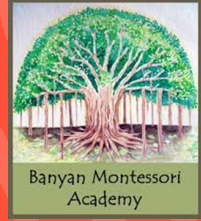


Banyan Montessori Academy

# Newsletter



February 2026

## Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Toddler Families,

February has been a beautiful month of exploration, hands-on discovery, and growing independence in our Toddler classroom. We are seeing so much growth in concentration, coordination, language, and confidence. Our friends continue strengthening their ability to choose work, complete it, and care for their environment with increasing intention.

Geography: Lake and Island

This month we introduced the concepts of lake and island in a simple and concrete way. A lake is water surrounded by land. An island is land surrounded by water. Through hands-on demonstrations and visual materials, our friends explored these ideas using observation and discussion. These early geography lessons help expand vocabulary while developing spatial awareness and curiosity about the world around them.

Science: Magnetism

We explored the exciting concept of magnetism. Our friends experimented with magnets and discovered which objects are magnetic, which objects are not magnetic, and how magnets attract certain metals. This work encouraged curiosity, prediction, and problem-solving. Our friends were very engaged in testing different materials and observing what happened.

Science: Solid and Liquid

We introduced the difference between solid and liquid through simple, hands-on experiences. Our friends observed that solids keep their shape and liquids flow and take the shape of their container. These early science explorations support observation skills, language development, and foundational scientific thinking.

Everyday Living (Practical Life)

We introduced new water activities to support independence and fine motor development, including using a dropper and pouring water from one container to another. These activities strengthen hand-eye coordination, control of movement, concentration, and independence.

Water work is especially engaging at this age and encourages careful, intentional movements while caring for the environment.

Math: Oral Series & Number Recognition

In Math, we are practicing oral counting, recognizing written numbers, and counting objects using one-to-one correspondence. We are helping our friends connect spoken numbers with written numerals and

match them to quantities. These foundational math experiences are presented in a joyful and hands-on way to build confidence and understanding.

### Valentine's Day Activities

For Valentine's Day, friends participated in art activities and creative projects. We made crafts, used paint, worked on coloring sheets, and read books related to the theme.

We talked about ways we show love and care through kind words and gentle actions. It was a joyful day filled with smiles and connection.

### Food Preparation

This month, friends participated in hands-on food preparation activities that supported independence, fine motor skills, and practical life development.

Friends prepared:

- Yogurt with banana (Sliced banana)
- Guacamole with chips
- Picking grapes

During these activities, friends practiced peeling, slicing, scooping, and carefully handling food items. Food preparation encourages concentration, coordination, and confidence while also fostering healthy eating habits and a sense of accomplishment.

Friends also practiced dish washing after snack time by washing their own plates. This meaningful routine strengthens responsibility, independence, and care for the classroom environment.

These experiences allow friends to take pride in their work and enjoy the results together.

Warm regards, Toddler Montessori Staff

## Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

We've had an exciting and educational February! Here's a look at all the wonderful activities your child has experienced this month:

### Language Development

This month, we focused on complex sorting and matching activities that encouraged our friends to think critically and organize objects by size, color, and shape. We also introduced rhyming words, a fun way to strengthen their phonemic awareness. They practiced recognizing similar sounds and connecting words that rhyme, laying a foundation for reading and writing. In addition, we began our exploration of phonograms, helping them understand letter combinations that produce unique sounds. This will be a great step toward building their reading skills. Moveable alphabets, story writing, reading books and phonics series books all are developing our language abilities and skills.

### Math

In math, the friends worked on cubing chains, a hands-on activity that helps them understand sequences and counting. They were thrilled to explore the process of addition through fun activities that promoted number recognition and simple calculations. Additionally, we reviewed with friends the Money work

and explored the Rules of Measurement, building awareness of quantity, value, and cooperation through hands-on experiences. wonderful focus and growing independence.

### Sensorial

We introduced botanical cabinets with matching cards, allowing the friends to engage their senses by touching and observing different plant materials. This sensory activity enhanced their vocabulary and helped them connect the natural world to their learning experience.

### Everyday living ( Practical life):

We introduced the new food prep activity called salad dressing , carefully mixing ingredients, and understanding the process of preparation. We also worked on various pouring , spooning , tonging activities using ceramic and glass containers. We worked with fishing rods in a water activity. We are stringing , lacing , practicing varieties of open and close and more.

### Geography

We began our journey around the world by learning about Africa, diving into its geography, culture, and animals. Our friends loved exploring the common animals of Africa, from lions to elephants, through hands-on activities and discussions. A map of africa we used a pushpinu activity.

### Science

This month in science, we explored the oceans. Through matching activities, the friends matched different sea creatures with pictures and names, expanding their understanding of these fascinating subjects. We also introduced a variety of new books related to these topics, providing even more opportunities for reading, research and learning.

### Art & Craft

In celebration of Valentine's Day, we introduced some fun art and craft activities, where the friends created beautiful Valentine's Day cards for their parents and friends. These heartfelt creations were loved by all, and it was so special to see our friends express their love and creativity through their cards.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to even more exciting activities in March!  
Warm regards, Pre-Primary and Kindergarten staff

Warm regards,

Pre Primary & Kindergarten Montessori Team



## Enrichment and Educational Programs

Hello Everyone!

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

### Hindi

This month in our Hindi class, we reviewed the names of many birds we learned earlier, such as parrot (tota) and owl (ullu). The friends had a wonderful time practicing these words through fun, hands-on activities.

To make our revision more exciting, we completed several creative projects:

We made a peacock (moor) using colorful handprint paint.

We decorated a duck (batak) using real feathers and glue.

We colored beautiful pigeon (kabootar) coloring sheets.

These activities helped students remember bird names in a playful and interactive way. Learning with friends made the experience even more enjoyable, and everyone participated with great enthusiasm.

We look forward to more fun Hindi learning in the coming months.

### **Spanish:**

This month in Spanish class, friends explored Los Cinco Sentidos (The Five Senses) through hands-on, interactive learning stations designed especially for their age. The classroom was organized into different sensory stations where friends were able to experience each sense in a concrete and meaningful way:

**Vista (Sight):** Friends used magnifying glasses to closely observe insects and rocks. This encouraged careful observation and curiosity. Friends practiced describing what they saw using simple Spanish vocabulary while strengthening visual discrimination and attention to detail.

**Oído (Hearing):** Friends listened to different sounds and worked on identifying them. We discussed which body part we use to hear and practiced repeating related Spanish words. This activity supported listening skills and vocabulary development.

**Tacto (Touch):** Friends explored different textures including rice, sand, and small foam balls. They described how each material felt while strengthening sensory awareness, language development, and fine motor skills.

**Olfato (Smell):** Friends smelled different scents including vanilla, chocolate, lemon, and cinnamon. We talked about whether the smells were sweet, strong, or familiar while reinforcing Spanish vocabulary and sensory recognition.

**Gusto (Taste):** Friends tasted sweet and salty foods while identifying which sense we use to taste. We practiced simple vocabulary related to flavors and encouraged friends to describe what they experienced.

In addition to the stations, friends completed sorting activities related to the five senses. They sorted pictures and objects by identifying which sense is used, strengthening classification skills, vocabulary recognition, and early critical thinking.

**Valentine's Day Bingo Activity:** Friends also enjoyed a fun and engaging Valentine's Day Bingo activity. The bingo cards included vocabulary such as corazones (hearts), carta (card), color rojo (red), and amor

(love). Friends practiced listening carefully, identifying images, and matching Spanish vocabulary. This activity supported language development, vocabulary recognition, concentration, and turn-taking skills – all while learning in a joyful and interactive way

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

#### **Reflection #1**

Friends explored the concept of mirrors and reflection through an engaging, hands-on experience. They were fascinated to observe how reflections work and enjoyed discovering how images appear, flip, and change when reflected. To extend their learning, we concluded with a creative craft activity connected to the concept of reflection. Friends painted trees (triangles) green on one side of their paper

while leaving the other half plain. They then painted the plain side blue to represent water and carefully folded the paper in half. With great excitement, they observed how the colors transferred from one side to the other, creating a beautiful mirrored effect. This fun and interactive activity reinforced their understanding of reflection while encouraging creativity, observation, and exploration.

## Reflection #2

We explored how mirrors reflect light and help us see ourselves, then wondered what would happen if we used more than one mirror.

When two mirrors faced each other, we saw many reflections repeating again and again, almost like they would go on forever. A disco ball showed us how tiny mirrors can scatter light all around the room. With a concave mirror, our reflections appeared much bigger and funny. We also discovered a hologram illusion using two concave mirrors, where a tiny frog looked real but could not be touched. Looking through a kaleidoscope, we observed how mirrors create beautiful, ever-changing patterns.

Inspired by these discoveries, friends created mirror art by drawing a heart-like shape and placing two mirrors along the outline. The reflection completed their designs, transforming their artwork into something magical.

## Physics Exploration This Month: Force

Our friends explored the fascinating world of forces! The study began with the simple yet powerful concept of push and pull, helping children understand that objects move when force is applied. Through engaging, hands-on activities, each type of force was introduced in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. Friends carefully observed how objects move and interact in the world around them.

We explored several types of forces:

**Push and Pull:** Friends discovered that objects move when we push or pull them, strengthening their understanding of motion.

**Gravity:** Children learned that the Earth pulls objects downward — which is why things fall. A thoughtful question about why zippers do not slide down because of gravity led to a rich discussion about friction. Using a rough foil ball, Ms. Bhargavi demonstrated how different surfaces create varying levels of friction and how rougher surfaces slow movement.

**Magnetic Force:** Friends explored magnets and observed how they attract certain metal objects. They learned that unlike poles attract while like poles repel.

**Elastic Force:** Using stretchy materials such as rubber bands, children observed that elastic force is created when something is stretched and then released.

**Buoyancy:** Through water exploration, friends learned why some objects float while others sink. They observed that lighter or less dense objects tend to float, while heavier or denser objects sink. A low-density ball floating in water provided a clear, hands-on example. Friends also noticed how light refracts in water, making the submerged portion of an object appear larger.

It was a month filled with curiosity, thoughtful questions, and joyful scientific discovery as our friends deepened their understanding of the physical world.

## **Art, Music and Theater**

Ms. Nancy led a joyful and enriching Arts, Music, and Theater session filled with creativity, movement, and meaningful learning. She began with the classic game “Doggy, Doggy, Where Is Your Bone?” where one child hid the bone while friends mindfully searched around the classroom. This peaceful and engaging activity encouraged respect for one another’s space, careful observation, focus, and curiosity.

Ms. Nancy then introduced a beautiful caterpillar craft connected to The Very Hungry Caterpillar and our ongoing play. The craft thoughtfully incorporated a simple machine — a screw — to connect each segment of the caterpillar. Each segment represented a day from the story, creating a seamless connection between art, science, and storytelling while reinforcing sequence and continuity.

Friends were delighted as Ms. Nancy showcased a wide variety of puppets, including scarf puppets, pencil puppets, stick puppets, beanie puppets, glove puppets, sock puppets, dish sponge puppets, felt hand puppets, bag puppets, and several caterpillar toys. The highlight of the session was when friends confidently performed their own puppet shows in the puppet theater. With Ms. Nancy’s gentle guidance, each child came forward to present, building confidence, public speaking skills, creativity, and expressive language.

The session continued with music from The Very Hungry Caterpillar play. Ms. Nancy played the ukulele and taught seven songs representing the seven days of the week, along with a cocoon song and a butterfly song. Friends joyfully sang along, strengthening rhythm, listening skills, and memory.

To conclude the session, Ms. Nancy choreographed a lively scarf dance called the Clock Scarf Song. The dance included bouncing, sideways steps, swirling and stirring motions, tossing and catching scarves, and balancing scarves on their heads — all while following the rhythm and beat. This activity beautifully supported coordination, balance, and musical awareness.

Overall, it was a highly engaging and productive Arts, Music, and Theater experience that nurtured creativity, confidence, coordination, and joyful expression

## **Amazing Athletes – Pre-Primary & Kindergarten Montessori Friends**

This month, our Amazing Athletes stayed active, focused, and full of energy as they built coordination, balance, strength, and confidence through engaging weekly activities. During one week, they warmed up with jumps, ladders, and obstacle courses, wiggled like Oscar Octopus in Muscle Zoo, learned about the benefits of pears for fiber and energy, and practiced underhand throwing and target skills before developing basketball and tennis fundamentals such as rebounds, catching, volleys, and forehand swings. In the other week, they focused on balance and agility with wiggles, leaps, and obstacle courses, strengthened their legs with Karlo Kangaroo, learned about eggplant as a power food, practiced single-leg holds and flamingo freezes, and built skills in volleyball and baseball/softball including bumping, serving, base running, and pop fly catches. In one other week, they prepared with stretches and skips, strengthened their arms with Ben Bear, learned about lemons for power, practiced kicking for distance and accuracy, and developed soccer and lacrosse skills such as dribbling, drop kicks, cradling, and high catches. Overall, the month was filled with movement, teamwork, skill-building, and fun, and our athletes demonstrated wonderful growth in coordination, balance, strength, and confidence.

## Irio

Time : 30 mins

### INGREDIENTS

- 2-½ pounds Potatoes
- 1-½ cups Green peas
- 1-½ cups Corn
- 2 tablespoon Butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Peel the potatoes and cut each into evenly sized chunks - about an inch thick.
- Put the potatoes, Peas, and corn in a large stockpot and add enough water so that the water line sits about 1 inch above the potatoes.
- Leave to cook on medium-high for about 15 to 20 minutes or till the potatoes are tender.
- Drain the excess water (if any) but leave about four tablespoons inside the pot for easy mashing.
- Season with salt and black pepper, and mash with a wooden spoon or potato masher until all potatoes are nicely mashed.
- Stir the butter into the mixture.
- Serve hot and enjoy!

Warm regards,  
The Banyan Montessori Enrichment Team



# Parent Education

## Please Stay...Here's Why

<https://amshq.org/blog/ages-2-and-a-half-to-six/2018-10-01-please-stay-here-is-why/>

## Upcoming events

### March

March 6- Sewing Session with Ms. Rebecca

March 8- Open house for new families

Mar 12 : Spring PT Conferences – Zoom

Mar 13 : Spring PT Conferences – In-Person (No School)

Mar 20 : Professional Development

### April

Apr 1–3 : Spring Break & Good Friday – No School

Apr 7 : School Picture Day

Apr 14 : Picture Retake Day

Apr 17 : Gardening Outdoors with Dr. Christina

Apr 25: Presentation on Attention Deficit Disorder, and Vision Problems -11:15 am at Canton Public Library

### May

May 6 : Webinar – 6 PM ( Montessori Games)

May 8 : Book Fair

May 9: Entrepreneurs Market ( All Ages)

May 25 : Memorial Day – No School

May 29 : Hurray! Yellow School Bus Field Trip! (Venue to be decided. Extra Fee of \$30/child Applies+ signed permission form required. Date and fees Tentative)

### June

June 11 : Summer PT Conferences – Zoom

June 12 : Summer PT Conferences – In-Person (No School)

June 19 : Half Day – Year-End Event (Tentative)

June 23 : Food Drive Donations Due

June 24 : Half Day – Last Day of School

June 29- Summer Montessori begins

### **New & Exciting Events Ahead!**

💡 May 9 | 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!