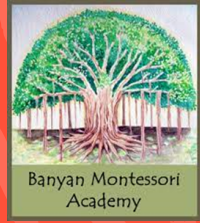


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

May 2025



Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Families,

May has been a month full of discovery, learning, and joyful moments in our Toddler classroom. The children explored various topics through hands-on experiences and seasonal activities that sparked their natural curiosity.

Classification of Float and Sink

We introduced a fun science activity where the children explored objects that float or sink in water. They made predictions, tested their ideas, and learned to classify objects based on their properties. It was a great way to build observation and reasoning skills!

Birds

This month, we learned about birds – their features, how they fly, what they eat, and where they live. The children observed bird pictures, practiced bird sounds, and even made simple bird crafts. Some were especially excited to see real birds during our outdoor time!

Insects

Our study of insects allowed the children to observe and learn about these tiny creatures. We explored their body parts, movements, and habitats. The children used magnifying glasses to take a closer look at real insects and enjoyed matching figures and singing songs about ants and butterflies.

Life Cycles

We explored the life cycles of different living things, including butterflies, chickens, and frogs. The butterfly life cycle was a favorite! Using puzzles, books, and visuals, the children followed the transformation from egg to adult in each species, building a deeper understanding of growth and change.

Gardening

The toddlers helped plant beautiful, mature flowers in our garden pots. They carefully dug holes, placed the plants, and watered them daily. This hands-on activity helped them connect with nature and develop responsibility while learning how to care for living things.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another month of learning and growing together!

Warmly, The Toddler Team

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

(Toddler)

5/30/25

Greeting: Hello song

Introduced the "Rainbow Fish" song that will be sung for our performance in June.

Song: Mr. Golden Sun

Oh, Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,

please shine down on me.

Oh, Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,

hiding behind the tree.

These little children are asking you

to please come out so we can play with you.

Oh, Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,

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Shine down on me. Shine shine shine.

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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 artist Andy Warhol

Students learned about the artist Andy Warhol and created an art project inspired by his work: Flowers.



Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Language

This month, friends continued to work on pre language skills such as matching, sorting, sequencing, classification, puzzles, beginning sounds, final sounds etc. For friends who are ready we focused on listening to the middle sounds in words. Through sound games, object sorting, and sandpaper letter work, our friends became more aware of how words are made up of different sounds and how important that middle sound can be. Exploration of rhyming words and storytelling is an ongoing process. Continued practice in blending and segmenting sounds are fun.

We also continued to refine our letter formation, with special attention to:

Using the sand tray, moveable alphabet, and chalkboard tracing to encourage gentle muscle memory and fluid writing

Practicing correct pencil grip and letter strokes to support natural handwriting development

Practicing lowercase letters

We observed many friends proudly writing their names, labeling their work, and engaging with writing as joyful expression.

We have introduced poems and we are having fun being poets. The classroom is full of little authors, poets and readers in the making!

We are learning about opposites and verbs.

In our Montessori environment, friends develop literacy skills through a multi-sensory approach. We follow each child's interest and readiness, gently guiding them through phonetic awareness, letter formation, and early reading at their own pace. Our goal is to foster a deep love for language, spoken, written, and reading.

Science

May brought a fascinating journey through the world of animals. We explored:

Bird -observing feathers, nests, sounds and the beauty of migration.

Mammals – identifying their unique features and habitats.

Dinosaurs – diving into prehistoric times, examining fossils, and comparing them with today's animals.

Our science shelf was buzzing with hands-on materials, books.

Geography:

Welcome to Australia!

In Geography, we introduced the continent of Australia. The friends were especially fascinated by:

Australian cultural elements through maps, flags, and music

Sensorial:

This month, we revisited many sensorial materials the friends know and love, with fresh enthusiasm and new extensions!

Color box activities were expanded into patterning and matching games.

The pink tower, brown stair, and knobbed cylinders were combined in creative new ways to challenge coordination and concentration.

Scent/ olfactory bottles, sound cylinders, and texture boards encouraged mindful sensory exploration.

These materials continue to refine each friend 's perception, vocabulary, and appreciation for beauty and order, while preparing them with the Pre- Math activities.

Math

Montessori math materials are designed to move from concrete to abstract, allowing friends to touch, see, and build mathematical concepts before working with symbols. This deepens comprehension and helps friends develop a lifelong love for numbers and problem-solving. In true Montessori fashion, friends revisited many previously introduced materials with new challenges and extensions:

Dr. Montessori was a genius. She knew how to simplify big mathematical concepts to materials that 3 to 6 year old friends love to use and master. Friends are working at different areas of Math starting from Pre- Math, Numeration, Linear Counting , Decimal System. We are working with multiplication and division concepts in our class with our Kindergartner and friends who are ready.

Everyday living

In the Montessori environment, Everyday Living or Practical Life activities are the foundation of independence, concentration, and coordination. This month, our classroom was filled with joyful hands-on work as our friends practiced caring for themselves and their environment in purposeful and meaningful ways. They work to become independent and also a contributing member of our peaceful classroom community.

Food Preparation: Strawberry Cutting

This month, we were excited to engage in a new food preparation activity—cutting strawberries!

Through this work, they:

Practiced using a child-safe knife with control and care

Developed fine motor strength and hand-eye coordination

Learned about cleanliness, safety, and graceful movements

There was so much pride in preparing a healthy snack to share or enjoy—an important step toward self-care and independence.

Pouring & Spooning

Our younger learners and those refining their control focused on pouring and spooning. These deceptively simple activities build essential skills:

Hand control and precision

Left-to-right tracking (a pre-reading skill!)

Focus and patience

Materials varied from beans to rice to water, and as friends mastered these skills, we introduced challenges like:

Transferring with smaller spoons

Pouring between narrow-neck vessels

Using tongs or tweezers for small object transfer

These challenges help friends feel capable, careful, and calm. Friends who have mastered these skills use this area to socialize and calm down after a big work in Math , Language etc.

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

(Pre-primary)

5/30/25

Theatre

Rehearse Rainbow Fish:

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

Music and Art

Greeting: Hello song

Song: Got a Little Seed (with scarves)

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

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

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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
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Enrichment programs

Hello Everyone!

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

Hindi:

Traditional Indian Clothing

This month, we explored traditional Indian outfits like:

Sari (साड़ी)

Kurta (कुर्ता)

Salwar Kameez (सलवार कमीज़)

The children had a wonderful time seeing, touching, and even trying on traditional clothes with the help of a special classroom friend and volunteer. The experience sparked curiosity and respect for different cultures and ways of dressing.

Traditional Food Experience: Chapati Time!

We introduced the children to a beloved Indian food: Chapati (चपाती)—a soft, round flatbread made with love.

The children: Watched how chapati is made, Smelled the delicious aroma as it cooked, Got a chance to taste it together!

It quickly became a favorite! Many friends asked for seconds and delighted in sharing their thoughts using newly learned Hindi words. This tasting activity brought our lesson to life—language through experience.

Color and Number Review in Hindi:

To reinforce language fundamentals, we reviewed all the colors and numbers in Hindi:

Colors (रंग) like लाल (laal – red), नीला (neela – blue), पीला (peela – yellow)

Numbers (संख्या) from 1 to 10: एक, दो, तीन, चार...

We practiced through:

Songs and movement games

Matching activities and flashcards

Group circle games that made learning active and fun

Mandarin:

Chinese Paper Fans and Color Painting: Show various colored paper fans to review colors and numbers. Activity: Dip markers in water, then place the paper flower into it to reveal magical colors. Review Shapes: Use shape cards in various colors to create animal figures.

Fan 扇子 (shanzi)

Triangle 三角形 (sanjiaoxing)

Circle 圆形 (yuanying)

Square 正方形 (zhengfangxing)

Rectangle 长方形 (changfangxing)

Mother's Day: Introduce Mother's Day, make a heart craft for mom, and listen to the song "Mom, I Love You."

Mother's Day 母亲节 (muqinjie)

Mom, I love you 妈妈，我爱你 (mama, woaini)

Heart 爱心 (aixin)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=72UeGJBP51Q>

Introduction to Traditional Chinese Food – Dumplings:

Demonstrate the dumpling-making process by hand, taste the delicious flavor of dumplings, and enjoy the fun of making them.

Food 食物 (shiwu)

Dumpling 饺子 (jiaozi)

Spanish:

This month in Spanish class, our toddlers had so much fun learning new words and engaging in activities that introduced them to everyday vocabulary in Spanish.

Family Members

We learned the names of family members in Spanish. The children practiced saying "mamá" (mom), "papá" (dad), "hermano" (brother), "hermana" (sister), "abuelo" (grandpa), and "abuela" (grandma). To reinforce the vocabulary, each child made a drawing of their family and shared it with the class while using the words in Spanish. It was a beautiful way to connect language with something personal and meaningful.

Cooking Activity – Esquites

We also made a traditional Mexican snack called *esquites*! The children helped prepare the recipe using corn (*elote*), salt (*sal*), and butter (*mantequilla*). This fun hands-on experience gave them the chance to hear and use Spanish vocabulary in a real-life context. Plus, it was delicious!

Vocabulary We Practiced

Here are some of the words we used this month:

English Spanish

Mom Mamá

Dad Papá

Brother Hermano

Sister Hermana

Grandpa Abuelo

Grandma Abuela

Family Familia

Corn Elote

Salt Sal

Butter Mantequilla

Drawing Dibujo

To share Compartir

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

May was an exciting month as we explored the fascinating science that surrounds us in our everyday lives. From reflections to air pressure, we discovered that even the most common experiences are full of scientific wonder!

From infancy, mirrors capture our attention and spark our curiosity. In fact, some of the first toys we give to babies include mirrors. This month, we used mirrors to explore the concept of symmetry through art and observation.

Our mirror-based art activities encouraged both creativity and scientific thinking. Using worksheets with half-drawn images—like bees, butterflies, and hats—we colored the visible half and then held the paper up to a mirror. The reflection completed the picture, revealing a full, symmetrical design!

We also explored the magic of symmetry through kaleidoscopes. These classic optical instruments use mirrors to reflect light and create mesmerizing patterns. Using mirror paper and colorful beads, we each made our own simple kaleidoscopes and experienced firsthand how reflections can transform ordinary objects into dazzling designs.

To further explore symmetry, we created squishy paintings by applying paint to one side of a folded paper, then pressing the halves together. When opened, the result was a symmetrical.

Air pressure is a powerful force that plays a role in many of our daily actions—like sipping through a straw, inflating a balloon, or using a syringe. We created paintings using straws and watery paint.

Science Experiments with Ms. Bhargavi:

ENERGY

This month, we explored the fascinating concept of energy, its sources, and how it powers our everyday lives. The children learned that energy is what helps us move, work, and play. We discovered that energy comes from various sources, including the food we eat, which gives our bodies the strength to do things. Using an apple as an example, the children saw how energy is stored in food and how it fuels our activities.

We also introduced a fundamental principle of energy: it can neither be created nor destroyed (we saw that a whole apple has the same amount of energy as the one that is cut into 2, 4 or 8 pieces) but can change from one form to another. This was demonstrated through engaging experiments, such as using a flashlight to show stored energy from the batteries becoming light energy, a wind-up toy to demonstrate motion energy(hand held fan blowing a piece of paper), and musical instruments to explore sound energy.

These hands-on activities helped the children understand that energy is all around us, constantly changing forms to make things work. This month's lessons sparked curiosity and encouraged them to see the incredible role energy plays in their daily lives! We will continue on this topic to learn about Renewable and non renewable resources and hands-on activities.

Inhouse field trips:

Vision test by Suburban eye clinic went well. They came 2 days to test our eyes. The reports were scanned and messaged to each family through Brightwheel

Recycle workshop: Victoria from Priority waste educated us on what to recycle , why to recycle etc. with fun filled activities and practical exercises.

Date : 05/21/25

Smashed Avocado on Whole Wheat Bread

Time : 5-10 mins

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ripe avocado
- 2 slices of whole wheat bread
- A pinch of salt (optional)
- A squeeze of lemon or lime juice (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Lightly toast the slices of whole wheat bread until golden and crisp.
- Cut the avocado in half and remove the pit. Scoop the flesh into a bowl. Use a fork to mash the avocado to your preferred texture—smooth or chunky.
- Add a small pinch of salt and a few drops of lemon or lime juice to enhance flavor and prevent browning.
- Spread the mashed avocado evenly over the toasted bread. Add any optional toppings if desired.
- Serve and Enjoy!

Warm regards,
The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



Parent Education

Good Read :

Correcting is not the same as modeling :

<https://amshq.org/blog/from-the-magazine/2023-09-08-manners-naturally/>

Upcoming events

Upcoming events

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 - 11:30 am dismissal for all

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

June 24: Food drive donations due

June 25 - Last day of School (Dismissal - 11:30 am dismissal for all)

June 30 to Aug 14 - Summer Montessori Program

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

Library and Other Events in and around Canton :

June 2, 2025: BARK: Be A Reading Kid, 6:00 PM–7:30 PM @ Plymouth District Library

June 8, 2025: Storytime @ Canton Farmers Market, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM @ Canton Farmers Market

June 10, 2025: Stuffed Animal Workshop: Axolotl, 7:15 PM–7:45 PM @ Northville District Library

June 30, 2025: Magician Josh Wilde, 6:00 PM @ Northville District Library

July 1, 2025: Fantastic Foam Party, 6:00 PM @ Northville District Library

July 9, 2025: The Reptarium Zoo, 6:00 PM @ Northville District Library

July 14, 2025: Electric Art with Sloan Museum of Discovery, 6:00 PM @ Ann Arbor District Library

Aug 15: Family Science and Art Night, 6–8 PM @ Village Arts Factory, Canton

Aug 18: Parent-Child Drawing Workshop, 3–4 PM @ Northville District Library

Saturdays/Sundays: Critter House Open Hours, 12–3 PM @ Leslie Science & Nature Center

Saturdays: Tot Splash, 10 AM–12 PM @ Buhr Park Pool

