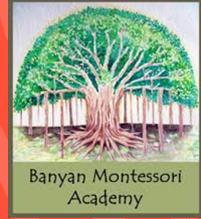


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter



March 2025

Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Montessori Families,

Spring arrived, and we were excited to welcome the new season with curiosity and joy! March was filled with engaging activities as we explored Spring, Kitchen Drama, and Community Helpers.

Springtime Exploration

To celebrate the arrival of spring, we created a beautiful tree with colorful flowers, birds, and insects! Our toddlers explored nature through related drawings, painting activities, and hands-on crafts. We also spent time observing the changes in our environment—feeling the fresh air, noticing the sounds around us, and appreciating the beauty of the season.

Connecting with Nature

Spring was the perfect time for children to explore the outdoors! During our walks, we paid attention to the small changes around us—how the air felt, the colors we saw, and the different sounds in nature. These moments allowed children to develop mindfulness, curiosity, and respect for the environment.

Kitchen Drama

This month, we had so much fun engaging with our play kitchen! The children enjoyed taking on different roles as chefs and waiters while setting up a restaurant scene. We also worked together to prepare a delicious fruit salad, which was a wonderful opportunity for them to practice teamwork and independence.

Community Helpers

We introduced children to the important roles of community helpers, such as firefighters, doctors, mail carriers, and bakers. Through role-playing, books, and hands-on activities, toddlers learned how these helpers contribute to our daily lives.

Montessori Materials in Action

In our Montessori environment, we used hands-on materials that supported toddler development. This month, we focused on:

- **Everyday Living Materials:** Toddlers practiced using zippers, as well as pouring both liquids and solids, helping them refine their coordination and independence.
- **Sensorial Materials:** We worked with Knobbed and Knobless Cylinders in all four colors, allowing children to explore size, dimension, and sequencing through hands-on experience.

- Math & Language Materials: The children explored Sandpaper Numerals to develop early numeral recognition and tactile learning. They also engaged with puzzles and matching activities, reinforcing problem-solving skills, spatial awareness, and vocabulary building.

We look forward to another exciting month of learning and discovery! Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Toddler Montessori Team

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

(Toddler)

3/21/25

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs,

Sat on a speckled log,

Eating some most delicious bugs.

Yum yum!

One jumped into the pool,

Where it was nice and cool,

Then there were four green speckled frogs.

Glug glubg!

Each verse repeats starting with one less frog until you get to no little speckled frogs.

<https://youtu.be/8VCpa4blanQ?si=WCVCali0atw1t8py>

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: Got a Little Seed (with scarves)

<https://youtube.com/shorts/YchMVLINwQM?si=6TWD32e65nTOVnTm>

Artist Claude Monet:

Students learned about the artist Claude Monet by reading Meet Claude Monet by Read With You, and created a collaborative recreation of Monet's "Water Lilies" by sponge painting.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful month of March! It has been an exciting time in our Pre-Primary class, and we would like to take a moment to thank all of you for attending the Parent-Teacher Conferences. Your involvement and support were greatly appreciated as we worked together to nurture your child's growth and development.

Here's a glimpse of our learning journey throughout March:

Everyday Life:

We had so much fun making salads, enjoying pancakes, and even trying our hands at coffee grinding. The children loved these hands-on experiences!

Science:

We explored the fascinating world of magnets and non-magnets through engaging activities that sparked curiosity and excitement.

Geography:

Our focus this month was on Europe. We learned about the continents through various activities, including mapping Europe and discovering animals native to this region.

Special Visit - Germany:

We were thrilled to have Felix and Simon, along with their family, as special guests who presented about Germany. We learned a lot about the country's castles, cars, flag, topography, clothes, pretzels, and more! The children especially enjoyed tasting homemade pretzels, which added a delicious touch to our lesson.

Special Visit - History of Paper:

We were also excited to have an alumni friend, now in fifth grade, visit us and present the history of paper. We learned that the first paper was made in China, but the first official paper factory was established in Italy. The children enjoyed making ancient-looking paper as part of this fascinating lesson.

Math:

We worked on four-digit addition with our advanced friends and reviewed the squaring and cubing chains. The children made great progress!

Language:

We are excited to announce that we are preparing to publish a book in April about the Sahara Desert. The children gathered information through extensive reading and research.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We are looking forward to more learning adventures to come!

Warmly,

The Pre-Primary Team

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

(Pre-primary)

3/21/25

Music

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Five Little Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs,

Sat on a speckled log,

Eating some most delicious bugs.

Yum yum!

One jumped into the pool,

Where it was nice and cool,

Then there were four green speckled frogs.

Glug glubg!

Each verse repeats starting with one less frog until you get to no little speckled frogs.

<https://youtu.be/8VCpa4blanQ?si=WCVCali0atw1t8py>

Song: When Gnomes Go Underground (with rhythm sticks)

When the gnomes go under ground :::clap clap:::

With the flowers they have found :::clap clap:::

With the seed bags on their backs :::clap clap:::

They march in boots of black :::clap clap:::

When the cold winds blow 'neath the roof of snow,

They work and play and sing :::clap clap:::

With the seeds they stored in the caves dug before

They sleep and wait for spring :::clap clap:::

When the gnomes go under ground :::clap clap:::

With the flowers they have found :::clap clap:::

With the seed bags on their backs :::clap clap:::

They march in boots of black :::clap clap:::

(repeat the last three times, getting progressively quieter)

<https://youtu.be/eG-XOuyKoyE?si=A89L5KfF7c-tuAW0>

Song: Little Seed by Woody Guthrie

Take my little hoe, dig a hole in the ground

Take my little seed and I plant it down;

Tooky, tooky, tooky, tooky, tidalo,

We'll all dance around and see my little seed grow.

CHORUS:

Tooky, tooky, tooky, tooky, tidalo,

Tooky, tooky, tooky, tooky, tidalo,

Let's all dance around and see my little seed grow.

The rain it come and it washed my ground

I thought my little seed was going to drown

I waded and I splashed and I carried my seed

I planted it again on some higher ground.

Chorus

https://youtu.be/EW3GltXp7Y?si=s3-4uAdbO4dVB_6

Song: Got a Little Seed (with scarves)

<https://youtube.com/shorts/YchMVIINwQM?si=6TWD32e65nT0VnTm>

Theatre

Explore the characters and plot for our play The Rainbow Fish. 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:

Introduced artist Claude Monet and Impressionism. Students learned about the artist Claude Monet and created art projects with oil pastels and watercolors inspired by his work.



Enrichment programs

Hello Everyone!

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

Hindi:

We had an exciting week exploring the beautiful. Hindi language! Here's a glimpse of all the fun and learning we experienced.

Colors in Hindi:

This week, we discovered new colors and practiced sorting objects from our classroom based on their colors. The children enjoyed calling out their favorite colors in Hindi, such as:

Red - Laal (लाल)

Blue - Neela (नीला)

Green - Hara (हरा)

Yellow - Peela (पीला)

Animal Names in Hindi:

We also expanded our vocabulary by learning the names of various animals. The children loved imitating animal sounds while saying their Hindi names! Here are a few we practiced:

Lion - Sher (शेर)

Dog - Kutta (कुत्ता)

Alligator - Magarmachh (मगरमच्छ)

Vegetables in Hindi:

Learning vegetable names was another fun activity! The kids enjoyed matching the pictures of vegetables with their Hindi names. Here are some of the ones we learned:

Carrot - Gajar (गाजर)

Tomato - Tamatar (टमाटर)

Potato - Aloo (आलू)

Fun Games and Songs:

To reinforce what we learned, we played lots of engaging games and sang cheerful songs. Everyone had a blast singing along and playing word-matching games to remember the new words!

We're having so much fun learning Hindi and can't wait for more exciting activities next week!

Best regards,

Mrs. Nazia

Mandarin:

Review Colors:

Showed winged stars in various colors, matching their hues. Displayed a colorful spinning wheel and taught friends to spin it, revealing magical colors. Used colorful paper pieces to create peacock feathers. Built 3D structures using colored paper strips.

Colors:

Red 红色 (hóng sè)

Pink 粉色 (fěn sè)

Green 绿色 (lǜ sè)

Blue 蓝色 (lán sè)

Purple 紫色 (zǐ sè)

Orange 橙色 (chéng sè)

Star 星星 (xīng xīng)

Spinning wheel 转盘 (zhuàn pán)

Caterpillar:

Showed a crawling caterpillar made from tissue paper. Blew on it with a straw, and it crawled. Poured water on the caterpillar, making it change color and move. Chose favorite colors to create a caterpillar.

Words:

Caterpillar 毛毛虫 (māo māo chōng)

Crawl 爬 (pá)

Spanish:

This month, our Spanish class was filled with fun and interactive learning as we explored clothing, body parts, colors, and numbers in Spanish! Through songs, games, and hands-on activities, the children expanded their vocabulary and gained confidence in using Spanish in everyday situations.

Clothing in Spanish

We introduced and practiced the names of different clothing items in Spanish:

- Vestido (Dress)
- Chamarra (Jacket)
- Camisa (Shirt)
- Pantalón (Pants)
- Zapatos (Shoes)
- Gorro (Hat)
- Guantes (Gloves)
- Falda (Skirt)

The children had fun identifying and describing clothing, playing dress-up, and engaging in interactive activities to reinforce their learning.

It has been a wonderful month of learning and exploration in Spanish! We look forward to continuing to build vocabulary and confidence in the language.

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

Our march was filled with fun experiments. Magnets are special objects that have an invisible "push" or "pull" force, called magnetism, that makes them stick to certain metal objects like iron or steel.

We used magna tiles to see the push and pull of the magnets. We created abstract art by dipping common metal objects like bolts, screws, u-pins and washers into the paint and moving them on paper with the help of a magnet.

To explore more about magnets, we tried a magnetic putty and created a fun racing game too. We placed magnets on small hot wheels cars and raced them using 'opposite magnet poles'. For the art we created a game on the paper. We attached a ball cutout to an u-pin and with magnet attached to its bottom we moved it along 3 different paths.

Sound is what we hear. But we performed an experiment that helped us see the sound waves. We used a few household items like a small bowl, a cling wrap and some salt. Tightly wrap a cling wrap on a bowl and put some salt over the top. Now stay close to the bowl and say something loudly or keep screaming near the bowl, you can see the salt moving because of the sound vibrations.

We created a 'Soundscape art' as part of the art experience. Soundscape art in simple words is mostly an abstract art where you listen to an audio and draw/paint the feeling you get when you listen to that particular sound. We used different sounds like rooster's crow, rain, mooing cow, meowing cats, wind and few more.

To explore how sound vibrations travel, we created a paper cup telephone, we all have played in our childhood.

Science Experiments with Ms. Bhargavi:

Topic: Force and friction (March 17): The objective was to introduce the concepts of rest (stationary), movement, and force, with a focus on push-pull actions and friction. The lesson began with a discussion of force as a push or pull, using simple terms and referencing Sir Isaac Newton. Children observed an object at rest and learned about stationary positions. In the activity, they explored push and pull forces by interacting with lightweight objects like balls, small boxes, and toy cars, taking turns to see how each force affected movement.

In Part 2, the topic was friction. The lesson began by asking whether it's easy or hard to move objects on different surfaces, followed by an explanation of friction and how it helps. In the friction experiment, children used toy cars to compare movement on a smooth surface (like a tray or table) and a rough surface (such as sandpaper or a rug). They observed that the toy car traveled farther on the smooth surface and less on the rough one. The activity demonstrated how friction slows down movement on rough surfaces, and the lesson concluded with a summary of what was learned.

The topic covered different kinds of forces, including push, pull, gravitational, magnetic, elastic, and centripetal forces. The objective was to introduce natural forces like gravity, magnetism, and elasticity in the world around us. In Part 1, children learned about gravitational force by observing objects (ball, feather, paper) fall, with gravity pulling them toward the Earth. They also explored magnetic force using magnets to show attraction and repulsion. In Part 2, the concept of elastic force was introduced, explaining how stretchy objects like rubber bands return to their original shape after being stretched. Centripetal force was also discussed as the pull that keeps objects moving in a circle.

In the friction experiment, the goal was to demonstrate elastic and centripetal forces. Children used rubber bands to stretch and release them, observing how they snap back, showing elastic force. A small spring or slinky was used to illustrate compression and expansion. The activity also involved spinning a top to explain centripetal force, where the top remains upright while spinning due to a force pulling everything toward the center, preventing it from wobbling and falling. The lesson concluded with a summary of how elastic and centripetal forces work to make objects stretch or stay stable in motion.

Alfredo Pasta in Instant pot

Time : 20 mins

INGREDIENTS

- 16oz Pasta
- 1 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 1tbsp Grated Garlic
- 8oz shredded Mozzarella Cheese
- 4oz Shredded Parmesan cheese (optional)
- Salt
- 1 Can Alfredo sauce
- 1 Onion
- 2 Cup Mixed vegetables
- 1 tbsp Italian seasoning
- Pepper powder
- 1 Cup Spinach

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add Olive oil and when it is hot and garlic and saute until raw smell goes off.
- Add 2 cups of water & the alfredo sauce to the liner of your pot.
- Add 1 cup of water to the empty alfredo jar, close it with the lid, and shake. Pour this mixture into the pot. Whisk everything together to evenly combine.
- Add the pasta in increments & alternating directions, to prevent clumping & sticking together during the cooking process.
- Add in the vegetablea and spinach
- Add the seasonings to the pot, but DO NOT stir.
- Add the lid to the pot, turning to close. Set the vent valve to the sealed position. Hit the pressure cook button, and cook on high for 7 minutes.
- Carefully perform a quick release, avoiding the hot escaping steam when the vent valve is turned. Open the lid and set aside.
- Using a pasta fork, stir the pasta and sauce together to combine- releasing any stuck together bits as you do so.
- The alfredo pasta will seem liquidy at first, and that's ok. Let the pasta rest for 2-3 minutes while the sauce thickens and the pasta absorbs the excess moisture.
- Serve the pasta warm with freshly grated mozzarella & parmesan cheese, if desired.
- Enjoy!

Good Read

Supporting your child's language journey

<https://www.banyanmontessori.com/supporting-your-childs-montessori-language-journey/>

Upcoming events

Upcoming events

April 5: Open House for Summer and Fall enrollments - 10 to 11 am

April 9: Fostering Leadership Skills Through Montessori: Cultivating Independence, Responsibility, and Collaboration in Children by Ms. Shiva (Zoom at 6 pm)

April 16 - Gardening with Dr. Christina

April 18- Good Friday (No School)

April 19- Dr. Gregory on Healthy Habits for Children (11:15 am) at the Canton Public Library

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

April 29- Cookery

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 sessions now on Tuesday's

Ms. Bhargavi's Science experiments twice a month

Ms. Margaret's Knitting sessions on all Monday's

Events After April:

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 6 - UsBorne Book fair

June 13- Public Speaking

June 17- Cookery

June 20 - Dismissal - 11 am for Toddler , 11.30 am for Pre Primary

June 20 - 4 pm to 7 pm in Liberty middle school - Year end event (Multi cultural Celebration, Kindergarten Graduation, Drama)

June 25 - Last day of School (Dismissal - 11 am for Toddler , 11.30 am for Pre Primary)

