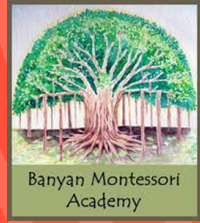


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

October 2024



Toddler Montessori classroom

Dear Parents,

October has been a month filled with exploration, growth, and discovery in our Toddler Montessori classroom. As Maria Montessori beautifully stated, "The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind." Each day, we witness this promise unfolding as the children embrace new experiences and develop greater independence. Through hands-on learning and purposeful activities, the children are not only expanding their knowledge but also cultivating essential life skills that will guide them throughout their lives.

This month, we have delved into a variety of topics, ranging from the changing of the seasons to understanding the world around us through nature, art, and sensory experiences. As always, our focus has been on fostering independence, curiosity, and respect for their environment.

Here's a look at some of the exciting learning experiences we've enjoyed throughout October:

Science and Geography :-

1. Autumn and Leaves :

We expanded on the autumn themes we began in September, observing the changing leaves and colors around us. The autumn season presents an excellent opportunity for sensory exploration and observation. We've been closely observing the changing environment, especially the transformation of leaves. We encouraged the children to engage with nature, collecting leaves of various shapes, sizes, and colors. This exploration allowed them to classify and compare, promoting their understanding of natural cycles.

We also integrated art projects, where children used the leaves they found to create unique works,

reinforcing their connection to nature and developing fine motor skills.

2. Halloween :

Although Halloween is often seen as a festive holiday, we approached it by focusing on creativity, self-expression, and cultural appreciation. The children participated in themed art projects, such as decorating pumpkins and exploring various textures like the pulp and seeds inside. This year, we organized a Halloween parade, which provided the children an opportunity to showcase their costumes and celebrate together. The parade encourages social interaction and fosters a sense of community among the children.

We emphasized the importance of respecting each other's work and creativity, allowing them to work at their own pace. These activities not only fostered their artistic skills but also provided a meaningful way to celebrate the season.

3. Land and Water :

Our approach to the Land and Water study involved experiential learning and concrete materials. We presented jars filled with soil and water, inviting the children to engage their senses by touching and observing. We explored the classification of animals based on their habitats, focusing on land animals and water animals. Children learned to identify and categorize different animals, such as fish and frogs for water, and cats and dogs for land. We began discussing the roles of water and land in supporting life. This process helped children develop logical thinking and provided a foundation for understanding the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

4. Farm Animals

Farm animals are an integral part of early childhood learning in the Montessori classroom. By learning about farm animals, the children not only expanded their vocabulary but also began to understand the concept of human and animal interdependence. We discussed how farm animals contribute to our daily lives, and the children were given small figures of animals to classify, match, and role-play. This tactile experience reinforced their understanding while promoting imaginative play. The children loved mimicking the sounds of animals, which tied in with language development and creative expression.

5. Parts of the Human Body

Our study of the human body allowed the children to explore one of their most immediate and tangible interests: themselves! Using Montessori puzzles and models, we helped the children identify and name different parts of the body. This concrete exploration helps solidify their understanding of how the body works and its functions. By encouraging the children to point to and name their body parts, they are not

only expanding their vocabulary but also gaining awareness of their own physical presence and abilities, which is key in fostering independence and self-care.

Fostering Independence:

We have been focusing on building independence in the children's daily routines.

Everyday living activities :

It has been central to helping the children develop confidence and responsibility. Some of the skills they've been practicing include:

- Putting on and taking off their shoes and jackets independently
 - Washing their dishes after snack time, learning about care for their environment
 - Rolling and unrolling work rugs and ensuring they are returned to the proper place
 - Pushing in their chairs when they are finished at the table
 - Returning materials to their shelf after completing an activity, reinforcing order and respect for their learning environment
 - Washing and drying their hands, as well as learning to blow their noses
- These activities not only develop fine motor skills but also give children the tools they need to function autonomously in their classroom and home environments.

1. Caring for Plants and Animals

Caring for living things is a crucial part of Montessori education, as it instills a sense of responsibility and respect for life. This month, the children have been actively involved in watering the plants and feeding our classroom pets. They are learning to approach animals with gentleness and to understand the care that plants and animals require to thrive. These experiences help the children cultivate empathy and a sense of stewardship.

Every Day Living Activities

We continued with numerous everyday living activities to support the development of independence and coordination, including:

- Transferring objects with hands, tongs, and spoons, and practicing pouring liquids
 - Hammering, lacing, and threading activities to develop hand-eye coordination and focus
- Language and Pre-Language Activities

Language development remains a central focus in the classroom. The children engaged in activities that build pre-language skills, such as matching, sorting, and completing puzzles. We read books from the library, encouraging the children to expand their vocabulary and develop a love for storytelling.

Art and Music

In the spirit of creative expression, we've enjoyed a variety of art projects. The children had the opportunity to explore different mediums, including stickers, crayons, markers, dot markers, and playdough. Ms. Monica also visited, guiding the children in singing songs such as "Light a Candle for Peace" and "Planting an Apple Seed," accompanied by the ukulele and hand movements. These musical activities enrich the children's auditory and rhythmic senses while fostering a sense of community.

As part of Ms. Monica's class, the children were introduced to Vivaldi's *Seasons*, which allowed them to connect music with the natural world. Additionally, they began exploring the works of the artist Vincent van Gogh, focusing on his painting *Sunflowers*. This introduction to art history helps children appreciate beauty and develop aesthetic awareness.

She further continued with making a vegetable stew as a team building exercise and music, we also explored art using chestnuts with Ms. Monica.

Tornado Drill

In October, we also practiced a tornado drill to ensure the children are familiar with safety procedures. These drills are important in helping the children know how to respond calmly and follow instructions during emergencies. Through repetition, the children learn to feel secure in understanding what to do, building their confidence in unpredictable situations. All the children should be very proud of themselves for the growth and progress they've shown this month. We look forward to even more learning and exploration in the coming weeks. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Best Regards

Toddler Class Team

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

(Toddler)_

10/25/24

Greeting: Hello song_

Song: Pumpkin Stew (with stick instruments and props for the children)_

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

What shall I put in the pumpkin stew?

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

What shall I put in the pumpkin stew?

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

I think that _____ (various vegetable props will be added and each child will add one in

on their turn) will do!

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

What shall I put in the pumpkin stew?

Song: Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate

The first one said, "Oh my it's getting late!"

The second one said, "There are witches in the air"

The third one said, "But we don't care!"

The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run!"

the fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun!"

Then "Oooooohhhhhhh" went the wind

And OUT went the light

And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight

Story: The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams- This will be interactive storytelling with props and repetitive motions for the children to participate in.

Fall Nature-Inspired Process Art Project- students will be guided to use red and yellow paint and chestnuts inside of a bin to roll paint onto tracing paper.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

As we conclude October, we are thrilled to share the enriching learning experiences your little ones have engaged in this month.

Mathematics:

This month, our returning friends delved into the captivating world of the decimal system. Through hands-on activities and engaging materials, they explored number organization and the concept of place value. The 45 layout Montessori approach facilitated a tactile understanding of numbers, making math both enjoyable and meaningful. Our young friends are working on Numeration and linear counting yet observing the big decimal system works.

Science and Geography : Exploring Land, Air, Water, and Living vs. Non-Living Things

In our Geography lessons, we embarked on an exploration of the three main environments: land, air, and water, and continued to work on The World Map. The children participated in interactive discussions and activities that distinguished between living and non-living things in Science. They also explored the human body, learning about its different parts and functions through crafts and movement activities.

Language: Sight Words and Story Writing

For language development, we introduced sight words to enhance reading skills. The children practiced recognizing these essential words through games and activities. They also began writing their own stories, encouraged to express their creativity, resulting in delightful and imaginative tales. Phonics study and blending for all ages is an ongoing one. We made books using metal insets. Metal insets have 10 shapes such as circle, square, rectangle, triangle, pentagon, curvilinear triangle, quatrefoil, ellipse, oval etc. it helps hands practice all shapes of the alphabets.

Halloween : Pumpkin Activities & Learning About Leaves

This October, we embraced the season with engaging pumpkin activities:

1. **Pumpkin Exploration:** We examined pumpkins of various sizes, shapes, and colors.
2. **Pumpkin Art:** Using paint, the children created their own pumpkin masterpieces, fostering creativity and fine motor skills.

We also explored leaves through:

1. **Leaf Exploration:** Nature walks allowed children to collect different leaves, prompting discussions about changing seasons.
2. **Leaf Art:** Using their collected leaves, the children created beautiful collages, integrating art with nature study.

Peace Parade:

We organized a vibrant peace parade in our neighborhood, where children proudly carried handmade banners, chanting uplifting messages of love and unity. It was a heartwarming sight, as friends and teachers walked together, spreading joy and hope in our community.

Sensorial Curriculum:

This month, we engaged in sensory activities inspired by Montessori principles, focusing on learning about small and large hexagons using hexagon boxes. That included shapes such as parallelogram, rhombus, trapezoid etc.

Everyday Food Preparation Skills

As October comes to a close, we want to highlight the essential skills honed during our food preparation sessions. Our focus this month included individual activities of juicing oranges , hand peeling of the skin of boiled potatoes and enjoying them with salt and pepper , pouring, tonging and stringing, fostering independence and practical life skills.

We appreciate your continued support in nurturing your child's growth and development. Thank you for being an integral part of our community.

Please participate more in public presentations.

Warm regards,

The Preprimary/ Kindergarten Montessori Team

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

(Pre-primary)

10/25/24

Music

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Pumpkin Stew (using stick instruments).

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

What shall I put in the pumpkin stew?

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

What shall I put in the pumpkin stew?

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

I think that _____(children take turns naming things to add) will do!

Pumpkin stew, Pumpkin stew

What shall I put in the pumpkin stew?

Song: Spider Life Cycle Song (with motions)

The spider laid some eggs

The spider laid some eggs

The spider laid some eggs

Go, spider, go!

The egg sac's on the web

The egg sac's on the web

The egg sac's on the web

Go, spider, go!

The spiderlings are hatching

The spiderlings are hatching

The spiderlings are hatching

Go, spider, go!

The spider is an adult

The spider is an adult

The spider is an adult

Go, spider, go!

The spider laid some eggs

The spider laid some eggs

The spider laid some eggs

Go, spider, go!

Song: Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate

The first one said, "Oh my it's getting late!"

The second one said, "There are witches in the air"

The third one said, "But we don't care!"

The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run!"

the fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun!"

Then "Oooooohhhhhhh" went the wind

And OUT went the light

And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight

Art

Introduce artist, Frida Kahlo, by reading Little People Big Dreams: Frida Kahlo

Present 2 Frida Kahlo-inspired works for the art shelf:

1. Tissue paper collage of Frida's flowers - Children will use fine motor skills to crumple tissue paper into a flower shape and practice gluing it onto an image of Frida Kahlo to make her classic flower crown.
2. Drawing Frida-inspired self-portraits- Children will draw self-portraits inspired by Frida Kahlo and her style of self-portraits.

Theatre

Story: The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams- This will be interactive storytelling with props and repetitive motions for the children to participate in.

Charades- children will take turns acting out different things and having the class guess what they are acting out.

Review the story: How the Stars Came to Be- this storyline is what we will use to create a play together

Character work- discuss what characters are in the story and define motions/gestures for each one.

Learn the song "Catch a Falling Star"- this will be used in our play/performance

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

Closing

Peace walk songs (accompanied by the Ukulele) :

I think you are wonderful: [Youtube Link](#)

Light a candle for peace: [Youtube Link](#)



Enrichment programs

Dear Parents,

We are excited to share the enriching language and music sessions that your children have enjoyed this month! Below is a summary of the activities led by our dedicated teachers.

Ms. Monica's Music Session

The children explored engaging music activities, including:

- **Pumpkin Stew:** [Watch here](#)
- **Five Little Pumpkins:** [Watch here](#)

Ms. Nazia's Hindi Session

Preprimary:

1. **Names of Colors:** Focused on primary colors.
2. **Craft Related to Colors:** Creative activities to reinforce color learning.
3. **Names of Animals:** Introduction to various animals.

Toddlers:

1. **Colors:** Basic color recognition.
2. **Farm Animals:** Learning about animals found on a farm.

Song Resource: [Songs about Colors](#)

Ms. Amander's Mandarin Session

The children learned about:

1. **Family Members:** Vocabulary related to family.
2. **Colors:** Basic color identification.
3. **Numbers:** Introduction to counting.
4. **Numbers and Time:** Connecting numbers with time concepts.

Link for Reference: [Watch here](#)

Ms. Patty's Spanish Session

During September and October, the focus was on:

Fruits:

- Manzana (apple)
- Pera (pear)

- Plátano (banana)
- Uvas (grapes)

Parts of the Human Body:

- Cabeza (head)
- Ojos (eyes)
- Boca (mouth)
- Nariz (nose)
- Orejas (ears)
- Hombros (shoulders)
- Brazos (arms)
- Manos (hands)
- Dedos (fingers)
- Pierna (leg)
- Rodillas (knees)
- Pies (feet)
- Cabello (hair)

Engaging activities included matching games and colorful flashcards, along with songs and movement to reinforce learning and enhance body awareness.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's learning journey! We look forward to more exciting activities ahead.

Ms. Anuja's Science based Art session :

For this colorful, magical and a little spooky month of October, we focused on autumn and halloween themed experiments for our weekly 'Science based art' sessions.

We started with a 'blow art' project to learn the concept of 'force'. We experimented the force by blowing through the straw and made cute monsters as a result.

When the fall colors were at its peak, we used real leaves for colorful 'leaf stamp' art. We extracted colors from the leaves to learn about 'Chlorophyll' and why leaves change their colors in autumn.

We also made tissue paper bats craft for our 'Static Electricity' experiment. We made our bats flap their wings by creating static electricity by rubbing balloons on our heads.

We created a spooky art with an 'Invisible ink'. This simple chemistry experiment to learn concepts of 'Chemical reactions' was conducted using regular household ingredients like sanitizer, turmeric and baking soda.

Ms. Naga's cookery session :

Date : 10/22/24

Oven roasted Pumpkin

Time : 50mins

INGREDIENTS

- Pumpkin 1 small (2pounds)
- Olive oil - 2 tbsp
- Salt - 1tsp
- Garlic powder - 1tsp
- Pepper powder - 1 tsp

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 425f
- Cut the pumpkin and remove pulp and seeds
- Peel the skin
- Cut into small cubes
- Place the cubes in a big bowl and add oil, salt, garlic powder and pepper powder
- Mix well to coat the pumpkin chunks evenly
- Arrange the pumpkin chunks in single layer and bake it for 30mins or until it's tender.
Toss in-between
- Serve and enjoy!

Date : 10/29/24

Roasted Pumpkin seeds

Time : 25mins

INGREDIENTS

- Raw pumpkin seeds - 3/4cup
- Olive oil - 1/2 - 1tbsp
- Salt - 1/2tsp
- Garlic powder - 1/4tsp
- Pepper powder - 1/4tsp
- Paprika - 1/4tsp (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350f
- Wash pumpkin seeds in a colander to remove the pulp and fibers. Thoroughly dry with a towel.
- In a small bowl combine pumpkin seeds, olive oil, salt, garlic powder, paprika (if using), and black pepper.
- Lightly grease a sheet pan with olive oil. Evenly spread the seasoned pumpkin seeds on the sheet pan.
- Bake until the seeds are toasted and crunchy, about 12 to 15 minutes. Stir every 5 minutes for even toasting
- Serve and enjoy!

Warm regards,

The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team

Read , Reflect and Implement

The Importance of Delayed Gratification in Child Development :

In our fast-paced world, where instant gratification is easily accessible, it's crucial for children to learn the value of waiting. Research from Stanford University reveals that children who can delay gratification—known as “the resisters”—tend to be more positive, self-motivated, and persistent throughout their lives. These skills often translate into greater success in adulthood, including healthier relationships, higher incomes, and overall career satisfaction. Conversely, those who struggle with waiting—“the grabbers”—often face challenges such as low self-confidence and dissatisfaction in various aspects of life. This disparity highlights the importance of impulse control as a foundational life skill.

In our Montessori classroom, we foster delayed gratification through structured activities that allow children to engage deeply with one material at a time. And wait for the material while it's being used by another child as we have one of each material . By providing a single resource for each task, children learn to focus and invest their effort into completing it thoroughly. This approach reinforces the understanding that meaningful accomplishments require patience and persistence. When presented with one material, children appreciate the process of overcoming challenges rather than seeking immediate rewards. This environment also teaches them about natural consequences; if they rush through a task, they begin to recognize the value of taking their time to achieve better results.

Parents can implement strategies at home to nurture delayed gratification by establishing routines that encourage waiting. Simple practices, such as setting small waiting periods for treats or involving children in goal-setting, help instill the value of patience. By modeling their own ability to wait for rewards and discussing the benefits of delayed gratification, parents can reinforce these lessons. Ultimately, by prioritizing these principles, both in our Montessori classrooms and at home, we equip children with the skills they need to navigate life's challenges with resilience and confidence.

Upcoming events

Oct 29- Inhouse field trip by Chiropractor in the theme of Human Body.

Oct 30- Sharing educational goodies with friends. For a community feel.

Oct 31 - Halloween Parade at 11 am as part of our Theater curriculum.

Nov 14 and 15 - Parent Teacher conference via zoom and in person.

Nov 15- School closed . Only conferences. As mostly in person.

Nov 22- Public presentation in the morning and Friday Afternoon's with Ms. Monica (Art, Music, Theater)

Nov 27-29 - Thanksgiving break . No school.

Dec 13- Public presentation in the morning and Friday Afternoon's with Ms. Monica (Art, Music, Theater)

Dec 16- Food drive for the hungry

Dec 25,26, 27 and Dec 30 to Jan 3 - Christmas break, Winter break and Professional development.

Jan 6- School Resumes

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

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

We will have 2 cookery sessions for 11/26 and 12/20 .

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

