issue of Tiger Tales. Tiger Tales is a school newsletter that will highlight the events of the month at TMA/TR. Each issue will discuss the different areas of our school, including announcements from your teachers, coaches, after school programs, special events, and more. We encourage each family to spend a few minutes with your child and share this newsletter together, and discuss all of the exciting events happening at your school.

Each issue of Tiger Tales will also highlight a member of our faculty, as well as a section dedicated to an Alumni Highlight for the month.
Focus on the Faculty:
Ms. Rebecca Irizarry

Ms. Irizarry started teaching at TMA in 2004 and has been teaching in Montessori Schools in central Florida since 1997. She holds Montessori certifications from St. Nicholas’ Training Centre for the Montessori Method of Education and the National Center for Montessori Education along with certifications for Children Who Learn Different (the different ways in which children learn) and Teaching Effective Organization and Study Skills.

Ms. Irizarry’s goal is to guide every child to excel and achieve his/her fullest potential through a skillfully designed environment that fosters imagination, creativity, a love of learning, inquiry, and discovery. This is why she chose Montessori.

She loves to see how the students engage themselves in group activities that will cater to the development of collaboration and learning to use what they know to solve new problems and think in innovative ways.

Ms. Irizarry has two daughters who attended Tuskawilla Montessori Academy. She enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Alumni Highlight:
Jack Mountford

Jack Mountford is a member of our TMA Alumni Group. Jack has accomplished incredible success in fine arts, theatre, and dance. He is currently a professional dancer and actor, and holds several on-air recognitions at such a young age, including appearances on David Lettermen, music videos, movies, and more. He is also a dance instructor and choreographer, and uses his love for music and dance to teach young, aspiring dancers in the industry. Jack has recently spent some time in New York City, joining a modeling agency and making an appearance alongside Tom Cruise.

We are proud of Jack and continue to wish him much success!
We are off to an exciting year. During our PTA General meeting we briefly shared how the PTA's goal this year is to create connection between TMA/TR families, both individually and globally. Our focus will be on family events. Here are the updates and upcoming events:

**Spirit Night:** We have 4 Spirit nights set for September - please join us. What is Spirit Night? A time to spend with your family and other TMA/TR families. You can either coordinate with others to meet at the same time or come in and see who's there. A portion of your bill will go back to the PTA. **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MENTION TMA AT ANY SPIRIT NIGHT.**

*First Spirit Night is this Thursday, (9/12) at Chili's! It will run all day.*

**Upcoming Spirit Nights:**
* Monday, September 16th - Tijuana Flats (In Winter Springs Town Center - on 434 and Tuskawilla)  
* Friday, September 27th (3:00-9:00) - Chuck E Cheese (Waterford Lakes Towncenter)  
* Monday, September 30th - California Pizza Kitchen (Waterford Lakes Towncenter)

**Dress Up/Dress Down:** Let your child express their individual style the first Wednesday of every month and Valentine's Day. If you want to pay by the month, please have your child bring in $2 for PTA member or $3 for non-PTA members (form attached). You can also pay for the rest of the year: $18 for PTA members or $27 for non-PTA members. Please be patient with us if you get an IOU and have already paid - just send it back with note that you paid. We will make sure it gets sorted out. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we are getting all the forms together.

**Families In Transition, Programs for Homeless Children -** FIT is the charity we have chosen to support this year. Each month, every class will be collecting items to help stock FIT's shelves. This month we are collecting canned protein items (tuna, meat, beans, etc - no peanut butter please). Please have your child bring in whatever items you are able to contribute to this worthy charity.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - We had a few events that we were hoping to help facilitate this year. **All our events will be dependent on volunteers to organize.** The PTA board is eager to help in any way we can, but cannot take charge. Each event will have a group of people to help plan the event. If you have not signed up to volunteer but you would like to, please email me. Please mention if you want to help with a specific event. All volunteers will be receiving an email this week to supply you with whatever information you need to get you started.

The events are:
- Trunk-or-Treat (October 19th)  
- Drop-and-Shop (December 14th)  
- Valentine's Dance (date to be announced)  
- Date Night (for the adults - date to be determined)  
- Family Movie Night (date to be determined)  
- Basket Night (date to be determined)

**UPCOMING EVENT: Trunk or Treat, October 19th** (time will be announced soon). Decorate your trunks, let your kids break in their Halloween costumes, and get an early start on that sugar rush. ;-) Come join us at the main campus. It will be a spooktacular event :)

**GoodSearch.com** - Help raise money while surfing the web. GoodSearch.com will donate 1 penny to the TMA/TR PTA for every search you do through their site. This search engine is powered by Yahoo. Additional ways to help funding are GoodSwipe, Goodsurvey, GoodGames (see site for full list of opportunities). **Make sure to type in Tuskawilla Montessori as the beneficiary when you signup.**

Thank you so much for your support and participation, we look forward to an amazing year of family-focused events! If you have any questions or suggestion, we want to hear them. Please free to call or email me directly.

Sincerely,

Christine Mauriello  
PTA Prez  
407-968-6702  
ce6178@gmail.com
Famous Faces in Montessori

Thomas Edison
Inventor

Thomas Edison was best known for his strides in modern technology and inventions in the new age. However, he was also an extreme supporter of Montessori philosophy and theory. He was an adamant supporter of Dr. Montessori and her transition to America. He was a founder of the Montessori program in the United States.

TMA Happenings

September 2: Labor Day (School Closed-No child care)
September 4: Dress-Up/Dress-Down Day
September 5: Rosh Hashanah (School Closed-No child care)
September 12: TMA PTA Spirit Day @ Chilis in Oviedo!
September 16: TMA PTA Spirit Day @ Tijuana Flats (on Tuskawilla Rd)
September 16: Tiger Sharks Swim Meet @ Winter Park Racquet Club
September 25: Grandparent’s Day (starting at 10AM)
September 27: TMA PTA Spirit Day @ Chuck-E-Cheese (Waterford)
September 30: TMA PTA Spirit Day @ California Pizza Kitchen (Waterford)

September Spirit Days!

Join the TMA PTA for Spirit Days at several different locations in the area!

9/12: Spirit Day @ Chilis in Oviedo
9/16: Spirit Day @ Tijuana Flats (Tuskawilla Road location)
9/27: Spirit Day @ Chuck-E-Cheese (Waterford Lakes)
9/30: Spirit Day at California Pizza Kitchen (Waterford Lakes)

Monies raised go directly to benefit the PTA fundraising efforts and ultimately your child’s classroom!
SPEED LIMIT IS 5 MPH!!!
Grandparent’s Day!
Wednesday, September 25th

You’re Invited!

TMA/TR is proud to host our newest tradition-Grandparent’s Day! On Wednesday, September 25th, we invite all grandmas and grandpas to join us for a morning of celebrating and honoring all that you do for the students at TMA/TR. Each classroom will have activities that students and grandparents can do together and share in the love of learning.

Schedule:

10AM: Meet in the gymnasium for a brief welcome speech from Mrs. DeLong.

10:30AM: Visit your grandchildren in their classroom and participate in events that the children have scheduled.

11:30AM-12:30PM: Have lunch with your grandchild and share some time in their playgrounds.

Tuskawilla/Twin Rivers Montessori

TMA Campus
1626 Montessori Pt.
Oviedo, FL. 32765
407-678-3879

Twin Rivers Campus
1270 Lockwood Blvd.
Oviedo, FL. 32765
407-366-4564

www.tuskmont.org
Do you love TMA/TR?  
Share it with the world! Visit our website and submit your review today! Be sure to also add our Facebook Fan page! Just search for “Tuskawilla Montessori Academy” and “Like” us! 
Spread the word today! 
www.tuskmont.org

Cooking Classes!  
Does your child show passion for cooking? Would you like your child to help around the kitchen at dinnertime? Register for Cooking Classes at TMA! Contact Mrs. Garner at sgarner@cfl.rr.com for more information! Classes are offered before and after school.

Fall Tiger Sharks Swim Team
Swim Team tryouts were a great success, and Coach Rapp has another amazing team of swimmers representing TMA! Be sure to visit the school’s website to check out the team’s swim meet schedule, pictures, and more!

Swim Meets Scheduled:
9/16-Swim Meet at Winter Park Racquet Club  
9/23-Swim Meet at Lake Highland  
9/30-Swim Meet at Trinity Prep  
10/7-Swim Meet at Lake Highland Prep

TMA Student Highlight
This section of Tiger Tales is dedicated to highlighting TMA/TR student accomplishments! If your child receives an award for exceptional performance, citizenship acts, and more, please feel free to email your classroom teachers. Please be sure to include a picture of your child and a short paragraph on their award or recognition. We are proud of our students at TMA/TR, and we take any opportunity to show our appreciation for their fine work and character!
TMA Middle School students receive their iPads! An exclusive part of our TMA Middle School Program! Each student is assigned an iPad for the year. They will use these iPads as their textbooks, taking tests and quizzes, creating movies and presentations, performing research, and more.
Preschool/Kindergarten

Welcome to the new school year! During the month of August, the children were getting adjusted to a new environment and meeting all of their new friends! They were busy learning the classroom rules and were introduced to some new lessons. We also began our study of the continents and the planets in our universe.

During the month of September we will continue to talk about the classroom rules and will be teaching the kids about the senses, Johnny Appleseed, and the coming of fall.

Please feel free to send any books regarding any of these topics. Your email addresses have been added to a Special Snack Schedule. You will be notified by email when your Special Snack day approaches. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask one of us!

We are so excited to have all of your children in our classrooms this year! We look forward to an amazing year this year!

Lower Elementary

This has been a remarkable beginning of the school year! We began the year with thorough assessments of the students and first, second and third grade students are now busily and excitedly working on new Montessori lessons. It’s important for students at this age to understand the reason for the lessons they are presented. For this reason, the Lower Elementary curriculum introduces these students with The Great Lessons. These lessons are impressionistic presentations that leave a child with a creative and imaginative idea of the world’s history. In these presentations, the child understands the importance and value of learning history, geography, math, language and other sub areas of our curriculum. Students in both classrooms have seen these Great Lessons and have actively become engaged in learning more these areas of study with lessons within the classroom. We look forward to introducing new lessons to our students! We are excited for our first field trip of the year on Thursday, September 19th to the Orlando Zoo. We will leave from the TMA Library at 10:30AM.

Middle School

We begin the school year with a study of the Age of Exploration in American History. The students will research and debate the impact of the exploration upon the continent, in particular the interactions with the Native Americans. In practical life, the class is studying the issues of self-esteem and being proactive. Science will focus on Physical Science this year. Our first cycle will study cells and how all living things are connected. Students will also conduct experiments and present their results to the class. The students received their iPads for the school year, and they are exploring all of the amazing opportunities this implementation provides.
Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year at Tuskawilla/Twin Rivers Montessori Academy. We are a dedicated community of Montessori educators, parents, and children, and offer the best in Montessori education, largely due to the quality, commitment, professional training, and teaching experience of our outstanding staff, and the involvement of supportive families. Our most important goal is to provide a safe learning environment with opportunities for each student to fulfill their unique potential, to be challenged and learn according to each child’s special nature.

We would like to share with you some of the exciting programs and activities your child will experience at Tuskawilla/Twin Rivers Montessori during this upcoming year. Our classrooms are equipped with the beautiful Montessori materials and the challenging curriculum, and in addition, we offer music, art, computers, and library skills, and band in upper elementary.

Our outdoor education facilities include sports fields for varied sports, a swimming pool, gardens for science and environmental studies, and a high school sized air conditioned gymnasium. These unique facilities allow us to offer a variety of sports teams, such as swimming, soccer, basketball, and more. Students also enjoy getting involved in after school clubs in areas such as: music, art, drama, chess, cooking, martial arts, tumbling, and scrapbooking.

We would also like to invite you to become involved with the PTA. They have outstanding activities planned for this school year, but it takes your involvement and support to make it work.

Please be sure to check our calendar for upcoming events including parent education meetings. We are looking forward to a wonderful and rewarding school year!