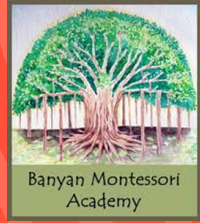


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

December 2024



Toddler Montessori classroom

Dear Families,

December is a magical time of learning, discovery, and celebration in our Toddler classroom! This month, we explored unique themes that encouraged sensory exploration, critical thinking, and cultural awareness.

Themes of the Month

1. Christmas Around the World

We explored Christmas traditions through songs, stories, and crafts. The children enjoyed learning about the magic of this special holiday and how it is celebrated in families. A special highlight this month was when the children brought in family photos to share. These photos are now displayed in our classroom, allowing the children to revisit them and share stories about their families with their friends.

2. Classification: Sound vs. No Sound

During this activity, we worked on identifying objects that make sounds and those that do not. Additionally, we practiced matching different sounds, helping the children sharpen their auditory skills and ability to compare and classify sounds.

3. Classification: Rough vs. Smooth

Using their sense of touch, the children explored the differences between rough and smooth objects. This hands-on activity enriched their vocabulary and strengthened their sensory observation skills.

Art, Music, and Theater with Ms. Monica

This month, we delved deeper into the work of Vincent Van Gogh, focusing on his painting *Starry Night*. The children loved this session, where they:

- Created their own version of *Starry Night* using felt.
- Explored a sensory bottle inspired by the same artwork.

We also enjoyed singing and moving to the following songs:

- *Make a Snowball* (with scarves)
- *Snow Action Song*

These activities brought together art, movement, and sensory exploration, encouraging creativity, coordination, and a love for music.

Ground Rules in the Classroom

We have been reinforcing our *Ground Rules* to help create a calm and respectful environment, including:

- Using kind words like "please" and "thank you."
- Walking inside the classroom and using "gentle hands."
- Respecting the space and materials of others.

Ground rules are essential for developing autonomy, respect, and self-discipline. Practicing these rules at home helps children build strong social and emotional skills, as consistency is key for their development.

Thank you for sharing this wonderful month of learning, celebration, and growth with us. We are excited to continue this journey in the new year!

Warm regards,

The Toddler Classroom Team

Friday Afternoons with Ms. Monica: Music, Movement, Theatre, and Art

(Toddler)

12/13/24

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Where is Hibernating Bear?

Where is bear?

Where is bear?

Here I am

Here I am

How are you this winter?

Very tired

I thank you

Go to sleep

Go to sleep

Song: Snowflakes, Snowflakes (with tambourines)

(To the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

Snowflakes, snowflakes

Dance around

Snowflakes, snowflakes

Touch the ground

Snowflakes, snowflakes

in the air

Snowflakes, snowflakes

everywhere

Snowflakes, snowflakes

Dance around

Snowflakes, snowflakes

Touch the ground

Song: Make a Snowball (with scarves)

Fill your hands with snow
squeeze it round like so
almost time for us to go
1,2,3. . . . and throw!

Song: Snow Action Song

The snow is on my head
The snow is on my head
Oh no, I'm very cold
The snow is on my head
Snow snow go away
Come again another day
Snow snow you make it hard
To go outside and play
(Repeats for shoulder, belly, knees, toes)
I'm covered up with snow
I'm covered up with snow
Oh no, I'm very cold
I'm covered up with snow
Oh no, I'm very cold
I'm covered up with snow

Re-introduced Artist Vincent Van Gogh and his painting Starry Night. We created a felt board version of Starry Night together. The book Vincent Can't Sleep by Barb Rosenstock was be shared.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the year, we are excited to share the wonderful progress our students have made throughout the month of December in various areas of learning.

Math: This month, our students explored exciting concepts in mathematics! We worked on verbal fetching dynamic layouts, which helped develop their understanding of spatial relationships and problem-solving skills. In addition, we focused on simple addition, using counters for hands-on practice. We also introduced the concept of squaring using a sensory approach, allowing children to engage with numbers in a more concrete and meaningful way.

ELA (English Language Arts): In our language lessons, children practiced recognizing and forming uppercase letters. They also engaged in a fun writing activity by composing a letter to Santa, which they worked on at the writing table. Some of our young authors began writing their own books, incorporating three-letter words into their stories! It's wonderful to see their creativity and writing skills grow.

Sensorial: This month, our sensorial activities included matching sets of cards from the geometric cabinets, which helped enhance visual discrimination and geometric understanding. We also explored painting at the easel, encouraging children to express their creativity and fine motor skills.

Practical Life/Everyday Living: In Everyday Living, we focused on a variety of engaging tasks that developed our children's independence and coordination. They learned how to weave a blanket, polished wooden objects, and practiced pounding tees with a hammer. Our holiday-themed activities included decorating the Christmas tree and matching mittens—activities that promoted both fine motor skills and holiday joy.

Science: This month, our science lessons introduced fascinating topics such as the United States and Michigan, migration, hibernation, and botany. Our students had a hands-on experience planting seeds, learning about the growth process, and exploring the wonders of the natural world.

Holidays Around the World: We also took a journey around the world, learning about different holiday traditions and celebrations from various cultures. This activity broadened our understanding of global customs and helped us appreciate the diversity of traditions.

We're so proud of the progress the children have made this month. We look forward to more exciting adventures in the new year!

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

Warm regards,

Pre Primary staff

Friday Afternoons with Ms. Monica: Music, Movement, Theatre, and Art

(Pre-primary)

12/13/24

Music

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Light a Candle for Peace

We will practice this song we learned in September in preparation to share it with families on December 20th.

Song: Family of the Sun

We will practice this song we learned in September in preparation to share it with families on December 20th.

Song: Catch a Falling Star

We will learn this song together and it will be used in the play "How the Stars Came to Be" which will be performed for families on December 20th.

Lyrics

Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket

Never let it fade away

Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket

Save it for a rainy day

For love may come and tap you on the shoulder

Some starless night

Just in case you feel you wanna' hold her

You'll have a pocketful of starlight

Chorus repeats

For when your troubles start multiplying

And they just might

It's easy to forget them without trying

With just a pocketful of starlight

Chorus repeats

Theatre

Rehearse- We will rehearse our short play, "How the Stars Came to Be" in preparation for our performance on December 20th.

Art

Re-introduced artist Vincent Van Gogh and his painting "Starry Night".

Students will learn about this painting and be introduced to art projects inspired by it. The book Vincent Can't Sleep by Barb Rosenstock will be shared.



Enrichment programs

Dear Parents,

Hello Everyone!

In this exciting December edition, we have elaborated on different international language sessions:

Hindi:

We learned to count in Hindi and explored farm animals through exciting activities designed especially for our little learners!

Counting in Hindi:

Ek (1)

Do (2)

Teen (3)

Chaar (4)

Paanch (5)

Activity Idea:

Number Hunt: Cut out colorful numbers (1-5) in Hindi and hide them around the room. Let our friends find them and call out the numbers as they discover them.

Farm Animals in Hindi:

Cow – गाय (Gai)

Goat – बकरी (Bakri)

Sheep – भेड़ (Bhed)

Hen – मुर्गी (Murgi)

Horse – घोड़ा (Ghoda)

Activity Idea:

Animal Sounds Game: Make sounds of different animals and ask friends to guess the animal and say its name in Hindi.

Fun Activities

Finger Painting:

Creating a farm scene with animals. Use finger painting to make cows, goats, and hens.

Sing-Along Rhymes:

Learn a simple rhyme:

Ek gai khet mein jaye,

Do bakriyan saath mein aaye,

Teen murge ghoom rahe,

Chaar bhedon ne ghas khaye,

Paanch ghodey door bhage!

Animal Parade:

Bring toy animals and create a pretend farm. Encourage children to act like their favorite animals.

Hindi Numbers Craft:

Make a "Counting Farm" by sticking pictures of animals to represent each number (e.g., 1 cow, 2 goats, etc.).

Parent's Corner

Please encourage your child to count objects at home in Hindi, like toys or fruits. You can also practice farm animal names in Hindi during storytime. Let's make learning fun together!

Mandarin:

Four seasons:

Show a snow man and introduce winter. Observe different scenery to recognize four seasons. Listen to the song named where is spring?

Spring 春天(chuntian)

Summer 夏天 (xiatian)

Fall 秋天(qiutian)

Winter 冬天 (dongtian)

Christmas:

Show a dancing Santa. Put on a mask to play Santa. Use different colors paper to make a Christmas tree.

Christmas 圣诞节 (shengdanjie)

Santa 圣诞老人 (shengdanlaoren)

Christmas tree 圣诞树 (shengdanshu)

Spanish:

Last month, we started exploring the names of animals in Spanish. This month, we extended our activities to reinforce what we had learned while introducing new animal names. Through matching games and size-sorting activities, the children practiced identifying animals and expanded their vocabulary. We also embraced the season with festive Christmas Vocabulary, which brought joy and excitement to our learning!

Animal Vocabulary

We explored the names of animals in Spanish by:

- Matching animals with their corresponding images.
- Sorting animals by size (big and small).

English	Spanish
Tiger	Tigre
Lion	León
Rhinoceros	Rinoceronte
Giraffe	Jirafa
Gorilla	Gorila
Pig	Cerdo
Elephant	Elefante

Christmas Vocabulary

We also introduced festive Christmas vocabulary to celebrate the season. The children engaged in activities to learn the following words:

English	Spanish
Christmas tree	Árbol de Navidad
Snow	Nieve
Ornaments	Esferas
Snowman	Muñeco de nieve
Bows	Moños
Presents/Gifts	Regalos
Candy canes	Caramelos

Ms. Anuja's Science based Art session :

For the December month we learned about the modern science concepts and experimented with an old time magic trick.

Friends liked the robot visit and were very curious to more. We made a 'Scribbling Wigglebot' by connecting a few simple things. It made an abstract art for us.

We learned about the 'Crystals'. Crystals are nothing but shiny building blocks with distinct shape and a repetitive pattern. Salt, sugar, ice are some of the crystals we see in everyday life. We made 'Salt crystal painting' using saturated salt water. Quick drying the painting reveals the salt crystals on the paper.

To end this year on a magical note, we did a 'Refraction' experiment of 'Disappearing colors'. We painted Christmas lights using crayons, then we put it in the ziploc bags and submerged it into the water bucket. If you look at the painting from top and from the side, the colors of the painting disappear.

Date : 12/17/24

Detroit style Pizza

Time : 2hrs 30 mins

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 16oz Refrigerated Pizza Dough | • 1 Cup Pizza sauce |
| • 1 Tbsp Olive Oil | • 1 tsp Garlic powder(optional) |
| • 4oz Shredded Mozzarella Cheese | • Red chili flakes(optional) |
| • 4oz Cubed Mozzarella Cheese | |

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add roughly 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil to a glass container or bowl to lightly coat the sides, then add your pizza dough. Cover and let the dough rest in a warm place for 2 to 3 hours until the dough has doubled in size.
- Drizzle another 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil into a Detroit-style pizza pan or comparable 8x10 baking pan and rub to coat the bottom and sides of the pan.
- Add the pizza dough to the greased pan and stretch it into the corners until it starts to shrink back away from the corners.
- Cover the pan with plastic wrap and let the pizza dough rest for 15 minutes before stretching it again. It should stretch comfortably into the corners of the pan, but if you find it is still shrinking back, you can repeat it one more time.
- Gently press the pizza dough down with your fingers to release any large air bubbles that may have formed and to make the dough as uniform as possible.
- Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F.
- Cube the mozzarella cheese and place the cheese cubes along the perimeter of the pan. This cheese is going to melt to create the crispy edges, so they can be placed right against the sides of the pan.
- Cover the rest of the pizza with the shredded mozzarella cheese.
- Sprinkle garlic powder over the cheese for some additional flavor, and then spoon the sauce right over the cheese in two rows, or dollop the sauce throughout the pizza if you prefer.
- Place the pan on the bottom rack of your oven (to prevent the cheese from burning) and bake at 500 degrees F for 12-15 minutes, you'll want to cook your pizza until the edges have blackened.
- Allow the pizza to cool in the pan for 10-15 minutes. Since the pizza is thick, this will allow the interior to finish cooking inside.
- Carefully remove the pizza from the pan by first loosening the edges with a spatula. Top with red pepper flakes, or any toppings of your choice, and cut into 6 slices.
- Enjoy!

Date : 11/26/24

Vegetable Salad

Time : 15mins

INGREDIENTS

- 1cup Carrot shredded
- 1cup Lettuce chopped
- 1cup Cherry tomatoes
- 1cup Purple cabbage
- 1cup Cucumber sliced
- Lemon juice - 1tbsp
- Olive oil - 2 tbsp
- Salt - 1tsp
- Pepper powder - 1 tsp

INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a mixing bowl and combine all the vegetables.
- Take a small bowl and add lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper. Mix until combined.
- Add the dressing in the mixing bowl and toss well until it is covered.
- Serve and enjoy!

Warm regards,

The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



Upcoming events

Jan 6- School resumes after the winter break

Jan 20- MLK day (No school)

Jan 25- CPR/ First Aid training for all teachers

Jan 31- Dental Education with Hygienist Cassy from Canton Family Dental

Upcoming events

We will have Hindi, Mandarin and Spanish on all Tuesday's (p.m), Wednesday's(p.m) and Thursday's(a.m) respectively.

We will have Ms. Anuja's science inspired art on all Wednesday's(a.m).

We will have 2 cookery sessions for 1/28.

In house field trips do not have a set schedule it is based on the presenters availability. We will keep you posted

Read , Reflect and Implement

<https://amshq.org/Families/Montessori-and-Your-Child/Montessori-at-Home>

