



Offering Exceptional
Educational Childcare for
Infants and Young Children



MAY 2017

Upcoming Dates

- **May 24th:** Bareburger Fundraiser
- **May 29th:** CLOSED Memorial Day
- **June 1st:** Butterfly Art Museum
- **June 15th:** School-only programs end
- **June 16th:** All Programs closed
- **June 19th:** Summer Camp begins



May is a wonderful month for flowers, enjoying the outdoors and watching the signs of spring emerge. For many, it is also a time for seasonal allergies. Please be sure to inform your child's teacher and the office if your child suffers from seasonal allergies. Allergies and the medications that alleviate their symptoms can often affect behavior, energy levels and appetite.

April ended with our Spring Fling Fundraiser event at Fitzgerald's. I am so thankful to Nicole and Keith Dougherty for their creativity and hard work in putting this event together. I would also like to thank our sponsor Bareburger and the many attendees and supporters who made the event a fun evening for all. We are grateful for the funds raised, as they will help enhance all of the programs we currently provide.

School pictures were photographed by Joy Glen and are sure to be incredible! Picture orders will be processed this month so be sure to look in the folders for them.

Limited spaces in certain age groups are available in our Summer Camp program. MMO Summer Camp offers the excitement of learning and summer weather fun all in a secure environment with familiar, caring staff. Our full-time students automatically participate in summer camp, but if your child attends for the school program only and you are interested in summer camp enrollment, please come to the office or email us at info@mmoprograms.org.

We will be working diligently on our garden this month, as well as our "digging" area. Please be sure to dress your children in clothes they can get dirty in! Look for information on our garden dedication later this month.

Corrine Harney, M.Ed.
Executive Director of MMO Programs

PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Fireflies – Miss Tara



The month of April was a busy one in the pre-K class! We celebrated “P” by making pizza and having pajama day! We learned all about rainbows and even made one in our classroom! We loved mixing colors and using different liquids such as dish soap and oil to create layers of color in a jar!

The Spring-like weather has finally arrived...along with some Pre-K pets...6 caterpillars! They arrived at the end of April and we have been watching them grow. We are so excited to see them form their chrysalis and change into butterflies! To coincide with the season of spring, we will discuss other kinds of insects such as ladybugs, bumblebees, worms and fireflies. We will discover all the ways the different insects help people and the earth. Maybe we will be lucky enough to find some out on our playground!

The MMO garden is getting ready outside on the playground. The class has been playing with the dirt and talking about how plants grow. In collaboration with the rest of the school, we will be doing some planting. We hope to have some beautiful flowers and some tasty vegetables! The class will also be taking walks over to the flower garden behind the library to track the progress of the flowers there.

The children will work on special Mother’s Day Projects, and of course we will be continuing our alphabet study. This month’s letters are T, U, V, W and X. We will count and match leaves on Tulips, paint Violets in a Vase, and maybe even erupt a Volcano. The month will end with making a Water Xylophone for the class to enjoy.

Butterflies – Miss Lisa

April was certainly a fun month in the Butterfly classroom! We ate ants on a log and built robots from recycled containers! We became superheroes with the help of Sam’s dad and had a super fun trip to Doin’ Dishes. As the weather warmed we even managed to spend more time outside. Oh the joys of being a Butterfly!

Our raised beds have been installed and while we have enjoyed playing in the dirt, we are ready to plant our edible garden. We studied the life cycle of plants last month and we are more than ready for some hands on experience in the garden. We will take a closer look at insects and their life cycles. Our caterpillars arrived in April and we are intently watching them grow.

We will continue our alphabet study focusing on the letters S, T, U and V. This month in art we will examine the works of Michelangelo, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Andy Warhol. It is truly inspiring to see our Butterflies create their own interpretations of these famous works. I cannot wait to share your children’s work with you. We will open our art show for one day only, on **June 1st**. Your Butterfly curator will be ready to walk you through an amazing display of their work!



Spotlight on Aftercare

Summer Camp

MMO Summer Camp is open to Toddlers who are currently registered students and all children ages 3 to 6. Camp offers fun, hands-on learning through a combination of physical and creative academic activities. Students enjoy safe water-play, science explorations, yoga, arts and crafts and organized large-motor games to name a few! MMO Camp is big enough to keep our students engaged at all levels while offering the safety and security of an intimate early childhood center.

If you are interested in our Summer Camp Program (space is limited), please come to the office or email us at info@mmoprograms.org.



Aftercare Enrichment:

In the month of May we will be focusing on our mothers. What do our mothers do? We will also focus on the sun and the moon. We will talk about why the sun is good for us, and ways in which the sun could be harmful. We will also focus on the farm this month.

Aftercare Enrichment will continue with our great instructors- Drama with Mr. Gary, Music and Movement with Miss Tess, Yogarate with Miss. Nicole, Art with Miss Mimi, rocking out with the Lil' Rockers band and Miss Deirdre, Art through Nature with Miss. Susan, and STEM with Miss Shronda and Miss Malessa. So many exciting things to do in Aftercare! Please secure a spot by contacting the office.

**Danielle Hoover,
Aftercare Enrichment
Coordinator**

3 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS



Dragonflies - Miss Megan

Spring has finally arrived! We had so much fun on our field trip to the Turtle Back Zoo with Miss Christina's class! To get ready for our trip, we learned about some of the animals that you can find at the zoo. The children were also busy making their own set of binoculars that they used to spot their favorite animals at the zoo!

Our STEM focus this month was also animal related. We used unifix cubes to measure different animals. The children stacked cubes and then counted them to see how tall the animal was. Some of the children got really creative and measured the same animal in different positions, i.e. laying down, standing up.

We also talked about Earth Day and what it means to take care of our planet. We discussed different things we can do to help take care of the Earth! We learned that we can turn off the lights

when we leave a room and turn off the water while we are brushing our teeth! We also learned that we could take old things and make them into something new!

In May we will explore some exciting themes like flowers, gardening, caterpillars and butterflies! The weather is getting warmer and that means we will be getting closer to nature! We will be talking about different flowers and plants that we may see growing outside. We will also be contributing to our school garden. We will explore gardening and how we can help our flowers grow! We had an exciting delivery to our classroom as well. Our caterpillars have arrived! We will be observing them as they grow and change into butterflies!



Bumblebees - Miss Christina

We were very busy during the month of April! We began the month focusing on zoo animals and preparing for our zoo trip. We played our first small group board game, "Feed the Monkey," where we took turns rolling dice and found the correct space which correlated to the number of bananas needed to feed the monkey. We sang a song about the zoo and acted out each animal. It was exciting to see some of the animals that we learned about live and in person at the Turtleback Zoo. The children are STILL talking about the bears and the giraffes. Thank you to everyone who attended!

From there, we moved on to learning all about the season of spring. We discussed the different changes that occur in the world around us, including how flowers bloom, trees start growing leaves, animals wake up from hibernation, and the clothes we wear change. We welcomed the warm weather that comes with spring by having some of our circle times outside on the lawn, including show and tell! To celebrate Earth Day, we planted our own pea & zinnia plants.

During the month of May, we will discuss our moms and some of their favorite things. We will also discuss ladybugs and bees and learn why some have more spots than others and why bees are so important to the world around us.

TODDLERS



Grasshoppers

Miss Wendy



During the month of May we will put some plants into our wonderful raised bed that has been placed on the playground! In celebration of this project our next theme will be, plants! We will learn about the parts of a plant, what plants need to grow, and the various things that plants do for us! Some of the books we will read include: Planting a Rainbow, Growing Vegetable Soup, The Carrot Seed, and, A Tree is Nice. There will be many art projects as well! We'll make tulips with paint and forks, sunflowers from coffee filters, and tissue paper petaled flowers. Our sensory table will have pretend dirt, seeds, and worms! We will also incorporate movement as we sing and pretend to grow with sun and rain. We will be doing actual planting outside, so please don't wear your best clothes...it's going to be another messy one!



The Week of the Young Child

April 24-April 28

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers and families. Our week long celebration of our youngest learners included:

Music Monday: Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills – All while having fun and being active!

Tasty Tuesday: This fun, food-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more.

Work Together Wednesday: When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material—from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom.

Arsty Thursday: Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.

Family Friday: Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. NAEYC applauds family members' role as young children's first and most important teachers

To see more on how MMO Programs participated in celebrating the week of the young child visit mmoprograms.org and look at our Program Happenings tab

Your young child and food

What does it look like when a young child eats? It never seems to be the same way twice! A food your 14-month-old couldn't get enough of last month is now shunned. A food your 2-year-old previously could not abide is now appealing if it's on your plate instead of his. Your toddler who was eating voraciously last week is picking and declining whatever you put in front of her this week.

Fortunately these are all typical behaviors of healthy, growing children. Children don't grow steadily; they grow in spurts. Likewise, they do not eat steadily: they eat erratically. And your child who is declining to eat today—and yesterday and tomorrow—is not going to starve. Unless your pediatrician has expressed concern about your child's weight, you can probably trust your child to know when she's hungry and when she's not.

How can we as adults help shape habits that create healthy relationships with food and eating for a lifetime? Here are a few things we can do:

- **Respect the child's cues.** When a child indicates that she has had enough, or isn't yet hungry, encourage her to listen to her body's cues by not pushing, bargaining or cajoling. If she's not hungry right now, allow her to leave the table (not with food, it stays at the table) for a while, then come back and try again in 15 or 30 minutes. If she's not hungry this time either, she will be...later. Encouraging a child to disregard her own body's signals and eat when she's not hungry seems to be common in our culture...and has resulted in an overweight nation. (And remember, when she *is* interested, even 10 or 15 minutes can be a long time to sit for someone so young! She may eat a "good meal" in that amount of time—her stomach is about the size of her fist!)
- Offer two or three foods at a time, and leave it at that. Try to include at least one food that is familiar and that you know he likes (or did, last week!). If at first the young child declines what's offered, getting another food to offer instead teaches the child that he can wait for what he really wants (puffs? fruits only? cookies?), and that you just might be willing to be a short-order cook for the next 18 years!

It's important to be consistent, but not rigid. These are just guidelines—sometimes we have to be a little flexible. There are evenings that you know your "window of opportunity" is closing and you don't have 30 minutes to try again before your tired toddler devolves into a tired, ready-for-bedtime mess, or Big Brother's piano recital is in a few minutes and it's going to be a while before you can offer something again. Sometimes in a busy family you just have to hand your toddler a pouch and keep moving. Give yourself a break and remember that "once in a while" does not a habit make! Parenting is hard and wonderful stuff—remind yourself that you're doing a great job!

Bon appétit!

*Jan Burgess
Infant/Toddler Coordinator*



INFANT & TODDLER PROGRAMS



Ladybugs - Miss Joelle & Miss Malessa

April was a very noisy month. We focused on making sounds through play. We took crayons and rolled them across a big piece of white paper. Listening to the sounds the crayon made, we then began to tap them on the table and draw in circular motions to make the sounds of wind. Our classroom became a rock band! We played the drums, strung the strings of a guitar, tapped textured sticks together and played with tambourines. The children really enjoy making music while playing with instruments. We also talked about the different sounds chalk makes hitting the ground outside versus the table.

Starting this month our ladybugs will be working on our school garden. As we all know children learn through play and play can be messy. Just a reminder, please dress your child to get messy. We will be digging in the dirt to plant carrots and strawberries.

As we proceed to the month of May we will continue with sounds along with understanding ourselves, identifying our feelings, and describing things about "Me". We will read books and paint our feelings while talking about how we feel. We will create a "me" collage. By reading My Many Color Days and My Body, we will be learning all about ourselves.

We will also keep busy by continuing to talk about sounds and play with pegboards, and zip our coats, sweaters, and jackets up and down. We will bring out some of our activity boards, which contain locks, chains, and bolts.



Caterpillars - Miss Claire & Miss Margaret

As we bid adieu to April's showers we welcome May with open arms. Last month our young caterpillars accomplished quite a few milestones in their development. Through daily engagement during gross motor play, meal times, outdoor exploration and reading times, our little ones have developed a nice collection of words to express their needs. We couldn't be happier and pleased with their progress! For the month of May our theme will be about insects. Through activities and songs, such as: Ribbon Butterflies, Grasshoppers, "The Ants go Marching" and the "Itsy Bitsy Spider," the children will have a lot of time to strengthen their hand and eye coordination.



Parents corner:

Our Spring Fling was a great success! We raised \$2,200 for MMO. Congrats to all the winners, and thanks to all who attended and participated in the raffles.

My extreme gratitude and appreciation is for my husband, Keith. None of this would have been possible without his hard work. Special thanks to Corrine and Missy for their help, to Fitzgerald's 1928 for hosting us and to Bareburger for sponsoring us.

Speaking of, please join us for our final restaurant night of the year at Bareburger on **Wednesday, May 24**. Flyers with details to follow.

Don't forget, if you have any spring plant or flower needs, all purchases at Metropolitan Plant Exchange of \$50 or more result in \$10 donated back to MMO. Please reach out if you need a flyer or download a copy from the Parents' Association tab at mmoprograms.org.

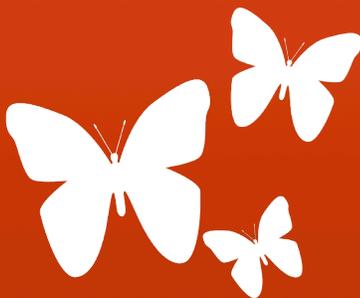
As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out via email, mmoparentassociation@gmail.com.

Nicole Dougherty
Parent Association President

MMO Preschool Programs

40 South Fullerton Ave.
Montclair, New Jersey, 07042

mmoprograms.org



Contact Us:

Phone: 973-744-6521

E-mail: info@mmoprograms.org



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Tadpoles (to stay in touch
with your child's teacher)



Thank you!!!

MMO Spring Fling 2017

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated!

Thanks to our hosts:



Thanks to our sponsor:



Thank you to our donors:

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