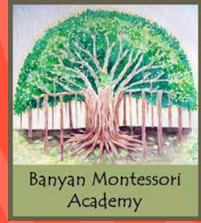


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

January 2025



Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Families,

This month in our Montessori classroom, we explored two exciting themes: ****Transportation**** and ****Roll/Not Roll****. These topics provided rich opportunities for hands-on learning and discovery, sparking the children's curiosity and engagement.

Themes of the Month

****Transportation****

The children learned about different modes of transportation, exploring vehicles that move through air, land, and water. They classified these modes, explored images, and participated in a variety of activities that deepened their understanding. The children were especially excited to name and match different vehicles to their respective environments, fostering both language and cognitive development.

****Roll/Not Roll****

In this theme, the children classified objects based on whether they roll or not. They painted using rolling objects, which allowed them to combine creative expression with scientific observation. We also explored objects in our environment to determine which belong to the "Roll" category and which to "Not Roll." These activities encouraged critical thinking and hands-on experimentation.

A Significant Step in Independence

We are thrilled to share the progress the children have made in their independence. They are mastering everyday tasks such as putting on their coats and tidying their workspaces. This growth reflects their increasing confidence and ability to take responsibility for themselves, key principles of the Montessori philosophy.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for supporting your child's growth at home.

Warm regards,
Toddler Montessori Team

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

(Toddler)

1/24/25

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: Hot Chocolate

(by Stephanie Leavell)

Lyrics:

Chorus:

Hot chocolate, hot chocolate

Yummy, yummy, yummy hot chocolate

Pour the cocoa,

whipped cream on top

Then . . . (blow on it)

'Cause it's hot!

Hot chocolate, hot chocolate

Yummy, yummy, yummy hot chocolate

One for me and one for you

Hot chocolate! It'll do!

Verse:

On a cold winter's night

There's nothing that can beat

A toasty warm, nice and sweet

snow day treat

Grab your gloves and go outside

to build a snow surprise
And when you're done having fun
you know it's hot chocolate time!
Repeat Chorus

<https://youtu.be/rQP-yoGaNtU>

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!

<https://youtu.be/R5t5EtZKLBM>

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

Art

Introduced Artist Vincent Pablo Picasso and read Picasso's Shapes by Judi Lee- We will create a Picasso-inspired art work using different shapes. This activity allowed them to explore creativity and develop fine motor skills.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy New Year! We are excited to share all the wonderful learning and growth that took place in January in our Montessori classroom. Here's a look at the activities we explored:

Practical Life

In January, our friends worked on a variety of practical life skills that helped them build independence and coordination. Some highlights include:

- **Matching Mittens** – A fun, seasonal activity that helped the children strengthen their matching skills.
- **Soap Grinding** – This activity was a great way for the friends to practice fine motor skills while learning how soap is made.
- **Liquid Transfer (1 to 3)** – Using small pitchers and containers, children worked on transferring liquids, refining their hand-eye coordination.
- **Funnel Transfers** – With different sizes of funnels, children practiced transferring small objects, deepening their understanding of volume and size.
- **Food Tasting** – A sensory activity where our children explored new flavors and textures, expanding their taste awareness.

Math Curriculum

In Math this month, our friends engaged in a variety of hands-on activities:

- **Fraction Cones with Bases** – Our friends learned basic fraction concepts by using cones with color-coded bases to represent parts of a whole.
- **Numerals Matching (1 to 20)** – Our children practiced matching numerals with the correct quantity, reinforcing number recognition.
- **Addition Strip Board** – For our friends who are already working on advanced Math curriculum, the addition strip board helped reinforce additional concepts with visual aids and interactive play.

Sensorial

This month, we continued exploring the World of sensorial materials to enhance our friends perception of their environment:

- **Geometric Solids Review** (and extensions with Geometric cabinet) – Our friends worked with various geometric solids, shapes and extensions exploring with bases, refining their spatial awareness.

Language

Language development was in full swing this month:

- **Sight Words Matching Activities** – The friends used flashcards to reinforce sight word recognition, improving their reading skills.
- **Sentence Formation** – For our kindergarteners, we focused on helping them form complete sentences, enhancing their written expression.
- **Metal Insets Booklets** – Friends worked on their precision and control with these metal insets, helping them to practice drawing shapes and developing fine motor skills.
- **Letter Formation on Easels** – Through the use of easels, friends practiced forming letters with greater attention to detail and accuracy.

Geography

In Geography, friends traveled around the world to discover new continents and animals:

- **Asia** – Our friends learned about the continent of Asia, exploring its famous animals through hands-on activities such as creating their own animal booklets.
- **Pushpin Maps** – Friends used pushpins to trace the continent's shape and learn about Geographical features.
- **Antarctica Animals Coloring Activity** – We wrapped up our Geography exploration with a creative coloring activity featuring animals from Antarctica.

We are so proud of all the progress our friends have made this month. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and dedication to learning continue to inspire us every day. We look forward to the exciting adventures and learning opportunities February will bring!

Warmly,

Preprimary and Kindergarten Montessori Team

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

(Pre-primary)

1/24/25

Music

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Skating 'Round the Pond

(by Firefly Family Theatre)

Lyrics:

Lace up your skates
And go skating 'round the pond
Balance on the ice
And go skating 'round the pond
Twirling, whirling, wind is swirling
Slipping, sliding, we are gliding
Skating 'round the pond

Each verse repeats with new actions (Lift up your foot, balance on one foot, do a trick, etc. . .)

<https://youtu.be/bLMSZfDUlik>

Song: Let's Go Sledding (with rhythm sticks)

(by Crayons and Melodies)

Lyrics:

Come on, let's go sledding
down our favorite hill!
We'll glide like a penguin
in the winter chill
Up, up, up,
Pull your sled up
To the very top!
Then WOO-HOO!

<https://youtu.be/23NBYpvtPTw>

Song: Let's Make a Pie (with rhythm sticks)

(by Miss Caitlin Music)

Lyrics:

Apple Pie, peach pie, blueberry too

Let's make a pie especially for YOU!
First we roll out the dough till it's nice and flat
Roll, roll, roll, roll
Now we chop up the fruit, just like that
Chop, chop, chop, chop
Stir in the sugar and the honey with me
Stir, stir, stir, stir
Now march to the oven 1,2,3
March, march, march, march
Put it in the oven and we wait
And we wait, and we wait
Pie is done! Ding goes the bell!
Out of the oven,
Mmmm love that smell!

<https://youtu.be/yHbAF4m51-c>

Song: Hot Chocolate

(by Stephanie Leavell)

Lyrics:

Chorus:

Hot chocolate, hot chocolate
Yummy, yummy, yummy hot chocolate
Pour the cocoa,
whipped cream on top
Then . . . (blow on it)
'Cause it's hot!
Hot chocolate, hot chocolate
Yummy, yummy, yummy hot chocolate
One for me and one for you
Hot chocolate! It'll do!

Verse:

On a cold winter's night
There's nothing that can beat
A toasty warm, nice and sweet
snow day treat
Grab your gloves and go outside

to build a snow surprise
And when you're done having fun
you know it's hot chocolate time!

Repeat Chorus

Song/Game: Bakery Shop

An interactive song that re-enacts a bakery shop!

<https://youtu.be/rQP-yoGaNtU>

Theatre

Read and introduce the book, The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister- this will be the inspiration for our June performance.

Explore and create the "ocean" using creative drama activities- using charades and other drama-based activities we will explore ways we can create an ocean environment using our bodies, voices, music, and props.

Art

Introduce artist Pablo Picasso and the book If Picasso Painted a Snowman by Amy and Greg Newbold.

Students will learn about artist Pablo Picasso and the idea of abstract art. Students will create their own snowmen to Picasso's liking using both paint markers and collage work.



Enrichment programs

Hello Everyone!

In this exciting January edition, we have elaborated on different International Language and Science sessions:

Hindi:

We are excited to share the progress we've made in our Hindi learning journey this month! January has been a month of review, reinforcement, and expanding our knowledge. Here's a recap of what we've covered:

1. Reviewing Previous Work: This month, we dedicated time to revisiting and strengthening the foundational work we learned earlier. We went over key concepts and vocabulary to ensure that

everyone feels confident and comfortable with their previous lessons. This review helped refresh our memory and solidified our learning.

2. Numbers in Hindi - Extending the Knowledge: Building on what we learned last month, we took our understanding of numbers to the next level. This time, we focused on sorting objects according to their quantities, using Hindi numbers to describe and classify them. This activity was designed in a Montessori-inspired way, making it engaging and interactive. Sorting objects not only helped reinforce number recognition but also encouraged critical thinking and spatial awareness.

3. Hindi Letters – Mastery in the Making: Our journey with the Hindi alphabet continued with a focus on letter recognition and pronunciation. We practiced writing and reading Hindi letters, paying special attention to their shapes, sounds, and correct usage. This was an important step in helping students feel confident while reading and writing in Hindi.

4. Fruits in Hindi – Learning through Vocabulary: This month, we explored the names of various fruits in Hindi. The children learned to identify and pronounce the names of common fruits like:

- सेब (Seb) – Apple
- केला (Kela) – Banana
- संतरा (Santra) – Orange
- अंगूर (Angoor) – Grapes
- अमरूद (Amrood) – Guava
- तरबूज (Tarbooj) – Watermelon

Each fruit was also associated with a fun activity, helping to reinforce the vocabulary and make the learning experience memorable.

Looking Ahead: As we move into February, we will continue to build on these concepts, introducing new topics while reviewing the previous ones to ensure strong retention. We will also focus on incorporating more practical conversations and exercises in Hindi to enhance language proficiency.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's keep up the great work and make learning Hindi an enjoyable and rewarding experience!

https://youtube.com/watch?v=OoDXGmq_b7Q&feature=shared

Mandarin:

Matter and Containers:

Show three states of matter: Solid, Liquid and Gas. Do an experiment: blow bubbles. Introduce containers for storing substances.

Solid 固体(guti)

Liquid 液体(yeti)

Gas 气体 (qiti)

Bottle 瓶子 (pingzi)

Box 箱子 (Xiangzi)

2025 New Year and Chinese Zodiac :

Review numbers and make the shape of 2025 with orange. Introduce Chinese Zodiac.

Happy new year 新年快乐(xinniankuaile)

2025 (erlingerwu)

Snake 蛇 (she)

<https://youtu.be/M9zh8fiT6cw?feature=shared>

Spanish:

This month in Spanish class, we explored two engaging topics: **Transportation** and **Numbers**. Through interactive activities and hands-on learning, they continued to build their Spanish vocabulary and develop foundational skills.

Transportation

The children learned the Spanish names for various modes of transportation, including:

- Motocicleta (Motorcycle)
- Bicicleta (Bicycle)
- Barco (Boat)
- Carro (Car)
- Avión (Airplane)
- Tren (Train)

Through songs and visual aids, they practiced recognizing and using these words.

Numbers

The focus on numbers included recognizing numbers in written form, associating them with objects, and oral counting.

- **Toddler Class**: The children worked on numbers 1 through 5, practicing with objects, counting and matching activities.
- **Pre-primary Class**: The children focused on numbers 1 through 10 and began exploring higher numbers through oral counting activities.

One of the most exciting activities involved counting the children present each day, helping them practice numbers in a real-world context while fostering group participation.

Thank you for your support as we continue to enhance the children's Spanish language skills in fun and meaningful ways.

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=mlr8hSCO86M&feature=shared>

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

We started our new year with fun experiments based on a generally known scientific fact that water and oil don't mix together. We created an art and a sensory play based on the same phenomenon.

Friends experimented with different materials to see if they dissolve or mix well with water. We used milk, coffee powder, sand, flour, oil and of course water. We played a team activity where we had team water and a team with other mentioned ingredients. The teams tried to mix their ingredients with water to check if they are friends with team water or not.

We created a "Lithography" art on paper which is based on the idea of water and oil don't mix together.

We continued with the same topic for another session and created a lava lamp using water, food color, oil and Alka Seltzer. Friends created their own sensory bottles with food color, water, oil and tiny plastic snowflake sprinkles.

Science Experiments with Ms. Bhargavi:

Discovering Light and Color (January Recap)

This month, friends explored the concepts of light through fun and interactive experiments. They learned that light travels in a straight line by using a shoebox and flashlight. We talked about Sir Isaac Newton and his experiments with light. Using a prism, they saw how white light splits into a rainbow, revealing that light is made of many colors. The display of a rainbow captivated their curiosity, sparking excitement. We also explored how light interacts with different materials. Through a hands-on shoebox experiment, they classified objects as transparent, translucent, or opaque by observing how light passed through them. Materials like a clear plastic sheet, parchment paper, and toys helped illustrate these concepts. We ended the session with a demonstration of why the sky looks blue. Using a glass of water, a few drops of milk, and a flashlight, friends saw light scattering, just like it does in Earth's atmosphere. They learned that the blue part of light scatters more, giving the sky its beautiful color during the day.

Rishtaya

Time : 1hr15mins

INGREDIENTS

- 1pack brown lentil
- 1pack pasta(any variety)
- 5-7 garlic cloves
- 1/2cup olive oil
- 2 onions
- 1lemon
- 1bunch cilantro
- Salt
- Pepper
- pita bread

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a large saucepan over medium-high heat, combine the water and the lentils and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat until the liquid is at a simmer, and cook until the lentils are very tender, about 35 minutes.
- in a large skillet over medium heat, heat the oil until it shimmers. Add the onions and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are soft and just beginning to take on color, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in half the chopped cilantro and cook, stirring, until completely wilted, about 1 minute. Remove from the heat.
- When the lentils are tender, add in the onion mixture. Add the pasta, salt and pepper, and stir to combine. Increase the heat to return to a boil, then reduce the heat so the liquid is simmering, and cook until the pasta is just tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in the lemon juice and the remaining chopped cilantro. Taste, and season with more salt, pepper and/or lemon juice as needed.
- Serve hot with pita bread and enjoy!

Warm regards,

The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



Good Read

<https://www.montessori.org/what-is-the-montessori-method-a-conversation-with-tim-seldin/>

Upcoming events

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

Feb 3: Re- enrollment forms for the new school year and Summer Montessori 2025 will be available

Feb 11: "Supporting Your Child's Language Journey: A Montessori Approach from 12 Months to 6 Years" by Ms. Shiva (Zoom 6 Pm)

Feb 13: Re-enrollment and Summer Montessori forms due (Enrollment fee discount applies)

Feb 14: Art, Music and Theater with Ms. Valorie

Re- enrollment and Summer Montessori enrollment decisions will be announced

Feb 17: Mid winter break (please let us know if you need special child care)

Feb 20: Last date to submit Re-enrollment and Summer Montessori forms for returning families

Feb 21: Public Speaking

Re- enrollment and Summer Montessori enrollment decisions will be announced

Art, Music and Theater with Ms. Monica

Feb 25- Cookery

Feb 28- Pre- Conference questionnaire and PT Conference time available

Upcoming 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 February:

March 11: Long term benefits of Montessori Math 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

March 25: Art, Music and Theater by Ms. Valorie

March 27,28: Spring break

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

March 31- Professional Development (TBD)

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 (TBD)

April 25- Public Speaking

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 24- Art, Music, Theater with Ms. Valorie

Multicultural celebration (TBD)

June 25 - Last day of School

