



THE MONTESSORI JOURNAL

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin 2026 together, we are delighted to share highlights from the rich and meaningful life of our community. This past term has been full of learning, celebration, and connection: moments that reflect the heart of Montessori education at EMC.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A Montessori Journey, A Dream Realized.
Highest Mark in Africa & the World!

BRITISH SCHOOL OVERSEAS ACCREDITATION



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



A Montessori Journey.
An Ivy League Future.

A MONTESSORI JOURNEY, A DREAM REALIZED

From a little girl who walked through our doors at the age of 4 to a young woman now stepping onto one of the world's most prestigious academic stages — today, we celebrate an extraordinary milestone.

We are immensely proud to announce that Neyla BERRADA, our very first child at École Montessori Casablanca, now in Year 13 (A Levels), has been admitted to Columbia University, New York, through Early Admission.

This moment is deeply symbolic for our community. It tells a story of trust, consistency, and belief — belief in a child, belief in an educational philosophy, and belief in a journey that spans years, not grades.

Montessori works.

It nurtures independence, critical thinking, confidence, and a love for learning that lasts a lifetime. Neyla's journey is a living testament to this philosophy — and to what children can achieve when they are truly seen, guided, and empowered.

Beyond her outstanding academic record, Neyla has distinguished herself through meaningful extracurricular commitments, leadership, and a set of holistic values that reflect empathy, integrity, and purpose. She embodies the balance of intellect and character that defines truly exceptional learners.

Neyla, we are incredibly proud of you - of your hard work, your perseverance, and the remarkable young woman you have become. You have set the bar so high and have inspired those who look up to you.

From Casablanca to New York - the world is waiting.
Congratulations, Neyla!



HIGHEST MARK IN AFRICA & THE WORLD!

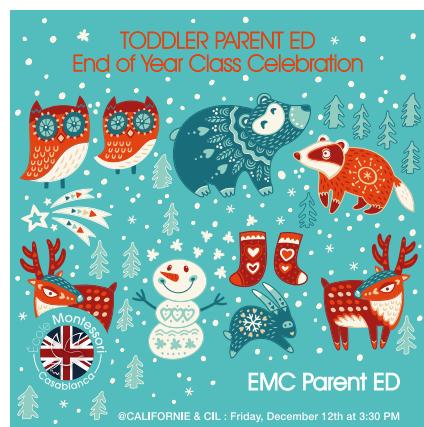
We are beyond proud to announce that our brilliant student Yi Yun YANG has achieved the Highest Mark in the World in the British Pearson Edexcel IGCSE Chinese and the Highest Mark in Africa in the British Pearson Edexcel IGCSE Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), in the June 2025 session!

Her hard work, dedication, and passion for learning truly shine through this incredible achievement.

We are so unbelievably proud of her and all that she's accomplished!



SCHOOL LIFE & COMMUNITY EVENTS



Since October, our community has come together through numerous parent-child workshops, classroom decoration events, Montessori kitchen experiences, round table discussions, and Read & Play sessions. These moments strengthened our school-home partnership and enriched student learning.

Our youngest learners flourished through seasonal celebrations and independence-building activities, while our older students engaged in meaningful, self-directed academic and personal growth.



COZY WINTER AFTERNOONS WITH OUR PRIMARY FAMILIES!

Primaries organized a fun and creative experience as they decorated the classrooms and celebrated the joy of the winter season. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to bond with their child, adding a magical touch to our space.

Thank you for making our environments shine brighter than ever!

LITTLE HANDS, BIG CREATIVITY, AND SO MUCH JOY!

We were delighted to invite our Toddler Parents to the End-of-Year Class Celebration!

The children and the team welcomed the families for a hands-on workshop. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff, children and parents to come together and enjoy the warm and joyful atmosphere of our Toddler community.

The children showed their environment, decorated cookies, and enjoyed a little photo shoot with their loved ones.

What a special moment!



A look at independence

Montessori Casablanca

1-3 Parent ED

©CIL Campus: Wednesday, November 19th, 4:00 – 5:00pm

A LOOK AT INDEPENDENCE

This workshop's topic uncovered the notion of physical independence, particularly focusing on the practical considerations surrounding the process of changing clothes—an activity that adults often take for granted - and toileting awareness, that raises many questions.

For young children, it represents a journey toward self-sufficiency and self-esteem. The act of changing and understanding the elimination processes becomes a reflection of their growing autonomy, as they learn to navigate their own bodies and make choices. This allows them to develop confidence in their abilities. Throughout this discussion, we explored a series of effective strategies that can aid in fostering this independence.

Understanding Assessment: How to Support Your Child and What to Expect



6-11 Parent ED

ELEMENTARY ASSESSMENTS: HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AND WHAT TO EXPECT

Parents joined us for an informative session designed to help them gain a clearer understanding of how assessment supports learning rather than adds pressure. We explored the different types of assessments used in our classrooms, what they reveal about your child's progress, and how parents could offer the right kind of support at home.

We also looked closely at how teachers give feedback through the "What Went Well" and "What Can Be Improved" sections — empowering children to celebrate achievements and set realistic next steps. In addition, we shared practical strategies for parents to minimize stress around assessments, such as creating calm routines, focusing on effort rather than scores, and encouraging a growth mindset.

Round Table Session
Let's Talk Parenting!

Montessori Casablanca

3-6 EMC Parent ED

©CALIFORNIE : Friday November 28th from 4:00 to 5:30 PM

ROUND TABLE SESSION LET'S TALK PARENTING!

Our Primary Team warmly welcomed parents to a friendly round table session where parents and teachers come together to share ideas, discuss challenges, and find thoughtful solutions together. Some guidance was offered - our team was ready to listen and offer helpful suggestions.

THE MONTESSORI KITCHEN WORKSHOP SECOND SESSION



As we couldn't accommodate everyone who wished to participate on the first session, we were thrilled to announce one more Montessori-style cooking workshop @Güana Restaurant.

What a joyful morning it was — filled with laughter, smiles, and visible magic. Watching the children's curiosity and independence blossom as they prepared their own little treats was pure delight.

Don't miss the next opportunity to see your child proudly creating edible masterpieces all by himself!!



AUTUMN CELEBRATION AT THE HOUSE OF YOUTH

Academic excellence yes, but some fun is much needed!!

Our secondary students organized an afternoon of fun, with costumes, games, competitions and potlucks to celebrate the season! Here's a little sneak-peak:



WINTER WONDERLAND

Our Winter Wonderland brought together students, families, and staff to celebrate the many cultures that make our community so special - from colorful cultural booths to music, dance, and a proud Moroccan pavilion. It was such a delightful and heartwarming moment.

Check out our recap video capturing the beautiful atmosphere that sunny morning!



BRITISH SCHOOL OVERSEAS ACCREDITATION



British Schools Overseas (BSO) inspections are categorized into two primary types: Compliance and Educational Quality.

Schools typically choose between these two options depending on their accreditation needs:

- **Compliance-Only Inspection:** Focuses strictly on whether the school meets the minimum Standards for British Schools Overseas. These standards cover eight core areas, including the quality of education, welfare, health and safety, and leadership.

- **Combined Inspection (Educational Quality and Compliance):** This more comprehensive option includes the compliance check plus a detailed evaluation of educational quality. This second component focuses specifically on two key outcomes for pupils:
 - The quality of pupils' learning and achievement.
 - The quality of pupils' personal development.

BSO inspections are conducted by approved bodies such as the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

Education Development Trust (EDT), and Penta International. Accreditation from these inspections lasts for three years.

What's Assessed (BSO Standards)?
Inspectors evaluate the school against specific BSO Standards, covering:

- Quality of Education & SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development).
- Pupil Welfare, Health & Safety.
- Suitability of Staff & Proprietors.
- Quality of Premises & Accommodation.
- Provision of Information & Complaints Handling.
- Quality of Boarding (where applicable).
- Leadership & Management.

EMC underwent a rigorous Combined Inspection (Educational Quality and Compliance) and we are happy to announce that we passed the challenge brilliantly. You can find the full report [here](#). It will be published on the ISI website shortly.

RAMADAN HOURS

Ramadan is coming soon and the heavy traffic as well!!

EMC school hours will be the following at **Californie and CIL**:

- Toddlers: 8.50 am to 3.20 pm
- Primaries: 8.10 am to 3.00 pm
- Elementaries: 8.10 am to 3.10 pm

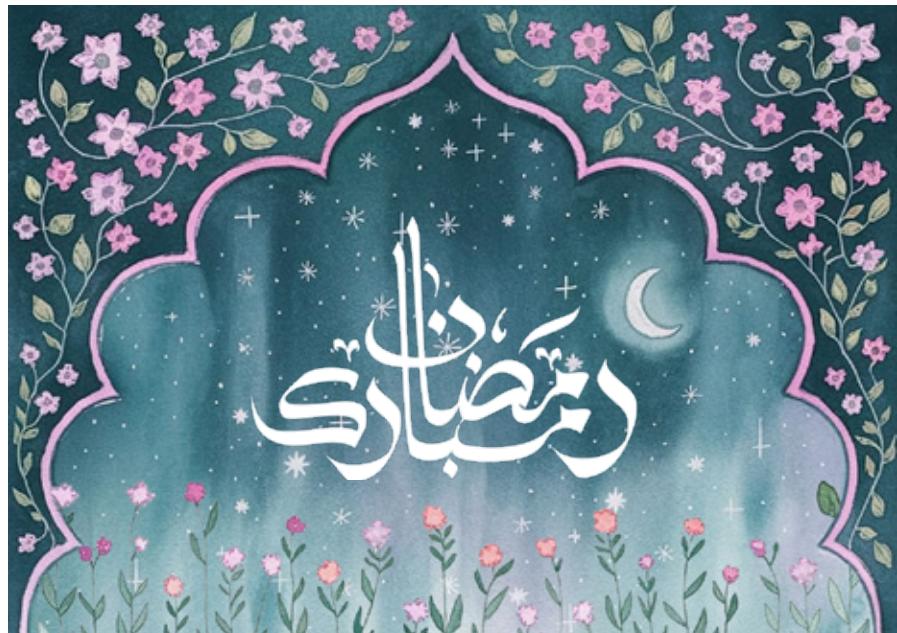
Afterschool activities will end as follows at Californie and CIL:

- Primaries: 3.45 pm
- Elementaries: 3.50 pm

Kindly note that there is no custody service during Ramadan.

HoY school hours:

- On site: 8.45 am to 2.40 pm
- Bus hours: 8.10 to 3.15 pm



Ramadan will take place from February 18th to March 19th this year.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the new term, we look forward to continued collaboration, enriching workshops, and joyful learning experiences that support each child's development.

We are deeply grateful to our students, families, and staff for their commitment, trust, and partnership. We wish you all a joyful and purposeful year ahead.

Warm regards,

The Leadership Team - École Montessori Casablanca

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS



26 TO 30 JANUARY
6-11 CLASS OBSERVATIONS
@CALIFORNIE



04 TO 06 FEBRUARY
3-6 CLASS OBSERVATIONS
@CALIFORNIE & CIL



12 & 13 FEBRUARY
1-6 PARENT TEACHER
CONFERENCES - (NO SCHOOL)



12 FEBRUARY
6-11 LOVE & FRIENDSHIP
CELEBRATION



16 TO 20 FEBRUARY
WINTER BREAK
(NO SCHOOL)



23 FEBRUARY
STAFF DAY
(NO SCHOOL)



05 MARCH
3-6 READINESS FOR 6-9
@CALIFORNIE



06 MARCH
6-9 READINESS FOR 9-11
@CALIFORNIE



11 MARCH
1-3 NANNY ED
@CALIFORNIE



19 MARCH
6-11 RAMADAN
CELEBRATION



20 MARCH
AID EL FITR
MOVABLE HOLIDAY - (NO SCHOOL)



23 TO 27 MARCH
HoY
KS4 & 5 EXAMS WEEK



28 MARCH
PRIMARY
@BLOOM BOOKS



01 APRIL
1-3 PARENT ED
@CALIFORNIE & CIL



02 APRIL
6-11 CHILDREN'S BOOK
DAY



04 APRIL
BLOOMING TOGETHER
@HOY TogetherBlooming



10 APRIL
6-11 CHILDREN TEACH
ADULTS



13 TO 24 APRIL
SPRING BREAK
(NO SCHOOL)



13 TO 24 APRIL
1-11 SPRING CAMPS

All the important dates for this school year
can be found on KEY DATES page of our website

CHECK IT REGULARLY!