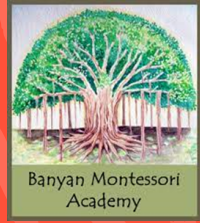


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

April 2025



Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Families,

April was a month full of creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning in our Toddler classroom! Here's a look at what we've been working on:

Puppetry:

The children had so much fun exploring the world of puppets! They enjoyed using different types of puppets to tell stories, express emotions, and engage in imaginative play. This activity helped develop their language skills, creativity, and confidence in expressing themselves.

Flowers and Gardening:

With the arrival of spring, we introduced flowers and gardening activities. The children learned about the parts of a flower, practiced planting seeds, and helped care for our classroom plants. These experiences helped nurture their sense of responsibility, care for living things, and connection with nature. We started our outdoor garden with the guidance of Dr. Christina Fidkowski.

Reptiles:

We also explored the fascinating world of reptiles! The children learned about different reptiles, their characteristics, and their habitats through books, pictures, and fun discussions. They especially loved pretending to move like snakes, turtles, and lizards during movement activities!

In addition to these exciting themes, we have seen a tremendous growth in the children's independence this month. They are becoming more confident in choosing their work, taking care of their environment, and helping one another. It's truly wonderful to see them gaining skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

April was a wonderful month of growth and discovery, and the children should feel very proud of themselves for all they have accomplished. We are so proud of them, and we look forward to all the adventures coming in May!

Thank you for your continued support!

Warmly,

The Toddler Team

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

(Toddler)

4/25/25

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: 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=A89L5Kf7c-tuAW0>

Song: Got a Little Seed (with scarves)

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

Song: The Garden Song by Dave Mallet

Inch by inch, row by row

Gonna make this garden grow

All it takes is a rake and a hoe

And a piece of fertile ground

Inch by inch, row by row

Someone bless these seeds I sow

Someone warm them from below

Till the rain comes tumblin' down

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones

Man is made of dreams and bones

Feel the need to grow my own

'Cause the time is close at hand

Rainful rain, sun and rain

Find my way in nature's chain

Tune my body and my brain

To the music from the land

Old crow watchin' hungrily

From his perch in yonder tree

In my garden I'm as free

As that feathered thief up there

Inch by inch, row by row

Gonna make this garden grow

All it takes is a rake and a hoe

And a piece of fertile ground
An inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
Till the rain comes tumblin' down

Introduce the “Rainbow Fish” song that will be sung for our performance in June.

Introduce artist Wassily Kandinsky

Students will learn about the artist Wassily Kandinsky and create art projects inspired by his concentric circles work.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

April has been an exciting and activity-filled month for our pre-primary learners! From hands-on experiences to thoughtful presentations, our little friends have blossomed beautifully this spring. Here's a glimpse into all the amazing things we explored and achieved together this month:

Everyday Living

Practical Life was bustling with excitement! We introduced spooning and transferring exercises, which promote fine motor development and concentration. A definite favorite was the doll washing activity—the joy on their faces was priceless!

Food Preparation

Cooking together continues to be a highlight in our classroom. This month, we made pancakes—and the best part? Watching the children enjoy every bite of their hard work! In our cookery session we made acai bowl.

Sensorial

We revisited many of our sensorial extension activities, building on the basics and encouraging deeper exploration of textures, colors, and forms.

Language

We continued to build our reading foundation by practicing sight words through fun games and activities. A special focus was placed on writing skills, especially for our more advanced friends who are eager to express themselves through words. We also reviewed all the phonics boxes, helping everyone solidify their sound recognition and word-building abilities. We completed authoring a book on “Our trip to the Sahara desert”.

Math

This month, we introduced our friends to the concepts of squaring and cubing chains. They also had lots of fun with snake games which helped explain the concept of addition in a hands-on, engaging way.

Geography

In Geography, we journeyed to South America! Our friends discovered its famous animals, explored the map of the continent, and engaged in varied new activities to deepen their understanding of this vibrant region. Antonio's parents are from Brazil and they shared their culture with us, it was fun. Pao de queijo and cassava were yummy.

Science

Our budding scientists learned about metamorphosis, studied amphibians, and explored the parts of plants through matching and sorting activities. The curiosity and enthusiasm were truly inspiring!

Public Presentation

April also marked our Public Presentation, where the children proudly shared what they learned about metamorphosis, spring blooms, and the continent of South America. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to express their knowledge and build confidence.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our growing community. We're so proud of each and every child and can't wait to see what the next month brings!

With warm regards,

The Pre-Primary Team

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

(Pre-primary)

4/25/25

Theatre (1:30-2:00)

Rehearse Rainbow Fish:

- Start to cast characters and block movements for our performance.
- Learn a rainbow fish song that will be used in our performance.

Music and Art (2:00-2:30)

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

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Someone warm them from below
Till the rain comes tumblin' down
Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones
Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
'Cause the time is close at hand
Rainful rain, sun and rain
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Introduce artist Wassily Kandinsky

Students will learn about the artist Wassily Kandinsky and create art projects inspired by his concentric circles work.



Enrichment programs

Hello Everyone!

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

Hindi:

This month in our Hindi class, we had a vibrant and joyful journey as we introduced our little learners to new concepts and vocabulary through playful and engaging activities!

Colors & Counting

We began by reviewing all the colors in Hindi and practicing counting numbers through songs, games, and hands-on exercises. The children loved recognizing colors around them and counting objects during classroom activities.

Fruits in Hindi

We started learning the names of fruits in Hindi! Our little fruit experts can now identify and say:

Apple – सेब (Saeb)

Mango – आम (Aam)

Banana – केला (Kela)

...and many more! Learning these through flashcards, songs, and storytelling made it even more enjoyable.

Big and Small

We explored the concept of big vs. small using sorting activities and real-life objects. Children actively participated in sorting and comparing items, which helped reinforce the vocabulary and concept in a fun, practical way.

Rhymes & Music Time

Our days were filled with joy as we sang along to popular Hindi rhymes, danced to the rhythm, and watched fun visual aids to make learning more dynamic and memorable.

We're so proud of how confidently the children are engaging with the Hindi language. Stay tuned for more exciting learning adventures next month!

Mandarin:

Easter Bunny: Review colors with handmade bunnies. Make a jumping bunny using disposable cups. Demonstrate the bunny eating carrots to review numbers. Show a picture that the bunny can dance. Display a handmade egg that can crack open. Soak a real egg in vinegar to create a shell-less egg, then decorate it and let the children touch it.

Easter 复活节 (fuhuojie)

Bunny 兔子 (tuzi)

Jump 跳 (tiao)

Dance 跳舞 (tiaowu)

Carrot 胡萝卜 (huluobo)

Egg 鸡蛋 (jidan)

Flowers and bees: Use pictures to introduce spring, flowers, and bees. Water the handmade flowers, and they will open automatically. Use a cotton swab to dab water and blend the flower petals, observing the color changes. Show bees flying among the flowers.

Spring 春天 (chuntian)

Flower 花 (hua)

Bee 蜜蜂 (mifeng)

Fly 飞 (fei)

Spanish:

April was an exciting month of learning in our Spanish class! Here's a look at what we explored together:

House Furniture Vocabulary: We learned about different pieces of furniture around the house. The children practiced saying and identifying the following words:

- Mesa – Table
- Sillón – Sofa
- Ropero – Closet
- Silla – Chair
- Cama – Bed
- Lámpara – Lamp
- Cortinas – Curtains
- Espejo – Mirror

The children enjoyed matching the Spanish words with pictures and practicing them through games and activities!

Easter Vocabulary: We also introduced fun Easter-themed vocabulary to celebrate the season. Some of the words the children practiced were:

- Conejo – Bunny
- Huevo – Egg
- Canasta – Basket
- Dulces – Candy
- Flores – Flowers

We used songs, stories, and art activities to help them remember these festive words!

Community Helpers (Oficios y Profesiones): At the end of the month, we started talking about different jobs and professions in the community. The children learned words like:

- Doctor – Doctor
- Maestro/Maestra – Teacher
- Bombero – Firefighter
- Policía – Police Officer
- Panadero – Baker
- Astronauta – Astronaut

They were very excited to learn about the important roles these community helpers have in our daily lives!

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

We started April to learn more about satellites, moon, our natural satellite and ISS, a human made satellite.

Satellites are things that orbit, or go around something else in space. We also learned a story about astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore, who stayed in the space for almost 9 months. We learned how they traveled to the space, where they stayed, what it is to be inside ISS (International Space Station) and how they returned back to the Earth.

We created colorful moon art using puffy paint (equal parts shaving foam and school glue) and foil stumps.

Center of gravity is nothing but a balance point where objects weight is evenly distributed. It's a fun way to understand how objects balance and why things fall down. To explore more we performed a few simple experiments.

We worked on a craft with a popsicle stick which almost appears to be a magical trick, to check how center of gravity works.

To celebrate Earth Day we created Earth fizzy art using baking soda, food color and vinegar. Climate change is causing glaciers to melt at an accelerated rate. We created a simple scene of melting glaciers with Arctic animals, ice, vinegar and soda.

To continue the chemical reaction topic, we learned about acids and bases. Acids and bases are two groups of chemical compounds with opposite properties that are encountered frequently in the laboratory and in everyday life.

We created a magical art with a few household items like turmeric, washing soda and lime juice to learn about acids and bases.

Science Experiments with Ms. Bhargavi:

This month, we explored the world of simple machines and learned how they make work easier for us every day. We started by discovering that simple machines like levers, inclined planes, pulleys, wheels and axles, wedges, and screws are all around us, helping us lift, move, cut, and hold objects with less effort.

Through hands-on experiments, the children experienced how a lever can lift heavy objects with a well-placed fulcrum and how an inclined plane makes it easier to push objects upward. We then explored the mechanics of a pulley, observing how it reduces the effort needed to lift a bucket of objects. The wheel and axle experiment showed how wheels reduce friction, making it easier to move heavy loads. Finally, the children used a wedge to cut clay and learned how a screw's spiral design helps hold things tightly together.

By interacting with these simple machines, the children gained an understanding of basic physics principles and were encouraged to notice how these tools play a role in everyday life.

Cookery Session : Brazilian Acai Bowl

Date : 04/29/25

Brazilian Açaí Bowl

Time : 5 mins

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 packs frozen acai• 2 small frozen bananas• 1/4 cup coconut water or milk or water | <p>To top:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sliced fruit• Granola• Desiccated coconut(optional)• Almond Butter(optional)• Freeze-dried raspberries |
|---|---|

INSTRUCTIONS

- The night before, slice up bananas and freeze them in a container
- Blend all ingredients together in a high-powered blender. If you're having difficulty getting the fruit to blend, add more liquid.
- Top with desired toppings
- Enjoy!

Warm regards,
The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



Parent Education

Thank you to all families who attended the Webinar on leadership and Dr. Gregory's presentation on health and wellness for children in the month of April.

Please read all the useful blogs added in our website

Good Read: Why Children need Repetition and How it helps them Learn:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-baby-scientist/201907/why-children-like-repetition-and-how-it-helps-them-learn>

Upcoming events

Upcoming events

May 13: Ask Ms. Shiva (Zoom 6-7 pm) - Please send your questions ahead of time , just to make sure the time is well utilized. RSVP required .

May 14 - Vision Check up for all friends. Vision Education for parents at 8.55 am (in Person) for half hour. Please plan to drop your child and stay back. Please RSVP.

May 20- Cookery

May 26- Memorial Day (No school)

May 28- Victoria from Priority Waste presents a "Recycle workshop". Recycle Education for Friends/ Parents at 8.55 am for half hour. Please plan to drop your child and stay back. Please RSVP.

May 30- Public Presentation

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

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 on Tuesday's

Ms. Bhargavi's Science experiments twice a month

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

Events After May:

June 5 & 6 - UsBorne Book fair

June 11: Dr. Meena will visit us to check our friends, talk about the importance of a Doctor, Health tips, and children will get to use a real Stethoscope :)

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)

June 30 to Aug 14 - Summer Montessori Program

