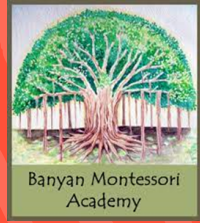


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter



February 2025

Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Montessori Families,

February has been a wonderful month full of learning and exploration in our classroom! Here's a look at what we've been working on:

Magnetism

Students discovered the properties of magnets, differentiating between magnetic and non-magnetic materials. They built shapes using magnetic tools and experimented with attraction and repulsion. Through hands-on exploration, they tested various objects such as paper, plastic, coins, paperclips, and fabric to determine which ones were magnetic, strengthening their understanding of how magnetism works in everyday life.

Solid and Liquid

This month, we conducted various experiments to explore the differences between solids and liquids. From pouring activities to observing how water transforms into ice, the children actively participated in learning about changes in matter. A highlight was the ice melting experiment, where each student received an ice cube and observed its gradual transformation from solid to liquid, helping them understand the effects of temperature on different states of matter.

Lake and Island

Our young learners explored the concepts of land and water by studying lakes and islands. Through hands-on activities, they identified the differences between these geographical features and even created their own models using play dough and water. They also engaged in a sorting activity using pictures of lakes, islands, rivers, and mountains. Additionally, we conducted a floating and sinking experiment using different objects to explore why islands stay above water.

Valentine's Day Celebration

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with love and kindness! The children enjoyed making decorated Valentine's boxes and made a Valentine's Day card. Through stories and activities, we discussed the importance of friendship, appreciation, and expressing gratitude.

Our students have demonstrated great enthusiasm and curiosity every day. Thank you for your continued support in fostering their learning journey!

Warm regards,
Toddler Montessori Team

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

(Toddler)

2/21/25

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: Blowing in the Wind (with scarves)

Lyrics:

Blowing in the wind

Blowing in the wind

My scarf is blowing in the wind

Falling down

Falling down

With a whoosh

and PLOP

Dancing in the wind

Dancing in the wind

My scarf is dancing in the wind

Falling down

Falling down

With a whoosh

and PLOP

It's time to sneak
Put it in a ball
Make it so tiny and small
It's time to sneak
Put it in a ball, now
Ready, set, THROW!

Song: Little Johnny Brown

(American folk song, Georgia Sea Islands)

Lyrics:

Little Johnny Brown,
Lay your comfort down,
Little Johnny Brown,
Lay your comfort down.

Call

Fold down the corner,

Response

Johnny Brown*,
Fold another corner, Johnny Brown.
Fold another corner, Johnny Brown (repeat)
Take it to a friend, Johnny Brown (repeat)
Show them a motion, Johnny Brown (repeat)
Lope like a buzzard, Johnny Brown (repeat)
Give it to your friend, Johnny Brown (repeat)

Each Call is the instruction, and each Response is "Johnny Brown."

Link to the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxcbiSalQel>

Introduce artist Alma Woodsey Thomas and the book *Ablaze with Color: A Story of a Painter* Alma Thomas by Jeanne Walker Harvey. Students will learn about the artist Alma Woodsey Thomas and learn to create art projects inspired by her work.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents and Friends,

We've had an exciting and educational February! Here's a look at all the wonderful activities your child has experienced this month:

Language Development

This month, we focused on *complex sorting* and *matching* activities that encouraged our friends to think critically and organize objects by size, color, and shape. We also introduced *rhyming words*, a fun way to strengthen their phonemic awareness. They practiced recognizing similar sounds and connecting words that rhyme, laying a foundation for reading and writing.

In addition, we began our exploration of *phonograms*, helping them understand letter combinations that produce unique sounds. This will be a great step toward building their reading skills.

Math

In math, the friends worked on *cubing chains*, a hands-on activity that helps them understand sequences and counting. They were thrilled to explore the process of addition through fun activities that promoted number recognition and simple calculations. Additionally, we reviewed important math concepts, including the *teens boards*, which helped them grasp the numbers 11–19 and see how numbers grow in sets.

Sensorial

We introduced *botanical cabinets* with matching cards, allowing the friends to engage their senses by touching and observing different plant materials. This sensory activity enhanced their vocabulary and helped them connect the natural world to their learning experience.

Practical Life

In practical life activities, the children had a blast learning how to *scrub tables* with soap and water. They enjoyed the hands-on experience of keeping their space clean! They also painted *rocks*, which was a fun and creative way to explore colors and textures. Another exciting activity was *hanging clothes with clothespins*—a great way for them to practice fine motor skills while engaging in real-life tasks.

Geography

We began our journey around the world by learning about *Africa*, diving into its geography, culture, and animals. The children loved exploring the common animals of Africa, from lions to elephants, through hands-on activities and discussions.

Science

This month in science, we explored the *oceans* and *dinosaurs*. Through matching activities, the friends matched different sea creatures and dinosaur types with pictures and names, expanding their understanding of these fascinating subjects. We also introduced a variety of new books related to these topics, providing even more opportunities for reading and learning.

Art & Craft

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we introduced some *fun art and craft activities*, where the friends created beautiful Valentine's Day cards for their parents and friends. These heartfelt creations were loved by all, and it was so special to see the friends express their love and creativity through their cards.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to even more exciting activities in March!

Warm regards

Pre Primary staff

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

(Pre-primary)

2/21/25

To recognize that February is Black History Month, this Friday's lessons will highlight influential Black musicians and artists.

Music

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Little Johnny Brown

(American folk song, Georgia Sea Islands)

Lyrics:

Little Johnny Brown,
Lay your comfort down,
Little Johnny Brown,
Lay your comfort down.

Call

Fold down the corner,

Response

Johnny Brown*,
Fold another corner, Johnny Brown.
Fold another corner, Johnny Brown (repeat)
Take it to a friend, Johnny Brown (repeat)
Show them a motion, Johnny Brown (repeat)

Lope like a buzzard, Johnny Brown (repeat)

Give it to your friend, Johnny Brown (repeat)

Each Call is the instruction, and each Response is "Johnny Brown."

Link to the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxcbiSalQel>

Song/Game: A Tisket, A Tasket by Ella Fitzgerald

A-tisket, a-tasket

A brown and yellow basket

I send a letter to my mommy

On the way I dropped it

I dropped it, I dropped it

Yes, on the way I dropped it

A little girlie picked it up

And put it in her pocket

T- I- M- E time to drop it

T- I- M- E time to drop it

Link to the song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtM-3qW_miA

Song and Story: It's a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong

We will listen to Louis Armstrong sing "What a Wonderful World," accompanied by a picture book by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele.

Theatre

Explore and create the "ocean" using creative drama activities- using charades and other drama-based activities, we will explore ways to create an ocean environment using our bodies, voices, music, and props. This will help us as we begin to develop our performance of "The Rainbow Fish".

Art

Introduce artist Alma Woodsey Thomas and the book Ablaze with Color: A Story of a Painter Alma Thomas by Jeanne Walker Harvey. Students will learn about the artist Alma Woodsey Thomas and learn to create art projects inspired by her work.



Enrichment programs

Hello Everyone!

In this exciting February edition, we have elaborated on different International Languages and Science sessions:

Hindi:

In February, our classroom journey through the world of Hindi language learning was filled with excitement and creativity!

Exploring Animals in Hindi

We began by learning animal names in Hindi! The children loved discovering how to say common animals like **बिल्ली (Billi)** for cat and **जिराफ (Jiraaf)** for giraffe, and many more! We used fun flashcards to help reinforce their learning and matched animals with their names.

Colors, Colors Everywhere!

We dove deep into the world of colors with a variety of activities. The students had a blast as they:

- Learned more color names in Hindi and practiced sorting objects by color.
- Engaged in a fun activity where they matched and sorted classroom objects according to their colors.

The class buzzed with energy as we collected and sorted items, reinforcing color names in both Hindi and English! Some of the color names we learned were **लाल (Laal)** for red, **पीला (Peela)** for yellow, **नीला (Neela)** for blue, and more.

Educational Songs and Games

To keep the learning engaging, we sang educational songs that helped reinforce color recognition. The friends sang along with enthusiasm, creating a positive and lively environment for learning.

One of the most fun moments this month was the **Knock Knock Game!** This interactive game had the children searching for objects of specific colors in the classroom. It was a hit! The children loved playing and finding items that matched the colors we were learning.

Flashcards & Sorting Fun

We made use of colorful flashcards to enhance our learning experience. These flashcards helped in both learning animal names and colors. Sorting by colors was a great way for the friends to visually connect the words they learned with real-world objects.

Looking Ahead

We're looking forward to more exciting activities next month as we continue to explore Hindi language and concepts. Thank you to all the parents for supporting this fun and enriching journey!

Warm regards,
Ms Nazia

Mandarin:

Lanterns and the Lantern Festival:

Teaching about On and Off, Light and Dark, High and Low through Lantern Displays:

On 开 (kai)

Off 关 (guan)

Light 亮 (liang)

Dark 暗 (an)

High 高 (gao)

Low 低 (di)

Fast and Slow:

Using handmade paper butterflies and birds to learn about Wings and Flying, Fast and Slow, and Review High and Low. Lead the Group in Using Hand Movements to Represent These Words and Teach Everyone How to Make a Flying Butterfly.

Butterfly 蝴蝶 (hudie)

Bird 鸟 (niao)

Wing 翅膀 (chibang)

Fly 飞 (fei)

Fast 快 (kuai)

Slow 慢 (man)

<https://youtu.be/WX1rmkgPnsY?feature=shared>

Spanish:

Geometric Shapes - Spanish Class

This month in our Spanish class, we have been working with geometric shapes through various interactive and fun activities. The children have explored the names, characteristics, and uses of geometric shapes in their daily environment.

Activities:

- Matching Game: The children matched images of geometric shapes with real-life objects, reinforcing shape recognition in their surroundings.
- Geometric Memory Game: Through this memory game, they practiced identifying and naming different shapes while improving concentration and attention.
- Building with Wooden Sticks: We formed various geometric shapes using wooden sticks, promoting fine motor skills and understanding of sides and vertices.

- Shape Hunt in the Classroom: The children explored the classroom to find objects with geometric shapes, identifying squares, rectangles, triangles, and circles in their environment.

Names of Geometric Shapes in Spanish and English:

- Cuadrado - Square
- Rectángulo - Rectangle
- Triángulo - Triangle
- Círculo - Circle
- Pentágono - Pentagon
- Hexágono - Hexagon
- Rombo - Rhombus

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

February, despite being a short month, appears to be long because of the sickness around us and that's why we focused on experiments with soap.

We experimented with black pepper, water and soap to learn more about germs, how they get on our hands and how soap cleans our hands. We painted hand on paper which looked clean but after painting revealed the germs on the hands.

To continue learning more about soap we created a visually colorful experience, with milk, food color and soap.

Friends are learning about 'Properties of matter' this month and we continued the same topic. We filled balloons with ice, water and air to learn more about solid, liquid and gaseous states. We created a 'cool' art by painting with ice on paper.

We continued the 'Properties of matter' topic and learned more about the rules for solid, liquid and gaseous state. We created a fun sensory experience with a non-Newtonian fluid or a magic mud called "Oobleck", which doesn't follow the rules for solid and liquid state.

Science Experiments with Ms. Bhargavi:

Exploring States of Matter

This February, Friends learned about the states of matter through hands-on experiments. We began by exploring solids, discussing how they come in different shapes, sizes, and weights, and then observed how liquids take the shape of their containers. Friends enjoyed the sink-or-float experiment, where they predicted whether objects like coins, marbles, and sponges would sink or float, learning about buoyancy along the way. To wrap up, we explored Archimedes' principle with a simple clay experiment, transforming a ball into a boat to show how reshaping an object can make it float. These activities sparked curiosity and helped the children connect science to the world around them.

Date : 2/25/25

Koshari

Time : 1 hr 20mins

INGREDIENTS

For the fried onions:

- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 white or yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 3 tablespoon flour

For the tomato sauce:

- 2 tablespoon oil from frying onions
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 can tomato sauce 14.5 oz, 400g
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- pinch black pepper
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar

For the rice and lentils:

- 3 tablespoon oil from frying onions
- 1 cup vermicelli 150g
- 2 cups Egyptian rice (Calrose or medium grain) 500g
- 1 cup brown or green lentils 200g
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3-4 cups hot water

For the cumin sauce:

- 1 cup hot water
- 2 crushed garlic cloves
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1 teaspoon coriander powder
- 1/2 teaspoon red chili flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- juice of one lemon

INSTRUCTIONS

- Prep the recipe by soaking the lentils in water for at least an hour, and preparing the pasta according to package directions.
- Toss the onion slices with flour. Heat the oil in a deep skillet over medium high heat. Once very hot, add the onions, and caramelize, stirring occasionally, until deep golden brown. This could take a while, 15-20 minutes. Scoop out the caramelized onions but **KEEP THE ONION OIL!** This is what we'll use in the rest of the recipe.
- Make the tomato sauce by heating some onion oil in a large skillet. Add the garlic and spices, and saute for a minute until fragrant. Add the tomato paste and tomato sauce, stir then simmer for 5 minutes.
- Rinse the rice, then heat some onion oil. Toast vermicelli over medium heat until golden brown, then add the rinsed rice, drained lentils, and the spices and toast for a minute or so.
- Add hot water until rice and lentils are just submerged by a couple centimeters (1/2 inch). Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer for about 20 minutes or until all the water is absorbed.
- Assemble by layering a generous sized serving platter with the rice and lentil mix. Top with the cooked pasta, 1/2 the tomato sauce, the chickpeas, and the crispy onions.
- Serve with extra tomato sauce, and stir together all the ingredients for the cumin sauce and serve with that as well.

Good Read

Eating healthy at Banyan Montessori Academy - A holistic approach to nutrition and learning

<https://www.banyanmontessori.com/eating-healthy-at-banyan-montessori-academy-a-holistic-approach-to-nutrition-and-learning/>

Upcoming events

Upcoming events

March 4: Picture Day

March 5: Presentation by Canton High School students - Topic" Importance of Hand washing"

March 11: Fostering a Math Genius for the Future: Building a strong Foundation with Montessori Math curriculum by Ms. Shiva (Zoom at 6 pm)

March 14 : Parent Teacher Conference (please let us know if you need special child care)

March 18- Cookery

March 21: Art, Music and Theater by Ms. Monica (Parents welcome, time 1.30 pm)

March 27,28: Spring break

March 28: Public Speaking (Recorded presentations will be shared by families thru Brightwheel)

March 31- Professional Development

Weekly events:

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

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

Ms. Bhargavi's Science experiments on every other Thursday's

Events After March:

April 15: Fostering Leadership Skills Through Montessori: Cultivating Independence, Responsibility, and Collaboration in Children by Ms. Shiva (Zoom at 6 pm)

April 18- Good Friday (No School)

April 19- Dr. Gregory on health and wellness (11 am)

April 25- Public Speaking with Parents

April 25 - Art, Music and Theater by Ms. Monica

April 29- Cookery

May 13: Ask Ms. Shiva (Zoom 6-7 pm)

May 20- Cookery

May 26- Memorial Day (No school)

May 27- Victoria from Priority Waste presents Recycle workshop (TBD)

May 30- Public Presentation

May 30 - Art, Music , Theater by Ms. Monica

June 10- Recap of all science based art and Physics experiments at school for all families (6 pm at Banyan Montessori Academy) (TBD)

June 13- Public Speaking

June 17- Cookery

June 20- Kindergarten Graduation and Year End Play

June 21 - Multicultural celebration

June 25 - Last day of School

