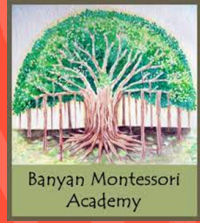


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

December 2025



Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Toddler Families,

December has been a joyful and meaningful month in our Toddler classroom. Through hands-on activities, social interaction, and sensorial exploration, friends engaged in learning experiences that supported curiosity, concentration, and independence. Below is a snapshot of what we explored this month.

Holidays Around the World This month, we introduced friends to Christmas celebrations around the world in a simple and age-appropriate way. We talked about how families decorate their homes, gather together, listen to music, and share special moments during this holiday season.

Friends also enjoyed creating Christmas-themed drawings and simple crafts, allowing them to express creativity while strengthening fine motor skills. These activities helped reinforce the idea that Christmas is a time for family, kindness, and joy, while building a sense of community within our classroom.

Classification: Sound / No Sound Friends explored objects that make sound and those that do not through hands-on sensorial work. By shaking, tapping, and listening carefully, they practiced focusing their attention and refining their auditory awareness.

This activity supported: - Auditory discrimination - Concentration and listening skills - Early classification

Classification: Rough / Smooth Through tactile exploration, friends worked with materials that felt rough or smooth. By touching, comparing, and naming textures, they strengthened their sensory awareness, vocabulary, and fine motor skills.

This work supports: - Sensory development - Language growth - Fine motor coordination

Ground Rules and Community Living Throughout the month, we continued reinforcing our classroom ground rules and expectations for community living. Friends practiced walking feet, using gentle hands, waiting for their turn, and using respectful voices. These daily reminders help support cooperation, independence, and a peaceful classroom environment.

Looking Ahead As we move into the new year, we will continue supporting friends through meaningful Montessori work that nurtures independence, confidence, and concentration.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you and your family a warm, joyful, and peaceful holiday season.

With gratitude,

The Toddler Team

Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

Dear Parents, As we approach the end of the year, we are excited to share the wonderful progress our students have made throughout the month of December in various areas of learning

Public Presentation

The public presentation was a wonderful success. The friends confidently shared their knowledge and proudly presented a variety of topics, including Migration and Hibernation, Michigan, Holidays Around the World, and Parts of Plants. They demonstrated great enthusiasm, confidence, and understanding throughout the presentation. We were extremely proud of their efforts and growth.

Peace Curriculum

During December, we introduced the Love Light as part of our peace curriculum. The friends learned that although we may be different in many ways, peace remains the same all around the world. This lesson helped children develop respect, empathy, and kindness toward one another.

Everyday Living and Practical Life

This month, we focused on practical life activities such as washing the doll, shoe polishing, and liquid pouring. These activities strengthened fine motor skills, hand control, and concentration. We also introduced funnel pouring on the everyday life shelf, which quickly became a favorite among friends.

Food Preparation

The friends enjoyed learning how to juice an orange. This engaging food preparation activity supported hand-eye coordination and encouraged independence. The friends were very excited and took great pride in completing the work on their own.

Art and Theatre

In art and theatre, the friends performed a play called Frederick. This experience allowed them to act, express emotions, and learn meaningful lessons from the story. A special thank you to Ms Nancy for her support, guidance, and teaching throughout this wonderful performance.

Sensorial

This month's sensorial activities included matching card sets from the geometric cabinets, which enhanced visual discrimination and geometric understanding. The friends also explored painting at the easel, encouraging creativity, self-expression, and fine motor development.

Math

In mathematics, the friends explored dynamic layouts that supported spatial awareness and problem-solving skills. Kindergarten students worked on simple addition and four-digits addition using small and large decimal card layouts. We also introduced the concept of squaring through a sensory approach, allowing children to experience numbers in a concrete and meaningful way.

ELA Language

In English Language Arts, the children practiced recognizing and forming uppercase letters. They participated in story writing activities at the writing table, and some of our young authors began creating their own books using three-letter words. It was wonderful to see their confidence, creativity, and love for writing grow.

Science

This month, science lessons focused on topics such as the United States, Michigan, migration, hibernation, and botany. The friends enjoyed hands on experiences, including planting seeds, learning about plant growth, and exploring the natural world around them.

Geography

Our Michigan studies continued throughout the month. The friends engaged in mapping activities, colored flags, and learned about famous animals from different regions of Michigan. These activities helped strengthen their geographic awareness and cultural understanding.

Holidays Around the World

The friends took a journey around the world by learning about holiday traditions and celebrations from different cultures. This experience broadened their understanding of global customs and encouraged appreciation for diversity.

We are very proud of the progress the friends made this month and grateful for their enthusiasm and hard work. We look forward to many more exciting learning experiences in the new year.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Warm regards,

Pre Primary & Kindergarten Montessori Team



Enrichment and Educational Programs

Hello Everyone!

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

Hindi

In December, our friends were joyfully introduced to Hindi colors. They learned the names of colors such as red (laal) and yellow (peela) through engaging and meaningful activities. The friends showed great excitement while listening, repeating, and identifying the colors in Hindi, which helped build their vocabulary and confidence.

To reinforce learning, the friends participated in a picture sorting activity. They carefully sorted pictures of fruits according to their matching colors. This hands-on activity supported visual coordination.

We also enjoyed an exciting color scavenger hunt. The friends formed Team A, Team B, and Team C and worked together to find objects of different colors around the classroom. Teamwork, cooperation, and communication were beautifully displayed as everyone supported one another.

The day ended with smiles and laughter. It truly felt like everyone was a winner, as all the friends learned together while having a lot of fun through these joyful Hindi language activities.

Mandarin:

In our recent Mandarin session, the children explored the fascinating concept of shadows using a shadow box activity. They carefully observed different shadows and joyfully identified and named animals such as a zebra, giraffe, monkey, lion, and elephant by matching the shapes they saw. This activity strengthened observation skills and vocabulary while sparking curiosity and imagination. We also took time to revise previous topics by reviewing fruits, vegetables, and body parts through interactive discussions and recall games, helping children confidently connect new learning with what they already know.

Animals (Shadows)

Zebra – bān mǎ (斑马)

Giraffe – cháng jǐng lù (长颈鹿)

Monkey – hóu zi (猴子)

Lion – shī zi (狮子)

Elephant – dà xiàng (大象)

Review – Body Parts

Eyes – yǎn jīng (眼睛)

Nose – bí zi (鼻子)

Mouth – zuǐ ba (嘴巴)

Hand – shǒu (手)

Review – Fruits & Vegetables

Apple – píng guǒ (苹果)

Banana – xiāng jiāo (香蕉)

Carrot – hú luó bo (胡萝卜)

Corn – yù mǐ (玉米)

This combination of hands-on exploration and thoughtful revision made the session both meaningful and fun for our friends!

Spanish:

During the month of December, our Spanish class continued to be a joyful space for learning and language exploration. Friends engaged in activities that supported vocabulary development, listening skills, and early communication in Spanish.

Spanish Class This month, friends explored and practiced vocabulary related to geometric shapes and animals through songs, visuals, and hands-on activities. Below are some of the geometric shapes we introduced:

Geometric Shapes: - Círculo (Circle) - Cuadrado (Square) - Rectángulo (Rectangle) - Rombo (Rhombus) - Pentágono (Pentagon)

We also continued reviewing foundational concepts such as numbers and colors, reinforcing them through repetition, games, and daily conversations. Consistent exposure helps build confidence and

familiarity with the language.

Throughout the month, friends practiced simple and meaningful Spanish phrases, including: - Buenos días (Good morning) - ¿Cómo estás? (How are you?) - Hola (Hello) - Adiós (Goodbye) - Hoy es... (Today is...)

These phrases are naturally incorporated into our daily routine to support understanding and language exposure.

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

Temperature and States of matter : This month, friends studied the concepts of heating and cooling. They explored how water changes when heat is added and removed, observing that water can warm and turn into vapor when heated and cool and freeze into ice when exposed to cold temperatures. As an extension of their learning, friends used snow colored with food coloring to paint, allowing them to explore temperature, texture, and changes in matter through a hands-on sensory experience

Art, Music and Theater

Theater Experience – Frederick by Leo Lionni: Our children practiced, rehearsed, and proudly performed Frederick by Leo Lionni at the Motor City Theater, bringing a beloved storybook to life on a real stage. With a beautifully lit, professional theater setting and an engaging stage, our friends experienced firsthand how stories transform into live performances. The parents were a wonderful, supportive audience, and the children confidently sang “Light a Candle for Peace,” making the performance truly meaningful. This experience helped our 3–6 year old children develop executive functioning skills such as focus, memory, confidence, emotional regulation, and performing before an audience. The children were fantastic actors, fully aware of stage presence and audience engagement. A video of this special performance is available on our Instagram page.

Amazing Athletes – Pre-Primary & Kindergarten Montessori Friends

Amazing Athletes kindly provided a free demo session, during which our friends explored fun warm-up activities and the basics of football. The children were excited to move, stretch, and practice new skills in an engaging and energetic environment. Beginning January 6, Amazing Athletes sessions will be held every Tuesday during aftercare for our Pre-Primary and Kindergarten Montessori friends. Each week, children will be introduced to two different sports, giving them exposure to a variety of activities that support overall physical growth, coordination, teamwork, and the use of different muscle groups and motor skills.

Example :

January

Week1- Soccer + Lacrosse

Week2- Basketball + Baseball

Week3- Track+field + Golf

Week4- Volleyball + Tennis

Special Events Update

Inhouse field trips :

Special Performance & Celebration:

We were delighted to welcome Jenny Florkowski, a Broadway artist, to Banyan Montessori Academy for a truly unique and rare experience. Jenny gave a beautiful dance performance for all our classrooms and thoughtfully choreographed a joyful reindeer dance, which the children enthusiastically learned and performed with her. Adding to the magic of the month, Santa visited our school and surprised our friends with a special gift, a dance pole with colorful streamers and a bell, making the month memorable, festive, and full of movement and joy.

Cookery Sessions :

Date : 12/18/25

Strawberry Santa

Time : 5 mins

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh strawberries
- Reddi-wip (whipped cream)
- Mini chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS

- Wash the strawberries and gently pat them dry.
- Cut off the green top of the strawberry so it sits flat.
- Cut a small slice from the pointed end, this will be the top of Santa's hat.
- Place a small swirl of Reddi wip on the flat base of the strawberry.
- Put the strawberry (cut side down) on top of the whipped cream.
- Gently press two mini chocolate chips into the whipped cream for Santa's eyes.

Warm regards,
The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



Parent Education

Cold Weather Doesn't Cause Illness: Understanding the Seasonal Sickness Myth

[Cold Weather Doesn't Cause Illness: Understanding the Seasonal Sickness Myth | Banyan Montessori Academy](#)

Upcoming events

Upcoming Events in January/February :

Important dates

Jan 5 : School Resumes

Jan 21: Sewing with Rebekah

Jan 19 : MLK Jr. Day – No School

Jan 24 (10 to 11 am): Science based art with Ms. Anuja at Canton library. Parent child event. (Tentative)

Feb 5 : Re-enrollment & Summer Forms Available

Feb 9 : Re-enrollment Discount Deadline


Feb 10 : Webinar – 6 PM (Benefits of Mixed-Age Classrooms)

Feb 16–18 : Mid-Winter Break – No School

Feb 23 : Last Day to Submit Enrollment Forms


New & Exciting Events Ahead!

We are thrilled to share two wonderful events planned for our community:

 January (Date to be determined)

Science-Based Art Session at Canton Public Library

A hands-on, creativity-meets-science experience for our children! This special session will be held at the Canton Library and is designed for parents and children to participate together, making it a meaningful and engaging family learning experience.

 May 9 (Tentative) | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Young Entrepreneurs Market – Encouraging Entrepreneurs of All Ages

Children (and parents!) are invited to sell crafts, handmade items, any of your useful creations or a product that you innovated. This is a wonderful opportunity to nurture creativity, confidence, responsibility, and real-world skills.

Please invite your friends and family to come support our young entrepreneurs and their hard work.

✓ Free Registration

✓ A registration form will be sent home in February, along with the pre-conference questionnaire

We are incredibly excited to celebrate creativity, curiosity, and leadership within our community!

Thank you for your continued support!