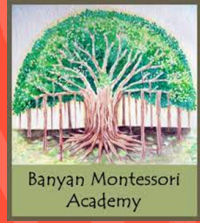


Banyan Montessori Academy

# Newsletter

November 2025



## Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Families,

November was a wonderful month filled with exploration, discovery, and special events in our Toddler classroom. Our friends were busy learning through hands-on experiences, movement, and meaningful activities that supported their growth in confidence, coordination, language, and independence.

### Wild Animals

Children explored a variety of wild animals through matching cards, figurines, stories, and movement activities. They learned about lions, elephants, giraffes, monkeys, zebras, tigers, cheetahs, hippos, rhinos, and crocodiles, practicing sounds, identifying features, and engaging in gross motor movement. This supported language development, coordination, and joyful exploration.

### Big & Small

We worked with the concepts of big and small using sorting baskets, blocks, and real-life objects. One of the children's favorite activities this month was comparing their sizes with their classmates, noticing who was bigger, smaller, taller, or shorter. This playful exploration supported early math skills, language, and social interaction.

### Thanksgiving

We talked about gratitude and practiced using kind words such as "thank you." The children participated in simple festive activities and enjoyed sharing about their families, friends, and the things they love. This theme strengthened social-emotional development and our sense of classroom community.

### Robotics

Presentation by Alumni We had a very special visit from middle school alumni, who proudly presented a robot they built as part of their engineering project. The toddlers were fascinated watching the robot move, follow commands, and complete simple tasks. Some children had the chance to see the robot up close, which sparked curiosity and excitement. This experience offered a wonderful early introduction to STEM while also giving our toddlers positive role models from our own school community.

### Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thank you, families, for taking the time to meet with us during Fall Conferences. It was wonderful to connect with each of you, share your child's progress, and celebrate the growth we have observed so far this year. We value your partnership and your trust, and we appreciate the opportunity to work together to support your child's development. Your insights, questions, and collaboration make a meaningful difference in creating a strong home-school connection.

## Social–Emotional & Independence Skills

Our toddlers continued practicing grace and courtesy, taking turns, and using gentle hands. They are also becoming increasingly independent with putting on shoes, cleaning up after activities, choosing work and participating in daily routines. Everyday living curriculum played a big role in our classroom and multi step work activities were introduced. We are very proud of their progress.

Warm regards,

Toddler Montessori Team

# Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

November was a wonderful month filled with learning, exploration, and joyful moments in our Pre-Primary/ Kindergarten Montessori classrooms .

## Conference Highlights

One of the biggest highlights of the month was the Parent–Teacher Conference. We truly enjoyed seeing all of you. Thank you for attending, sharing your thoughts, and offering valuable input. Your support meant so much to us.

## Public Presentation

The public presentation was a big success. The friends confidently shared their knowledge, and we were so proud of them for covering topics such as the Human Body, North America, and the Five Senses. They showed great enthusiasm and understanding throughout the presentation.

## Peace Curriculum

We introduced the Peace song during our daily peace walk titled “I Think You’re Wonderful.” The friends enjoyed singing together and understanding the meaning of the song and we are discussing the importance of expressing kindness toward one another. They enjoy “ I think you are wonderful” necklace .

## Everyday Living / Practical Life

During November, we focused on activities such as baster squeezing and sponge squeezing. These practical life works strengthened the children’s fine-motor skills and improved their hand control.

## Food Preparation

The friends had fun practicing how to hull strawberries. This engaging food-preparation activity supported their hand coordination and growing independence. We all prepared the whole lunch together during Thanks giving celebration. It was a community effort. Kindergarten Montessori friends enjoyed serving lunch to everyone.

## Art

In connection with our monthly themes of the Human Body, North America and Thanksgiving, we prepared art activities that included cutting and coloring related pictures. These creative tasks encouraged self-expression and further supported fine-motor development.

## Sensorial

We explored several sensorial extensions, including matching Geometric Solids with their corresponding shapes from around the classroom materials. The hands-on work and the fun activities helped deepen the children's understanding of form, dimension, and visual discrimination. We all continue to use different Sensorial materials to develop our 5 senses and to gain foundational geometric understanding.

## Math

This month, our classrooms concentrated laying a solid foundation on numeration and linear counting. In decimal system, we introduced the 45-Layout, which helped the friends who were ready to develop a clearer understanding of place value and numeral organization. This work involves both physical and cognitive effort. It can be done with high concentration and discipline to put in time and effort to clean up after. Activities like these help develop Executive Functioning skills.

## Language

In Language, we are working in pre-language skills, phonics, reading, hand writing and grammar by following each child. We further worked on helping the children recognize their name by tracing their names on wax paper, which supported muscle memory and pre-writing development.

## Science

We are learning human body through various learning materials, activities, crafts, books, science based art sessions, in-house field trip by ophthalmologists and chiropractors.

## Geography

Our North America studies continued throughout the month. The children engaged in mapping activities, colored the flags of different North American countries, and learned about famous animals from various regions.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a joyful and productive December ahead!

Warm regards,

Pre Primary & Kindergarten Montessori Team



# Enrichment and Educational Programs

Hello Everyone!

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

## Hindi

This month in our Hindi class, we continued to enjoy learning fruits in Hindi as we all enjoyed learning this topic. The children reviewed fruit names, continued tasting different fruits, matched pictures with words, and played joyful memory games. We also began learning counting in Hindi, and the friends practiced numbers in a playful, movement-based way—counting their friends, objects, and steps while saying, “Ek, Do, Teen, Chaar...,” which helped them remember the numbers naturally and with enthusiasm.

## Mandarin:

In our Mandarin session, we learned body parts through fun songs and activities such as drawing each other's faces and dressing up with clown noses. We also explored animal body parts by focusing on special physical characteristics related to the five senses. The children enjoyed pretending to have a trunk by placing one on their noses and trying to use it! Another exciting activity involved learning about different foods animals eat through a hands-on sorting lesson.

### Body Parts

Ears – ěr duo (耳朵)

Nose – bí zi (鼻子)

Mouth – zuǐ ba (嘴巴)

Eyes – yǎn jīng (眼睛)

Hand – shǒu (手)

### Food Words

Carrot – hú luó bo (胡萝卜)

Cheese – nǎi lào (奶酪)

Corn – yù mǐ (玉米)

Banana – xiāng jiāo (香蕉)

Describing Taste

Yummy – hǎo chī (好吃)

## Spanish:

This month in Spanish class, our friends explored new vocabulary and practiced familiar phrases through songs, movement, and hands-on activities. November was full of joyful learning as we connected language to the children's everyday experiences.

### Otoño (Autumn)

We learned about the season of otoño (autumn) and talked about how leaves change colors and fall from the trees. The children created a special autumn craft using real leaves, exploring textures and colors while learning Spanish words such as:

hojas (leaves)

árbol (tree)

otoño (autumn)

rojo (red)

amarillo (yellow)

café (brown)

## **Partes del Cuerpo (Body Parts)**

We introduced and practiced the names of the partes del cuerpo humano (parts of the human body) in Spanish. The children labeled each part and repeated vocabulary such as:

cabeza (head)

ojos (eyes)

nariz (nose)

boca (mouth)

manos (hands)

brazos (arms)

piernas (legs)

pies (feet)

They enjoyed pointing to the picture and to their own bodies as they identified each part.

## **Música en Español (Music in Spanish)**

Canción del Cuerpo Humano (Body Parts Song)

A fun movement song that helped reinforce vocabulary through actions and repetition.

Canción de Buenos Días (Good Morning Song)

Our greeting song, helping friends start Spanish class with joy and enthusiasm.

## **Números (Numbers)**

We practiced counting in Spanish through: songs (canciones) fingers (dedos) and counting how many friends were present in class. Friends enjoyed participating in the counting routine and repeating the numbers together. Thank you!

## **Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :**

In Science-based art, the friends learned about chlorophyll and explored why leaves change colors during the fall. They extended their learning through a hands-on art activity by using Q-tips to paint colorful leaves on an empty tree trunk inspired by nature. The children were deeply engaged as they carefully dabbed their Q-tips into different fall-colored paints, creating beautiful patterns that reflected the vibrant shades of autumn leaves that had lost their chlorophyll. In another science-based project, we explored chemicals and chemical reactions. The friends used turmeric mixed with water, washing soda solution, vinegar, and Q-tips to observe how colors change during chemical reactions. They first painted with turmeric water and then used Q-tips dipped in washing soda to watch the turmeric turn a bright red-orange as it reacted with the base. When they applied vinegar, the color shifted back to yellow, showing how acids reverse the reaction. Through this hands-on experience, the children discovered how natural indicators like turmeric respond to acids and bases while creating vibrant artwork through an engaging acid-based color exploration.

## Art, Music and Theater

### Pre primary and Kindergarten Montessori :

In Art, Music, and Theater, Ms. Nancy helped us practice our dialogues for our theatrical production Frederick. We also created rocks to use as props for the play, turning it into a fun and engaging craft activity. Along with theater practice, the friends explored eighteen varieties of musical instruments and discovered that instruments can even be made using everyday objects, making the learning both creative and exciting.

### Soccer for After Care – Pre-Primary & Kindergarten Montessori Friends

Last month, we continued building our soccer skills with a special focus on defending. We also had a fun beach-themed session where the children pretended to surf, play in the sand, and explore the ocean through movement games. Alongside the physical activities, we highlighted the importance of leadership, encouraging the kids to practice teamwork, confidence, and positive communication.

To wrap up the season, we reviewed all the early learning flashcards and practiced the skills learned throughout the program. The children proudly earned their medals, celebrating all the hard work and progress they made this session!

### Special Events Update

#### Inhouse field trips :

##### Dr. Hill's Visit – Exploring the Skeleton

During our in-house field trip, Dr. Hill visited us again with Ardy the skeleton, giving the children a hands-on opportunity to touch and explore real bones. They learned the names of different bones, and as Ardy made various poses, the children happily copied them, making the experience fun and educational.

##### Vision Screening with the Ophthalmologist

We also had our vision screening with Amanda, our ophthalmologist, and reports were sent home. The friends learned about the importance of playing actively indoors and outdoors, avoiding too much screen time, and eating healthy foods to support strong vision and overall well-being.

##### Robotics Exploration

Our both robotics sessions were another exciting highlight. A middle school robotics team and a robotics coach introduced the children to two different versions of robots that could scoop a ball from the ground and throw it using a remote. The first robot could move only forward and backward, while the second robot could also move sideways. The children were fascinated and thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience.

##### Dr. Gregory's Presentation – Supporting the Whole Child

Dr. Gregory presented on the topic "Supporting the Whole Child: Movement, Nutrition, and Bone Strength." He explained the importance of essential vitamins, age-appropriate sleep with supporting data, proper daily water intake, regular exercise, and strategies for improving bone strength. His session was highly informative and very useful for our families.

## Cookery Sessions :

Date : 11/25/25

### Creamy corn

Time : 10 mins

#### INGREDIENTS

- Frozen corn - 24oz
- Heavy cream/Whole milk - 1/2cup
- Butter - 1 stick
- Salt
- Pepper
- Cream cheese - 8oz

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Place frozen corn into the Instant Pot.
- Add the butter and heavy cream/whole milk on top.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- Close the lid and set the valve to Sealing. Pressure cook on High for 2 minutes. Quick release when done.
- Open the lid and add the 8 oz cream cheese. Stir until the cream cheese melts and everything becomes creamy and well combined.
- Taste and adjust salt and pepper.
- Enjoy!

Date : 11/25/25

### Kodiak Pancake Recipe

Time : 10 mins

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup Kodiak pancake mix
- 1 cup milk (adjust for thickness)
- Butter for the pan
- Maple syrup (for serving)
- Fresh fruits (berries, banana slices, etc.)

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- In a bowl, mix Kodiak pancake mix and milk. Stir until just combined.
- Warm a nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat. Add a small amount of butter to lightly coat the surface.
- Pour 1/4 cup batter for each pancake. Cook until bubbles form on the surface and edges look set. Flip and cook the other side until golden brown.
- Top with maple syrup and fresh fruits of your choice.
- Enjoy!

Date : 11/25/25

## Vegetable Salad Recipe

Time : 10-15mins

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup cherry tomatoes (halved)
- 1 lemon (juice)
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 1-2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup shredded green cabbage
- 1 cup shredded purple cabbage
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 cucumber (thinly sliced or chopped)

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Add shredded green cabbage, purple cabbage, shredded carrots, cucumber slices, and halved cherry tomatoes to a large mixing bowl.
- In a small bowl or directly over the salad, add: Juice of one lemon, Olive oil, Salt, Pepper.
- Toss gently until all vegetables are coated with the dressing.
- Enjoy immediately or chill in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes for extra crispiness.

Date : 11/25/25

## Fruit Salad

Time : 10 mins

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup strawberries (hulled and sliced)
- 2 cups melon (cubed) – cantaloupe or honeydew
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup raspberries
- 1-2 tsp honey or maple syrup (optional)
- 1 tsp lemon juice or orange juice (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Wash strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries gently.
- Hull and slice the strawberries.
- Cube the melon into bite-sized pieces.
- In a small cup, mix honey (or maple syrup) with lemon/orange juice.
- Use a spoon to lightly mix the fruits—don't crush the berries.
- Serve immediately or refrigerate for 20-30 minutes to chill.

Warm regards,  
The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



# Parent Education

Avoid Judging Children: Choosing Observation and Understanding Over Labels :

<https://www.banyanmontessori.com/avoid-judging-children-choosing-observation-and-understanding-over-labels/>



# Upcoming events

## **Upcoming Events in December :**

Dec 16 : Holiday gifts to children at Detroit Medical Center please give by then . Can be in a gift bag no gift wrapping please.

Dec 19 : Pre-primary Montessori Theater Performance – Time and place to be determined . Will let you know by Dec 5.

Dec 24–26 : No School (Holiday (24,25) + Professional Development (26))

Dec 29–Jan 2 : Winter Break

Jan 5- School Resumes