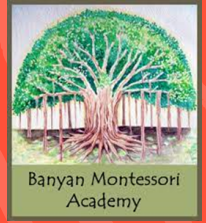


Banyan Montessori Academy

# Newsletter



September, 2024

## Toddler Montessori classroom

Dear Families, We hope you are enjoying this wonderful journey within our Montessori community! We would like to take this opportunity to share some updates and what we have been working on in the toddlers' classroom.

### **The Process of Independence :**

At this stage, we are focusing on the independence of the children. Through daily activities such as learning to put on and take off their shoes by themselves, helping to make and tidy their cots, assisting with keeping the classroom in order, washing their hands with less help, and preparing small snacks, the children are gaining confidence in themselves and their abilities. Every small step towards independence is celebrated and encouraged in our classroom.

### **Developing Concentration**

One of the core principles of Montessori is concentration. We have observed how the children are deeply attracted to activities that allow them to explore the world at their own pace. Sensory materials, books, and tower-building have been big favorites. These activities not only promote concentration but also help develop coordination and a sense of order.

### **Prepared Environment**

We believe that the environment is key to the children's development. Our classroom is carefully designed so that each material has its place and purpose. This order helps the children move around the space confidently and learn to tidy up after themselves, fostering responsibility from an early age.

### **Community and Collaboration**

We are working on promoting collaboration among the children, teaching them how to solve problems together and be considerate of their peers. Group activities, such as circle time and shared reading moments, have strengthened this sense of community. We see how the children offer to help each other, whether it's putting materials away or sharing a joyful moment.

## Health and Nutrition

In September, we focused on the theme of health and nutrition, where the children learned the importance of taking care of their bodies through good nutrition. Through books, we explored the difference between healthy foods and those that are not. We also conducted lessons on the names and classification of fruits and vegetables, encouraging curiosity and knowledge about the foods that give us energy and vitality.

## Autumn and Weather

With the arrival of autumn, we have been observing the changes in the weather and nature around us. The children have learned about the characteristics of this season, such as the leaves changing color and falling from the trees, which has allowed them to enjoy outdoor activities. We held a lesson about autumn by collecting fallen leaves, which were later used for art projects inspired by the season.

We also took this time to talk about apples, a fruit emblematic of autumn. We learned about the different parts of apples, the various varieties, their nutritional benefits, and how they can be enjoyed in many ways—from eating them fresh to using them in delicious recipes. These activities not only fostered language development but also helped the children establish healthy eating habits that they will continue to practice both in the classroom and at home.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we are creating a space where every child can thrive and grow at their own pace in a warm and nurturing environment.

With love,

The Toddler Montessori Team

An article for you to read: [Creating emotional safety around tantrums and crying](#)

## **Friday Afternoons with Ms. Monica: Music, Movement, Theatre, and Art (Toddler Montessori)** **9/28/24**

### **Greeting song/learning names**

We will always start our classes with a “hello song”. In this first class, I would also like to spend some time learning each child’s name.

**Song: Light a Candle for Peace (accompanied with ukulele and hand motions)** Light a candle for peace

Light a candle for love

Light a candle that shines

All away around the world

Light a candle for me

Light a candle for you

That our wish for world peace

Will one day come true

Sing peace around the world

Sing peace around the world

Sing peace around the world

Sing peace around the world

**Song: Planting an Apple Seed (to the tune of "The Itsy-bitsy Spider")** I planted an apple seed deep in the ground

Down came the rain, falling all around

Out came the sun as bright as it could be

And that little apple seed became an apple tree

**Storytelling: *Sour Apple* by Linda Liu**

We will read *Sour Apple* by Linda Liu and children will be led to participate in motions and movements that go along with the story.

**Introduce and listen to Vivaldi's Four Seasons**

After listening to short sections of each of Vivaldi's Four Seasons using a Story Orchestra book, we will explore movements inspired by each of the four seasons. Scarves will be used as props for added exploration and creativity.

**Introduce the artist, Vincent Van Gogh and his work, *Sunflowers***

We will learn who Vincent Van Gogh was and begin an art project inspired by his *Sunflowers* piece. Each child will use silky crayons to color a sunflower that will become a part of a collaborative collage with the class to create our own vase of sunflowers similar to Van Gogh's painting.



## Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

**Dear Families,**

As we embrace October, it's wonderful to reflect on the journey our little ones are on in the Montessori classroom. As Maria Montessori wisely stated, "There are many who hold, as I do, that the most important period of life is not that of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six; for that is the time when man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement, is being formed." This foundational period is truly a time when the young mind absorbs knowledge like a sponge, as highlighted in her book, *The Absorbent Mind*.

**Peace**

In our Peace curriculum we have introduced silence game, books on kindness and calmness, peace walk with a peace song, using peace rose or peace bear to resolve conflicts and talking about various emotions.

## **Everyday Living**

In our **Everyday Living** area, the children are actively engaged in pouring, tonging, twisting, and manipulating various materials. These activities foster independence and coordination. They also enjoy making snacks for themselves and their friends, which helps cultivate social skills. Activities like dressing frames (with velcro, buttons, and snaps) promote self-care, while tidying up after snack and lunch encourages a sense of responsibility towards their environment.

## **Math**

In **Math**, we have introduced a range of activities in the numeration area of the curriculum. The children are working with quantities and symbols from 1 to 10, exploring numeral recognition and association of amount, and engaging with the teens, tens, and hundreds of boards in the linear counting shelf . As Montessori said, "The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn." Through hands-on activities, the children are discovering mathematical concepts in a meaningful and concrete way.

## **Sensorial**

In our **Sensorial** area, the pink cubes , brown stairs, red rods, and knobbed/knobless cylinder work are favorites among the children as they are now exploring the creative aspect of incorporating all in creating a structure. We recently began our study of the five senses, starting with touch (Tactile)and sound (Olfactory) . This exploration will continue with sight, smell, and taste, utilizing sensorial materials to isolate and understand each sense. Montessori believed that "The senses are the gateway to knowledge," and we are excited to see how our children engage with these materials. We are also exploring food tasting activities using all our 5 senses, aligned with our science topic.

## **Geography and Cultural Studies**

In **Geography**, we enjoyed learning about the Children of the World and have introduced the concepts of land, air, and water as fundamental elements of the Earth. The addition of the land and water globe enriches this area of the classroom, allowing the children to visualize and understand their world. We explored land, water and air globe. Then we introduced the continent globe which is color coded in the Montessori environment. We learned what is inside our Earth. Now we are working on the World Map wooden puzzle with control map that Dr. Montessori created.

## **Science and Nature**

In our **Science** curriculum, the children are categorizing nutritious versus non-nutritious food, learning about the food guide pyramid and what comprises a healthy plate . We are discussing the calendar, weather, and the changing seasons, fostering an understanding of the environment around them. As Montessori stated, "The child's understanding of the world is limited only by the experiences they have," and we strive to provide rich, meaningful experiences. We went on a nature walk to collect leaves and flowers and we completed an art project. <https://www.pvpms.com/about/blog-children-and-nature>

## **Language**

In **Language**, alongside phonics boxes, the children are engaged in visual matching activities, classifying objects and pictures, and sorting various items. These pre-reading activities, including patterning, association cards, and sequence cards, support their literacy development. For handwriting, children practice pencil control with metal insets, tracing lines and shapes essential for letter formation.

Montessori emphasized, "Reading is not a separate skill; it is a complex activity that involves all the senses." Our activities are designed to cultivate a love for language and reading.

International languages such as Hindi , Spanish and Mandarin are well received.

## **Leadership**

Our Kindergarten Montessori curriculum consists of reviewing all the concepts learned so far and introducing advanced materials in all areas of the curriculum . Making their own plan for the day and following through with that and teaching other friends and making samples of the classroom are being followed.

We are so proud of the children's progress and their growing independence. Thank you for your continued support as we guide them on this incredible journey of discovery and learning!

## **Art with Ms. Anuja**

A view from a spacecraft window" was the project for our first 'science based art' art sessions. The solar system is a topic that everyone knows, loves and is curious about. We referred to a wonderful and very informative Usborne flap book called "The Solar System" by Rosie Dickins. We added a little imagination to it, we were astronauts on the space exploration mission and were looking at the planets through our spacecraft window as we pass by. For that we made a spacecraft window using paper plates by painting the black circle in the middle and then adding randomly picked planet cutouts to it. Our little astronauts learned about the planets a little more in depth like their surfaces, their atmosphere and the gases and the chemicals found on them.

Peace and love,  
The Pre primary and Kindergarten Montessori Team

All Families can use A peace Rose at home to solve conflicts or to express what each one thinks.

[https://mymontessorijourney.typepad.com/my\\_montessori\\_journey/2008/10/the-peace-rose.html](https://mymontessorijourney.typepad.com/my_montessori_journey/2008/10/the-peace-rose.html) (How it is used in our classrooms?)

<https://youtu.be/jXsHdB6YIO0?si=lvje2Zzmnd2-r0MT> (The Peace Rose book )

## **Friday Afternoons with Ms. Monica: Music, Movement, Theatre, and Art (Pre-primary Montessori ) 9/28/24**

### **Greeting song/learning names**

We will always start our classes with a "hello song". In this first class, I would also like to spend some time learning each child's name.

**Song: Light a Candle for Peace (accompanied with ukulele and hand motions)** Light a candle for peace

Light a candle for love

Light a candle that shines

All away around the world

Light a candle for me

Light a candle for you  
That our wish for world peace  
Will one day come true  
Sing peace around the world  
Sing peace around the world  
Sing peace around the world  
Sing peace around the world

### **Song: Family of the Sun (to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell)**

*Chorus:* The family of the sun, the family of the sun  
there are eight planets in the family of the sun  
Mercury is hot and Mercury is small;  
Mercury has no atmosphere, it's just a rocky ball  
Venus has a cloud that hides the planet's glow;  
The air is cold the ground is hot it rotates very slow  
We call the Earth our home, its oceans and its trees;  
We eat its food and breathe its air so no pollution please  
Mars is very red, it's also dry and cold;  
Someday you might visit Mars if you are really bold  
Great Jupiter is big, we've studied it a lot;  
We've found out it has many moons, and a big red spot  
Saturn has it's rings, we wondered what they were;  
Now we know they're icy rock, we just see a blur.  
Uranus and Neptune, are both shades of blue;  
One has rings and one has storms and that we know is true

### **Storytelling of "The Little Red House"**

This is a story about a child's search for a little red house with no windows or doors with a star inside. At the end, they discover that an apple is a little red house with no windows and doors and has a star inside!

**Song: Planting an Apple Seed (to the tune of "The Itsy-bitsy Spider"** I planted an apple seed deep in the ground

Down came the rain, falling all around

Out came the sun as bright as it could be

And that little apple seed became an apple tree

### **Introduce and listen to Vivaldi's Four Seasons**

After listening to short sections of each of Vivaldi's Four Seasons using a Story Orchestra book, we will explore movements inspired by each of the four seasons. Scarves will be used as props for added exploration and creativity.

**Introduce the idea of Theatre and read *How the Stars Came to Be* by Poonam Mistry** We will spend some time sharing and learning what Theatre is and means. We will read the story, "How Stars Came to Be". We will be using this story to craft a performance to share for families in December.

### **Introduce the artist, Vincent Van Gogh and his work, *Sunflowers***

We will learn who Vincent Van Gogh was and begin an art project inspired by his *Sunflowers* piece. Each child will use silky crayons to color a sunflower that will become a part of a collaborative collage with the class to create our own vase of sunflowers similar to Van Gogh's painting.

## **Peace begins with Us: Nurturing Young Peacemakers and our Peace Parade on October 4, 2024**

The International Day of Peace this month, reminds us of the importance of nurturing peace within our communities, our classrooms, and most importantly, within the hearts of our children. Peace education goes beyond just teaching children to be kind and respectful. It's about helping them understand the interconnectedness of all people, encouraging them to appreciate diversity, and guiding them to resolve conflicts peacefully. By fostering a sense of global citizenship and compassion, we empower children to be the peacemakers of tomorrow. In a Montessori Classroom, peace education is integrated into daily activities. Children learn to care for their environment, respect one another, and communicate their feelings effectively. These lessons not only help them build harmonious relationships but also contribute to their overall emotional and social development.

Teaching peace from an early age is crucial. Children are naturally curious and empathetic, and they're eager to learn about the world around them. By introducing them to concepts of peace and cooperation, we're helping them develop the tools they need to navigate conflicts and build positive relationships throughout their lives. Through stories, role-playing, and group discussions, children learn to see the world from different perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding. Activities like community gardening, group projects, and cooperative games also teach them the value of working together toward a common goal.

We learned about Children of the World in Geography and Cultural Studies this month. We are working on resolving conflicts with a Peace Rose and/or a Peace Bear. Whether it's through a simple moment of silence, reading a story about peace, every action counts towards creating harmony through peace in our classroom.



On October 4, 2024 our friends will be out in our school subdivision celebrating the International Day of Peace by doing a "PEACE PARADE" carrying peace posters that they created at 11 a.m.



Here are a few ideas to celebrate peace with your child:

Montessori schools around the globe will unite in a harmonious celebration for peace. We sing light a candle for peace: [Link](#)

While the International Day of Peace is a wonderful occasion to focus on peace education, it's important to continue these conversations and practices year-round. By consistently teaching and modeling peaceful behaviors, we can create a lasting impact on our children and the world they will inherit.

Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful and harmonious school year.

