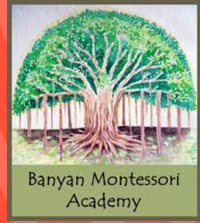


Banyan Montessori Academy

Newsletter

June 2026



Toddler Montessori Classroom

Dear Toddler Families,

This month, our classroom explored two exciting themes: Sea Life and Summer. Through hands on Montessori experiences, friends strengthened their language, fine motor, practical life, math, sensorial, and social-emotional skills while learning through exploration and discovery.

Sea Life - Friends had a wonderful time discovering the fascinating world of the ocean. Throughout this topic, friends explored a variety of sea animals, expanded their vocabulary, and developed important cognitive skills through engaging, hands-on activities. Friends enjoyed Fishing Sea Animals, completed Sea Life Puzzles, participated in Sea Animal Matching activities, practiced counting sea animals, and sorted sea animals by color. Friends also explored ocean-themed materials that promoted concentration, coordination, problem solving, and independent work. Through stories, discussions, and hands-on experiences, friends learned about different ocean habitats and the amazing animals that live beneath the sea while building language and observation skills.

Summer - As we welcomed the summer season, friends explored the many exciting changes that happen during this time of year through art, language, practical life, and outdoor experiences. Friends created a Beach Scene, completed Summer Pictures Matching, painted Seashells, sorted seashells by size, and enjoyed a variety of summer-themed crafts and ocean-inspired artwork. Friends also spent extra time outdoors observing the world around them. We talked about the warm weather, bright sunshine, longer days, clouds, flowers, trees, birds, and insects. Friends enjoyed, explored the playground, noticed seasonal changes, and practiced caring for the environment while developing observation skills and an appreciation for nature. These experiences encouraged curiosity, independence, language development, and meaningful connections with the natural world.

Gardening - Friends enjoyed learning about gardening through meaningful hands-on experiences. Together, we planted colorful flowers in our school garden and learned about the basic needs of plants, including sunlight, water, and soil. Friends took turns watering the flowers. These activities encouraged responsibility, patience, and respect for nature while strengthening practical life skills and fostering a love for caring for the environment. Gardening also provided opportunities for friends to develop fine motor skills, teamwork, and observation as they explored the beauty of the natural world around them.

Emotions - Throughout the month, friends explored different emotions and learned to recognize, identify, and express their feelings. We talked about a variety of emotions, learned their names, discussed what they mean, and shared examples of situations that might make us feel happy, sad, excited, surprised, frustrated, or calm. Friends enjoyed making different facial expressions, observing their own faces in the mirror, completing emotion puzzles, matching emotion cards, and identifying feelings through pictures and conversations. Each day, we encouraged self-awareness by asking, "How are you feeling today?", helping friends become more confident in recognizing their own emotions while learning to identify and understand the feelings of others. These experiences supported social-

emotional development, built empathy, strengthened communication skills, and helped friends develop confidence in expressing their emotions.

Snack Preparation - This month, friends enjoyed healthy snack preparation experiences where they had the opportunity to practice spooning, tonging, peeling oranges, picking grapes, and serving yogurt. These activities encouraged independence, confidence, fine motor development, practical life skills, and healthy eating habits while giving friends opportunities to practice scooping, mixing, pouring, serving, and cleaning up.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the school year. It has been a pleasure watching your friends learn, grow, and become more independent each day. We wish you and your family a wonderful, safe, and happy summer!

Warm regards, Toddler Montessori Staff

Pre Primary and Kindergarten Montessori

Dear Parents,

As we wrap up the month of June, we are filled with joy as we reflect on the many wonderful learning experiences our young friends have enjoyed. Throughout the month, the children actively explored, discovered, and grew across all areas of the Montessori curriculum. It has been a pleasure to watch their curiosity, independence, and confidence flourish each day.

Language - This month, we revisited several pre-language activities to strengthen foundational literacy skills. The children showed great enthusiasm during story-writing sessions using the Moveable Alphabet, creatively expressing their thoughts and forming simple sentences. These activities enriched their vocabulary, strengthened early writing skills, and nurtured a lifelong love of language.

Mathematics - Our mathematics lessons were filled with excitement as the children explored double-digit addition using concrete Montessori materials. They also enjoyed working with the Squaring and Cubing Chains, which helped deepen their understanding of number sequencing, skip counting, and mathematical patterns. Through hands-on experiences, the children continued to strengthen number recognition, quantity association, and addition skills.

Practical Life (Everyday Living) - One of the highlights of the month was our Lemonade Making Activity, where the children practiced measuring, pouring, mixing, and serving while working together as a team. They also continued refining their fine motor skills through pouring, spooning, and transferring activities, helping to build concentration, coordination, and independence.

Science - Our Science explorations focused on the fascinating world of insects. During nature walks on the playground, the children discovered roly-polies, ants, spiders, and many other tiny creatures, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world. We also introduced the concepts of light and sound through hands-on investigations and continued caring for our classroom garden, eagerly observing the growth of our plants.

Geography - Our geography journey came full circle as we completed our exploration of the seven continents. This month, we focused on Asia, learning about its rich cultures, famous landmarks, animals, and traditions. The children enjoyed working with continent maps and puzzle maps, strengthening their understanding of our diverse world.

Looking Ahead - As we move into our Summer Montessori, we look forward to continuing our exciting learning journey through hands-on exploration, meaningful experiences, and joyful discovery.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's Montessori education.

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

We celebrated the wonderful journey we have had in our Hindi class throughout this school year. Along with learning the Hindi language, we explored the rich traditions and cultures of Asia in this month. Our friends proudly shared their family traditions by bringing cultural clothing, delicious traditional foods, festive decorations, and stories about their celebrations. These hands-on experiences helped the children develop a deeper appreciation for different cultures while building confidence and respect for one another.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and families who participated and supported our cultural learning experiences. Your involvement made our Hindi class meaningful, engaging, and memorable for everyone. We wish you all a happy, safe, and wonderful summer.

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 :

Pendulum Painting - As a part of our final art and science exploration of the school year, the friends were introduced to the concept of a pendulum. For the extension activity, we transformed this scientific principle into a creative art experience.

A bucket with small holes was suspended from a rope to create a pendulum. Tempera paint was poured into the bucket, and as it gently swung back and forth, the paint flowed through the holes, creating beautiful patterns on the poster board placed below. The friends then repeated the process with different colors, observing how each swing produced unique lines and layered designs.

This hands-on experience encouraged careful observation, concentration, and creativity while helping the friends explore the relationship between movement, gravity, and artistic expression in a meaningful Montessori environment.

Spin Art - As part of our exploration of different types of motion, they were introduced to rotational motion through a creative art extension. Using a Lazy Susan, carefully secured a sheet of paper to the rotating surface and added a few drops of tempera paint. While gently rotating the Lazy Susan, they used a Q-tip to guide the paint, observing how the movement created unique patterns and designs. This hands-on experience allowed them to connect a scientific concept with artistic expression

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 Very hungry Caterpillar, building confidence as they practiced their roles.

A Memorable Year-End Celebration at Banyan Montessori Academy

Our Year-End Celebration at Banyan Montessori Academy was a beautiful reflection of our children's growth, confidence, creativity, and global awareness. Held at Liberty Middle School, the evening was filled with joy, pride, and unforgettable memories.

The program began with our delightful performance of The Very Hungry Caterpillar by our Pre-Primary Montessori friends (ages 3–6). Through songs, movement, and expressive acting, the children confidently brought the beloved story to life. Their enthusiasm, coordination, and stage presence were a wonderful testament to the confidence they have developed through the Montessori environment.

We then celebrated one of the most special milestones in a child's Montessori journey, our Kindergarten Graduation. We proudly honored our five Kindergarten graduates as they completed the final year of the First Plane of Development. It was a privilege to have Ms. Valerie join Ms. Shiva and Ms. Nazia in presenting each graduate with a certificate in recognition of their hard work, leadership, and growth. The graduates beautifully recited their Kindergarten poem with remarkable confidence, coordination, and leadership, making it a truly proud moment for their families and teachers.

We also recognized and celebrated our Young Authors, who proudly published their class book, Our Trip to Australia. Watching our young writers become published authors was another meaningful milestone that showcased their creativity, collaboration, and love of learning.

The evening continued as we expressed our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff members for their unwavering commitment, passion, and care throughout the year. Their dedication is the foundation of the nurturing Montessori community we are so proud of.

Our audience was then treated to a graceful semi-classical Indian dance performance, adding beauty and cultural richness to the celebration.

The evening concluded with one of Banyan Montessori Academy's signature traditions our Multicultural Celebration. Families and teachers came together to represent countries from around the world, including Germany, India, Pakistan, Syria, Albania, Mexico, Honduras, Africa, and many more. Each of the 23 cultural stations showcased traditional clothing, artifacts, music, decorations, and delicious foods, allowing children and families to experience the beauty and diversity of our global community.

The Multicultural Celebration was far more than a food festival, it was an immersive educational experience that encouraged curiosity, respect, appreciation, and understanding of cultures from around the world. It truly reflected our commitment to developing compassionate global citizens.

At Banyan Montessori Academy, we believe education extends far beyond academics. Through the arts, leadership opportunities, cultural experiences, community building, and authentic Montessori education, we strive to nurture the whole child intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, and culturally. This holistic approach is what makes the Banyan Montessori experience truly unique.

Thank you to all of our families, staff, and volunteers who made this extraordinary evening possible.

Together, we celebrated not only the end of another wonderful school year but also the incredible journey of each child.

We look forward to another year filled with discovery, growth, and joyful learning.

Field Trip

Toward the end of May, our Pre-Primary and Kindergarten Montessori friends enjoyed an exciting school bus field trip to the University of Michigan's Natural History Museum and Planetarium.

During our visit, we watched an engaging planetarium show and explored fascinating exhibits featuring fossils, Michigan's landscapes and wildlife, microplastics and their impact on the environment, and microscopes that allowed us to observe tiny details up close.

The field trip was a wonderful learning experience beyond the classroom. We practiced being responsible, staying safe, and taking care of one another throughout the day. A few parents also joined us, making the trip even more enjoyable.

It was a fun-filled day of discovery, learning, and adventure that everyone will remember!

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

During the month of June, 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!

Smashed Avocado on Sourdough Toast

Time : 5 mins

INGREDIENTS

- 2 slices sourdough bread
- 1-2 tsp butter
- 1 ripe avocado
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1-2 tsp fresh lemon juice

INSTRUCTIONS

- Toast the sourdough bread until golden and crisp.
- Spread a thin layer of butter on the warm toast.
- Cut the avocado in half, remove the pit, and scoop the flesh into a bowl.
- Add the lemon juice, a pinch of salt, and black pepper.
- Mash the avocado with a fork until smooth or slightly chunky, depending on your preference.
- Spread the smashed avocado evenly over the buttered sourdough toast.
- Sprinkle with a little extra black pepper, if desired, and serve immediately.

Instant Pot Vegetable Fried Rice

Time : 15 mins

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups basmati rice
- 2 cups mixed vegetables
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil (plus 1 tsp for cooking the rice)
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- Water (for cooking the rice)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Rinse the basmati rice well and add it to the Instant Pot with the appropriate amount of water, 1 teaspoon olive oil, and a pinch of salt.
- Close the lid, set the valve to Sealing, and cook on Pressure Cook (High) for 7 minutes.
- Allow a 10-minute natural pressure release, then release any remaining pressure. Fluff the rice with a fork and set aside.
- Turn the Instant Pot to Saute mode and heat the remaining olive oil.
- Add the mixed vegetables and cabbage. Saute for 3-4 minutes until tender-crisp.
- Stir in the soy sauce, salt, and black pepper.
- Add the cooked rice and gently toss until the rice is well coated and combined with the vegetables.
- Stir in the chopped green onions and cook for 1-2 minutes.
- Taste and adjust the seasoning with additional soy sauce, salt, or pepper if needed.

Parent Education

<https://amshq.org/blog/ages-6-12/making-the-most-of-summer-vacation-lessons-from-nature/>

Upcoming events

Summer Montessori Calendar:

June 29- Summer Montessori Begins

July 3- No School

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

August 19 - 2026-27 School year begins