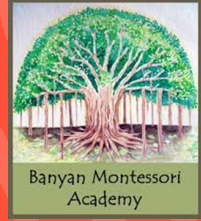


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter



May 2026

Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Toddler Families,

During the month of May, our classroom explored a variety of exciting topics through hands-on experiences, observation, and movement.

Friends were introduced to the concept of Float and Sink, making predictions and discovering which objects stay on the surface of the water and which ones sink. This simple science exploration encouraged curiosity, observation, and early problem-solving skills as friends tested different materials and compared their results.

We also spent time learning about Birds, discussing their characteristics, habitats, and different types of birds. Friends enjoyed exploring bird vocabulary, looking at pictures and books, and learning about how birds move, eat, build nests, bird watching and care for their young.

Our study of Insects sparked great interest as friends explored insect figures, vocabulary cards, and observed real insects on the playground, helping them connect classroom learning with the natural world. Through these experiences, they learned about different types of insects, their body parts, and the important roles they play in nature.

Life Cycles was another important focus this month. Friends explored the life cycles of a butterfly, chicken, and frog, learning how living things grow and change over time. Through books, discussions, vocabulary cards, and hands-on activities, they observed the different stages of each life cycle and developed a deeper understanding of the natural world.

With the arrival of warmer weather, we were excited to spend more time outdoors engaging in gross motor activities. Friends enjoyed working in the sandbox, practicing pulling and carrying materials, running, jumping, kicking balls, and participating in movement activities that supported coordination, balance, strength, and body awareness.

In Everyday Living, friends continued developing independence through meaningful daily tasks. During snack preparation, they practiced spreading cream cheese and guacamole, peeling oranges, and serving themselves. They also enjoyed a special food preparation activity featuring pancakes with maple syrup. After snack, friends continued practicing responsibility by washing their own snack dishes and helping care for the classroom environment.

Thank you for your continued support. We love watching the friends grow in confidence, independence, and curiosity each day.

Warm regards, Toddler Montessori Staff

Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

May was a great month of learning, fun and exploration. We are sharing few details on some of the many works and lessons learned and presented in different curriculum areas:

Language:

This month, friends continued to work on pre-language skills such as matching, sorting, sequencing, classification, puzzles, beginning sounds, and final sounds. For friends who were 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 the middle sound can be.

Exploration of rhyming words and storytelling continues to be an ongoing process in our classroom. Friends are enjoying continued practice with blending and segmenting sounds in fun and engaging ways.

We also continued refining 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 proper 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 a joyful form of expression. The classroom is full of little authors and readers in the making!

We are also learning about opposites and verbs.

In our Montessori environment, friends develop literacy skills through a multi-sensory approach. We follow each child's interests 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 read.

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. Geometric cabinet and leaf cabinets are extensively used.

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 also preparing them for pre-math activities.

Science

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

Birds -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 and books that sparked curiosity and discovery.

Geography

Welcome to Australia!

In Geography, we introduced the continent of Australia. Friends were especially fascinated by Australian cultural elements explored through maps, flags, music, and discussions about animals unique to Australia. Our book on Australia will be published soon. Thank You , to Mrs.Deisi for doing a great presentation on Brazil. It was so much fun to know the meaning of the flag, learning some Portuguese, watching the Macaws and tasting some treats.

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 children 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. Maria Montessori was a genius in simplifying big mathematical concepts into materials that 3- to 6-year-old friends love to use and master. Friends are working in different areas of math, including:

Pre-Math

Numeration

Linear Counting

Decimal System

Our kindergarteners and friends who are ready are also working with multiplication and division concepts.

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 friends practiced caring for themselves and their environment in purposeful and meaningful ways.

We introduced new challenges such as:

Transferring with smaller spoons

Pouring between narrow-neck vessels

Using tongs or tweezers for small object transfer

These activities help friends feel capable, careful, and calm.

Pouring & Spooning

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

Hand control and precision

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

Focus and patience

Materials varied from beans, rice, and water to other practical materials. As friends mastered these skills, their confidence continued to grow.

Food Preparation

This month, we were excited to engage in new food preparation activities, including making rice bowls with beans and pasta bowls with salsa. Food prep activities such as - Juicing oranges and making lemonade were always busy.

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

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

Traditional Indian Clothing

This month, we explored beautiful traditional Indian clothing and learned the Hindi names for different outfits, including:

Sari (साड़ी)

Kurta (कुर्ता)

Salwar Kameez (सलवार कमीज़)

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

Friends enjoyed learning new Hindi vocabulary while discussing colors, fabrics, and clothing styles. Many children were excited to repeat and remember the Hindi names throughout the day!

Spanish:

This month in Spanish class, we celebrated Mexican culture as part of our Cultural Month activities. Friends were introduced to important elements of Mexico through music, movement, vocabulary, and hands-on discussions.

We also learned about Cinco de Mayo, exploring its significance in Mexican culture. Friends were introduced to some of the symbols, traditions, colors, music, and celebrations associated with Cinco de Mayo through stories, pictures, conversations, and cultural activities. This helped them gain a greater appreciation for Mexico's rich heritage and traditions.

We listened to and danced to traditional Mexican music, giving friends an opportunity to experience some of the sounds and rhythms that are an important part of Mexican culture. We also explored

examples of traditional clothing and discussed how clothing can represent a country's heritage and traditions.

Throughout the month, friends were introduced to vocabulary that represents Mexican culture. Some of the words we practiced included:

- Taco – Taco
- Avocado – Aguacate
- Tortilla – Tortilla
- Cactus – Nopal
- Mexican Flag – Bandera de México
- Sombrero – Sombrero
- Mariachi – Mariachi
- Piñata – Piñata
- Corn – Elote
- Guitar – Guitarra
- Mexico – México

Thank You – Gracias!

Science based Art session with Ms. Anuja :

This month was all about gravity - the invisible force that pulls everything toward the Earth. We learned about Isaac Newton and how a falling fruit inspired one of the most important scientific discoveries about gravity.

To explore this concept through art, we created "Splat Art." Just as the name suggests, splat art is made by splattering colors onto paper. Instead of using regular art tools, we let gravity guide our creativity! We dipped cotton balls and bead chains into different colors and dropped them onto paper placed on the floor. As gravity pulled them downward, they created beautiful and unexpected patterns.

Our next session also focused on gravity, inspired by one of our favorite summer activities, playground slides. We talked about how climbing up a ladder takes effort because we are moving against gravity, while sliding down happens naturally with just a little push because gravity pulls us downward.

To understand this idea better, we created another exciting art activity. We used bubble-wrap rolling pins, marbles, paint, and slanted surfaces to experiment with movement. The children pushed the rolling pins upward "against gravity," while the marbles rolled down the slope on their own..

Physics Session with Ms. Bhargavi

During the month of May, we explored the fascinating concept of **balance** with our Pre-Primary and Kindergarten Montessori friends. It was an exciting hands-on learning experience as the children experimented with different objects to discover their points of balance. They eagerly observed, tested, and adjusted each object, developing their curiosity and problem-solving skills along the way.

The joy on their faces as they successfully balanced objects was truly delightful! Through play and exploration, the children learned that balance is all about finding the right point where an object can stay steady. This engaging activity encouraged observation, patience, concentration, and teamwork while making science fun and meaningful.

It was wonderful to see our young learners learning through discovery, experimentation, and lots of laughter!

Art, Music and Theater

In our Art, Music, and Theater session, Ms. Nancy engaged the children in a joyful and expressive experience. The Pre-Primary friends continued rehearsing for the Frederick play, building confidence as they practiced their roles. She also introduced a new team-based song with coordinated actions, encouraging collaboration, rhythm, and memory. The children further explored their creativity by making props for the play, taking ownership of their performance. With our Toddler Montessori friends, Ms. Nancy brought in fun songs, movement activities, and simple charades, creating a lively environment that supported language development, imagination, and joyful participation.

Amazing Athletes – Pre-Primary & Kindergarten Montessori After Care Friends

During the month of May, our Amazing Athletes enjoyed an exciting variety of sports, fitness activities, and skill-building challenges. Friends practiced football, lacrosse, basketball, hockey, volleyball, and baseball/softball skills while developing coordination, balance, strength, agility, and teamwork. Weekly warm-ups included stretches, ladder drills, obstacle courses, jumping activities, and movement games that helped strengthen gross motor development. Athletes also learned about healthy foods such as bananas, corn, eggplant, and watermelon, and explored how nutrition supports strong and healthy bodies. Through Muscle Zoo characters and engaging motor development activities, children worked on running, kicking, catching, throwing, balancing, jumping, and body control. The month concluded with Spring Evaluations, allowing friends to proudly demonstrate the progress they have made throughout the season. It was a month filled with movement, confidence-building, learning, and fun!

Parent Education

Montessori made simple with Simone Davies

<https://blog.lovevery.com/podcast/montessori-made-simple-with-simone-davies/>

Upcoming events

June

June 2 : Explore the concept of Light with Ms.Anuja at Canton Public Library

June 11 : Summer PT Conferences – Zoom

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

June 19 : Half Day – Year-End Event

June 19 : Year-End event at Liberty Middle school Auditorium - 5 pm to 7pm

June 23 : Food Drive Donations Due

June 24 : Half Day – Last Day of School

Summer Montessori Calendar:

June 29- Summer Montessori Begins

July 3- No School

August 14- Half Day (Last day of Summer Montessori)